

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 29, 2005/Sravana 07, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, a major train accident has taken place
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are all very sorry for it. Please wait, there is an Obituary reference.

11.01 hrs.

OBITURY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the demise of one of our former colleagues, namely, Shrimati Girija Kumari.

Shrimati Girija Kumari was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970 representing Shahdol Parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier, Shrimati Girija Kumari was a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1959 to 1967 and was again elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1985.

During her tenure as a Member of Lok Sabha, Shrimati Girija Kumari was a Member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House from 1967 to 1970.

An agriculturist and social worker, Shrimati Girija Kumari served as President of the Village Cooperative Society, Munda, District Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. She was also the Member, State Social Welfare Board; Shahdol District Advisory Committee and Tribal Welfare Board, Madhya Pradesh.

Shrimati Girija Kumari worked for the welfare of the people. She was elected the Chairperson of the Nagar Panchayat, Jaithari, Madhya Pradesh in December, 2002 and remained in that post till her demise.

Shrimati Girija Kumari passed away on 18th July, 2005 at Anuppur District, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 72, after a prolonged illness.

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

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, what will be the fate of the issue pertaining to train accident...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have been informed by the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that both the hon. Ministers have gone to the site. They are coming back today. They are expected to make a statement by 3.00 p.m. or 3.30 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They should have been here when the Parliament is in session.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They could have started at night and arrived here by morning
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, you will appreciate that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to make a comment.
Why do you get upset on every matter?

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh, Question No. 81.

[Translation]

Power Crisis

+

*81. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an acute power shortage in several States/UTs during the current summer season;

(b) if so, the details of actual shortage in these States/UTs;

(c) the efforts made by the government to tide over this grim power situation;

(d) the success achieved in tackling the power situation in the country;

(e) whether any survey was conducted to identify the States/UTs facing grim power crisis;

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

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase power generation in the country?

[English]

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

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

Statement

(a) There is an overall shortage of power in the country during the current summer season except some States. The shortages varied from State to State, month to month and hour to hour. The average electrical energy shortage in the country during the current summer season (April-June, 2005) was 8.9% and peak shortage was 13.1%.

(b) State/UT-wise power supply position in the country in terms of energy and peaking power during the summer months (April-June, 2005) is given in Annexure.

(c) and (d) Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Power Utility. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by way of generation capacity addition and establishment of bulk transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The following efforts were made by the Government to tackle the power situation:—

- (i) Review of power supply position and supervision of arrangements at the central and regional level for maximization of generation and availability of transmission and distribution system as well as ensuring optimal utilization of power.
- (ii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations in the regional power system to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
- (iii) Allocation of power from 15% unallocated capacity of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) which is at the disposal of Central Government to make allocation to the needy States/UTs for meeting various contingencies.
- (iv) Transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions.
- (v) Load management and regulatory measures by way of imposition of restriction and load shedding by the State Governments/Power

Utilities from time to time depending upon the availability of power.

(e) and (f) No specific survey was conducted as it is not required because the power supply situation is regularly monitored on-line by the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority and Regional Load Despatch Centres and National Load Despatch Centre. State/UT-wise, details of Power Supply Position are given in Annexure as referred to in answer of part (b) of the question.

(g) The following steps have been/are being taken by the Government to increase power generation in the country:—

- (i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan consisting of 22,832 MW in Central Sector, 11,157 in State Sector and 7,121 MW in Private Sector with the component of hydro, thermal and nuclear being 14,393 MW, 25,417 MW and 1,300 MW respectively.
- (ii) Maximisation of generation beyond the programme and increase in plant load factor (PLF).

- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.
- (iv) Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- (v) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation.
- (vi) Advising project authorities to incorporate incentive clause in the contracts for early completion of the projects.
- (vii) Action has been initiated to improve PLF of the thermal power stations with PLF below 60% to achieve present national average PLF of about 74%.
- (viii) Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
- (ix) Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional power by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and ultimately in formation of National Grid.
- (x) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution system.

Annexure

Actual Power Supply Position

State/System/Region	Energy (MU)				Peak (MW)			
	April, 05 to June, 05				April, 05 to June, 05			
	Requirement	Availability	Surplus/Deficit(-)		Demand	Met	Surplus/Deficit(-)	
	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	332	332	0	0.0	240	240	0	0.0
Delhi	5,704	5,677	-27	-0.5	3,706	3,600	-106	-2.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	5,837	5,501	-336	-5.8	4,319	3,764	-555	-12.9
Himachal Pradesh	1,009	1,007	-2	-0.2	702	702	0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	2,385	1,991	-394	-16.5	1,266	1,116	-150	-11.8
Punjab	9,099	8,442	-657	-7.2	7,731	5,992	-1,739	-22.5
Rajasthan	7,454	7,310	-144	-1.9	4,575	4,375	-200	-4.4
Uttar Pradesh	14,140	11,409	-2,731	-19.3	8,175	6,588	-1,587	-19.4
Uttaranchal	1,226	1,206	-20	-1.6	874	837	-37	-4.2
Northern Region	47,186	42,875	-4,311	-9.1	27,927	24,864	-3,063	-11.0
Chhattisgarh	3,322	3,176	-146	-4.4	1,889	1,737	-152	-8.0
Gujarat	15,191	13,461	-1,730	-11.4	9,783	7,102	-2,681	-27.4
Madhya Pradesh	8,485	6,786	-1,699	-20.0	5,248	3,942	-1,306	-24.9
Maharashtra	26,402	21,825	-4,577	-17.3	15,741	10,861	-4,880	-31.0
Daman and Diu	315	315	0	0.0	213	213	0	0.0
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	599	599	0	0.0	304	304	0	0.0
Goa	593	593	0	0.0	354	354	0	0.0
Western Region	54,907	46,755	-8,152	-14.8	31,328	22,827	-8,501	-27.1
Andhra Pradesh	12,967	12,545	-422	-3.3	7,558	7,435	-123	-1.6
Karnataka	8,420	8,299	-121	-1.4	5,574	5,442	-132	-2.4
Kerala	3,427	3,371	-56	-1.6	2,495	2,439	-56	-2.2
Tamil Nadu	13,817	13,636	-181	-1.3	7,989	7,805	-184	-2.3
Pondicherry	430	430	0	0.0	249	249	0	0.0
Lakshadweep #	6	6	0	0.0	6	6	0	0
Southern Region	39,061	38,281	-780	-2.0	22,609	21,756	-853	-3.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	1,941	1,601	-340	-17.5	1,050	965	-85	-8.1
DVC	2,431	2,397	-34	-1.4	1,412	1,412	0	0.0
Jharkhand	1,001	958	-43	-4.3	590	555	-35	-5.9
Orissa	3,687	3,616	-71	-1.9	2,255	2,225	0	0.0
West Bengal	6,518	6,361	-157	-2.4	4,085	3,925	-160	-3.9
Sikkim	58	57	-1	-1.7	47	45	-2	-4.3
Andaman and Nicobar #	60	42	-18	-30	40	31	-9	-23
Eastern Region	15,636	14,990	-646	-4.1	8,890	8,520	-370	-4.2
Arunachal Pradesh	53	52	0	-0.9	69	68	-1	-1.4
Assam	912	837	-75	-8.2	691	611	-80	-11.6
Manipur	116	109	-8	-6.6	102	99	-3	-2.9
Meghalaya	312	253	-59	-18.9	266	188	-78	-29.3
Mizoram	57	53	-4	-7.4	65	65	0	0.0
Nagaland	105	99	-6	-5.9	90	71	-19	-21.1
Tripura	191	166	-25	-13.1	171	138	-33	-19.3
North-Eastern Region	1,746	1,569	-178	-10.2	1,266	1,092	-174	-13.7
All India	158,536	144,470	-14,067	-8.9	88,667	77,085	-11,582	-13.1

Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not form part of regional requirement and availability.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh. Q. No. 81.

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important issue. Development in industrial, agricultural, educational and every other

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

sector depends upon power. If our country is to progress, availability of power is important. The demand of power as mentioned by the Minister in his reply is 1 lakh 88 thousand mega watt. The power requirement of the country is 1 lakh 58 thousand mega watt. But we are in a position to supply 1 lakh 44 thousand mega watt, thereby leaving a shortfall of 14 thousand mega watt. Particularly in Maharashtra the power shortage is 30%. Industrial and agricultural sector being vast in

Maharashtra, power requirement is more in these sectors. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a special package would be given to the State of Maharashtra, power requirement is more in these sectors. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a special package would be given to the State of Maharashtra for meeting the 30% shortfall of power in the State. This is my question to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, he wants to know whether there will be a special package for Maharashtra.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, in my written reply, I have already stated that there is an overall shortage of power in the country. Despite our best electricity generation growth, improvement in the PLF and also a record growth in the first half of the quarter this year, there is a shortage of electrical energy during the current summer season to the tune of 8.9 per cent. During this period, the peak shortage was also recorded as 13.1 per cent.

The hon. Member has asked about the steps, which the Government has taken to meet this difficult situation in the country, particularly with reference to Maharashtra. I want to enlighten the House that the shortage of power in the country was mainly on account of our previous Plans, that is, Ninth Plan, and also the Eighth Plan. Ninth Plan and Eighth Plan put together, it comes to about 50 per cent of the target. That is one aspect.

Secondly, about the improvement of the existing plants at the State level, as you are aware, the subject matter of electricity is in the Concurrent List. So, the primary responsibility of supply of power rests with the States. We come just to supplement the requirement of the States.

As you also know, Sir, we have come to the picture only in 1982 when the first time, NTPC started its first plant with a humble beginning of 200 mega watt MW. So, now, when the economy is picking up, the industrial activities are getting enhanced, naturally the demand of power is again going up. Therefore, in order to meet

this requirement, we are emphasising firstly to meet the target for the 10th Plan. In all probability, we are going to meet this requirement. Let us hope that the difficulties, which the hon. Member has mentioned in his question with regard to three months summer season shortage, particularly with reference to Maharashtra, will be overcome.

Sir, here the hon. Prime Minister also intervened. Gas was made available for the plants, and 4 MMSCMD was allotted. We have also given gas from our own quota of 15 per cent unallocated capacity for meeting various contingencies. Whatever was possible, we have diverted. We have also asked those difficult States that if they want power, they can also go in for naphtha based power, which some of the States—naturally because the cost is more—have refused. Yet, to a great extent, we could rush to the help of the States facing hardships.

*SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power. There are some power generating units in rural areas. Will the Central Government give assistance to such units and nagarpalikas, zila parishads entrepreneurs, etc., for power generation?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, after passing of the Electricity Act, 2003, it is now almost open; anybody can come and invest in power sector. I should say there are a lot of people who are willing to set up power stations. Hon. Member has mentioned some of the institutions. They can come; they are welcome to the field.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Central Government is going to take to give necessary power to the farmers. For example, I would just mention about Maharashtra. Of course, I know that it is in the Concurrent List and only the State Government is doing distribution

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

and supply. As far as Karnataka is concerned, in spite of that, the farmers get current for four hours per day. I would like to know whether there are any special schemes with the Central Government to assist the farmers. So many farmers are committing suicide. It is because when they do not get power and all that, they cannot get the product also at the latter stage. For that reason, are there any new measures that have been taken by the Central Government to supply electricity to the farmers throughout the day?

You, of course, have said that allocation of power from the 15 per cent unallocated capacity of the Central generating stations is done to the places where allocation is needed very much. How much electricity has been allotted to the Karnataka Government during the last ten years? I would like to know this.

I have one more question, which I would like to pose.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes please, only one question.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Today, practically, the transmission losses make much impact on the electricity position. Scarcity is also due to the transmission losses. I would like to know as to what steps the Central Government is taking to minimise the transmission losses at this juncture.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to Karnataka, particularly the shortage and how they are supplying. Sir, 2,000 mega watt of power has been provided from Talcher, Orissa to Kolar, Karnataka, through our Power Grid Corporation.

As far as farmers are concerned, the State Government, as per its policy, supply electricity to the farmers on the basis of their own priority. It is up to the State Government; that is left to the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, Shrimati K. Rani.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I have one question.

MR. SPEAKER: No no. There is a limit to putting supplementary questions. You can put another question later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate. This is the rule. You cannot go on.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, only one question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have full support for you. You put another question, I will admit that.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Sir, the Power Minister has made the position clear about the shortage. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, he has not answered my question on transmission losses. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, as far as transmission losses are concerned and the strategy that the Central Government is going to take... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, if you volunteer yourself, what can I do?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, to reduce the transmission and distribution losses, schemes have been drawn up by the Central Government. It is up to the State Governments to avail such schemes.

For example, in APDRP, there are two components. One is investment component, where a project can be drawn up, in which 50 per cent would be given as grant and another 50 per cent would be given in the form of loan. Another is incentive component which is to reduce the commercial loss. If any State Electricity Authority reduces the loss to the extent of Rs. 100 crore, then Rs. 50 crore would be given as cash award.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, two hon. Members have put this Question. Their names were called out for putting Supplementary Questions.

Now, I have got a list of 19 more hon. Members who want to put their Supplementary Questions. It cannot go on, in this fashion. Please appreciate the difficulty. In future, I will allow only four Supplementary Questions and you have to accept it. Otherwise, only one question may consume one full hour.

Shrimati K. Rani.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Thank you, Sir.

The hon. Power Minister has made the position clear about the shortage of electricity in the country as a whole. It is a fact that there is excessive use of electricity during summer period and it is also a fact that the Governments resort to load shedding as a means to cope with the crisis. I feel that 'power theft' also leads to crisis to some extent because this goes unaccounted. We also have transmission and distribution losses, which is also unaccounted and which also lead to the crisis.

So, my question to the hon. Minister is what are the steps that he is proposing to take to prevent theft of electricity by unscrupulous elements, and what steps he is contemplating to curb T and D losses?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I have just now pointed out about the T and D losses and what are the measures and Government is taking.

The menace that she has mentioned is 'theft'. It has really become a menace in the power sector. As many as nine States have already passed anti-theft laws. Some States have also established special courts and special police stations. As many as 27 lakh cases have been detected and about 10,000 cases have been convicted, and an amount of Rs. 500 crore has been realised from the people by the States.

So, it is up to the States to do this. Even the Central Electricity Act gives ample provision to book such elements. Here, I seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members so that they also can do their best in preventing theft.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, we also have a duty as the representatives of the people to stop theft.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you have mentioned about limiting the Supplementary Questions. From what date, it will be implemented?

MR. SPEAKER: Let me try from today. I am giving the first trial today.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We are now thinking that not more than 3-4 Questions are taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am trying this.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you fix this rule, then accordingly we can give notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, from Monday onwards we will do this.

I will also give you a chance, provided you cooperate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am cooperating.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to hear you also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, power generation and distribution is a Concurrent Subject. The Central Government is making up the deficiency of the States. There is a Central Act, that is, Electricity Regulatory Act, which has been implemented by bifurcating the SEBs.

At the same time, I want to get an explanation from the Minister on this. In hydroelectric power generation, vagaries of monsoon may cause difficulties. So, the only remedy is to generate power through thermal projects.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In southern States, especially in Kerala, the thermal power stations at Brahmapuram and Kayankulam face a very difficult situation because of the high cost of naphtha.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? You may put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Naphtha is very costly. When the power is produced and distributed, it becomes very costly and it becomes unbearable for the States.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What steps the Government proposes to take to prevent pilferage of power and also to prevent distribution loss?

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same question, as was put earlier, on T and D losses.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I have answered both the questions already on T and D losses and anti-theft measures.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I reiterate it.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chamarajanagara is a newly formed district headquarters in Karnataka. There is acute shortage of power in Karnataka, Particularly in my constituency Chamarajanagara.

Sir, Hogainakal falls near Malai Mahadeshwara Hills and Mekedatu in Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore District, are the ideal places for setting up hydel power projects. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance of setting up hydel power projects in Hogainakal falls and Mekedatu in Karnataka?

MR. SPEAKER: A perfect Assembly matter in being raised here.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, can I answer it in Kannada?

MR. SPEAKER: Only if you know the correct Kannada.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member should impress upon the State of Karnataka and the proposal for hydel projects will be considered if they come through the State. The Centre will consider those proposals which come through the States.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope it was correct Kannada.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to ask a question regarding the acute shortage of power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today electricity drives life. Industries are dependent on electricity. India is predominantly an agricultural country but a large number of farmers are on the verge of starvation and have been driven to commit suicide because adequate electricity is not made available to them. I come from Uttar Pradesh, the largest State in the country but its situation is totally different from other States of the country. Despite being a large State, as I had pointed out during the last session also, I find that there is disparity in the power distribution amidst the States. Uttar Pradesh has been the most neglected one amongst all the States.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question? Everybody knows the power situation. You may ask the question. This is the Question Hour. You may elicit some information. Do not give information.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, I am asking the question. I would like to know whether he would be providing any special package for the betterment of farmers and to make factories operational in Uttar Pradesh?

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are wasting the opportunity given to you. The hon. Minister may reply only to the point whether there is any special package given.

[Translation]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the Government of India has provided each of the States a special package to bring about improvements in their power plants. If any State Government does not utilize it then the Government of India is not at fault. We have given this facility to all the States under a uniform policy.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Thank you very much for allowing me to ask a supplementary.

The NTPC had decided to set up 1000 MW coal-based power station at Mauda, Nagpur. Despite repeated requests from the Government of Maharashtra and directives from the Government of India, the NTPC has failed to prepare and submit the feasibility report.

MR. SPEAKER: The same question is being asked again and again. The reply is also the same.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: May I know the reasons for delay in preparation of the feasibility report and steps being taken to expedite the project at Mauda, near Nagpur in Maharashtra?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a Central project?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member is asking for a specific proposal. I will have to find it out.

MR. SPEAKER: So, you need notice for that.

We must utilise this hour very effectively.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, it is an admitted fact that there is an acute shortage of power in the country. A number of States are giving free power and as a result all the State Electricity Boards are not economically viable. They do not even put money

in the power sector. Will the Government organise an all Party meeting and come to some consensus? Every political Party before elections mentions in its election manifesto that it will provide free power but after elections that promise is being withdrawn. Recently, the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission had also commented on this. Will this Government take any action to convene an all Party meeting? In the interest of the country's economy, there should be a consensus on this. Will this Government do it?

MR. SPEAKER: I think people will decide.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Government should take the initiative, otherwise there will be no control.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to take any action?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the matter has already been settled under Section 65 of the Electricity Act. Some Parties, aiming at the next elections, and some during their tenure, declare in advance that they will provide free power. I think the political parties will have to take the decision.

MR. SPEAKER: So, you are not going to call the meeting.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

+

*82. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in the country during the last three years and as on date, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent by each State during the period, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be electrified during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government has drawn any special programme/scheme for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures being taken by the Government to expedite the same;

(f) whether the Government proposes to involve NGOs, unemployed youth and cooperative societies for the purpose;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Planning Commission has allocated additional funds to speed up the same; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

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

Statement

(a) Statement showing number of villages electrified in the country during the last three years and as on date, State-wise is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b) Statements showing scheme-wise funds allocated and disbursed to each State during the period, year-wise is enclosed at Annexure-II.

(c) Approximately 10,000 villages were targeted to be electrified during 10th Five Year Plan. Post Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, the target has now been revised to 50,000 villages, keeping in view the goal of National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to all rural households in five years.

(d) and (e) A scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been introduced in April, 2005 for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to

all Rural Household in five years. The scheme would be implemented through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

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

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

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

(f) and (g) To make the scheme revenue sustainable, the management of rural distribution will be done by franchisees who could be NGOs, Users Association, Cooperatives or Individual entrepreneurs. The franchisees arrangement could be for system beyond and including feeders from substation or from and including Distribution Transformer(s).

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has agreed to enhance the present allocation from Rs. 1100 crore to Rs. 2500 crore for the current year 2005-06 and Rs. 2500 crore for 2006-07.

Annexure-I**Year-wise and State-wise progress of village electrification During 10th Five Year Plan**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	@	@	@	@
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	189	88 (B)	277
3.	Assam	9	42	269 (D)	320
4.	Bihar	94	118	134	346
5.	Jharkhand #				
6.	Goa	@	@	@	@
7.	Gujarat	@	@	@	@
8.	Haryana	@	@	@	@
9.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	1	6	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3	1 (E)	9
11.	Karnataka	3	5	NIL	8
12.	Kerala	@	@	@	@
13.	Madhya Pradesh	94	74	NIL	168
14.	Chhattisgarh #	120	219	62	
15.	Maharashtra	@	@	@	@
16.	Manipur	6	9	4	19
17.	Meghalaya	177	544	474	1195
18.	Mizoram	NIL	4	NIL (D)	4
19.	Nagaland	@	@	@	@
20.	Orissa	271	195	NA	466
21.	Punjab	@	@	@	@
22.	Rajasthan	482	352	204	1038

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	②	②	②	②
24.	Tamil Nadu	②	②	②	②
25.	Tripura	2	3	1	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	279	231	1516 (B)	2026
27.	Uttaranchal #	218	454	466 (E)	1138
28.	West Bengal	866	338	641	1845
Total (States)		2626	2781	3866	9273
Total (UTs)		②	②	②	
Total (All India)		2626	2781	3866	9273

② Cent percent villages electrified

#—Newly constituted states in 2000-01

B—As on 31-10-2004

D—As on 31-12-2004

E—As on 31-01-2005

Annexure-II

Disbursements of Grant for the Year 2002-03

Rupees in lakhs

Sl. No.	State	KJ	MNP	PMGY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1723.14	0.00	1705.00	3428.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.53	1200.00	684.00	1903.53
3.	Assam	360.00	6000.00	3000.00	9360.00
4.	Bihar	990.72	6800.00	2417.30	10208.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	342.48	800.00	515.00	1657.48
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	67.12	0.00	0.00	67.12
8.	Haryana	129.65	0.00	142.90	272.55
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.69	200.00	110.00	328.69
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
11.	Jharkhand	293.69	6800.00	1116.90	8210.59
12.	Karnataka	5154.58	0.00	1000.00	6154.58
13.	Kerala	509.20	0.00	0.00	509.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	313.57	800.00	1275.00	2388.57
15.	Maharashtra	111.10	0.00	1664.00	1775.10
16.	Manipur	0.00	270.00	600.00	870.00
17.	Meghalaya	27.09	3000.00	600.00	3627.09
18.	Mizoram	54.00	0.00	598.00	652.00
19.	Nagaland	85.45	130.00	650.00	865.45
20.	Orissa	472.58	6000.00	100.00	6572.58
21.	Punjab	47.68	0.00	444.00	491.68
22.	Rajasthan	229.65	0.00	1061.00	1290.65
23.	Sikkim	6.93	0.00	400.00	406.93
24.	Tamil Nadu	609.13	0.00	1608.20	2217.33
25.	Tripura	96.69	0.00	500.00	596.69
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1050.00	15000.00	10187.00	26237.00
27.	Uttaranchal	728.77	7000.00	2000.00	9728.77
28.	West Bengal	423.91	6000.00	2774.00	9197.91
Total		13865.35	60000.00	35958.30	109823.65

KJ — Kutir Jyoti

PMGY — Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

MNP — Minimum Need Programme

Disbursements of Grant for the year 2003-04

Rupees in lakhs

Sl. No.	State	KJ	MNP	PMGY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2159.87	0.00	1438.00	3597.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	187.18	1200.00	684.00	2071.18
3.	Assam	0.00	6000.00	2900.00	8900.00
4.	Bihar	152.75	6800.00	2417.30	9370.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	509.56	800.00	515.00	1824.56
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
7.	Gujarat	37.50	0.00	712.20	749.70
8.	Haryana	85.24	0.00	142.90	228.14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17.06	200.00	200.00	417.06
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
11.	Jharkhand	66.55	6800.00	744.60	7611.15
12.	Karnataka	1541.13	0.00	1000.00	2541.13
13.	Kerala	416.49	0.00	0.00	416.49
14.	Madhya Pradesh	149.41	800.00	1275.00	2224.41
15.	Maharashtra	50.37	0.00	1664.00	1714.37
16.	Manipur	0.00	400.00	600.00	1000.00
17.	Meghalaya	51.16	3000.00	600.00	3651.16
18.	Mizoram	27.00	0.00	598.00	625.00
19.	Nagaland	43.60	0.00	2982.00	3025.60
20.	Orissa	0.00	6000.00	100.00	6100.00
21.	Punjab	100.37	0.00	444.00	544.37
22.	Rajasthan	222.30	0.00	1061.00	1283.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	14.74	0.00	400.00	414.74
24.	Tamil Nadu	145.81	0.00	608.20	754.01
25.	Tripura	66.10	0.00	700.00	766.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	15000.00	9277.00	24277.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	7000.00	1000.00	8000.00
28.	West Bengal	0.00	6000.00	3816.75	9816.75
Total		6044.19	60000.00	36685.95	102730.14

KJ — Kutir Jyoti

PMGY — Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

MNP — Minimum Need Programme

Disbursements of Grant for the year 2004-05

Rupees in lakhs

Sl. No.	State	KJ	BPL	PMGY	Total	AREP loans	AREP subsidy	Total AREP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	377.00	912.00	1705.00	2994.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	186.00	225.00	684.00	1095.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	2900.00	2900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	263.00	182.00	2417.30	2862.30	12014.00	8010.00	20024.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	111.00	744.00	584.00	1439.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	27.00	23.00	712.30	762.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Haryana	10.00	41.00	142.80	193.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.00	9.00	200.00	218.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6			
11.	Jharkhand	-34.00	120.00	744.60	830.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	213.00	0.00	1000.00	1213.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.00	1047.00	0.00	1047.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	152.00	173.00	637.50	962.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	14.00	40.00	414.76	468.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	288.00	288.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	22.00	0.00	824.50	846.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	33.00	150.00	222.00	405.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	112.00	0.00	1061.00	1173.00	560.00	373.00	933.00
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	135.00	0.00	271.52	406.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	111.00	108.00	850.00	1069.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	5387.00	5387.00	38398.00	25598.00	63996.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	360.00	300.00	660.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	924.50	924.50	6869.00	4580.00	11449.00
Total		1741.00	4134.00	24470.78	30345.78	57841.00	38561.00	96402.00

KJ — Kutir Jyoti

AREP — Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme

BPL — Below Poverty Line

* — No funds were released in 2004-05 under Minimum Need Programme for rural electrification.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read the reply of the Minister carefully. It has raised several questions in my mind, but you have given me permission to put forward only two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: I act according to the rules.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: In the earlier questions too, many hon. Members had raised the point about the power scarcity in the country. The Minister is assuring to talking provide electricity to the villages and

for this purpose villages are being identified and a list of such villages has been presented. There is a acute shortage of power in Bihar. Keeping this in view, the previous Government had initiated to set up a new project in Barh district of Bihar. Besides, a joint venture was started in Navi Nagar and there was a proposal for capacity augmentation of Kahalgaon project. There was also a proposal for laying of transmission lines at a cost of Rs. 365 crore in North Bihar so that electricity could be supplied to villages. I hope that these projects would be completed expeditiously.

I would like to ask the time by which these projects will be completed? He has replied that sub-stations would be constructed. Power cannot be supplied to the villages in the absence of infrastructure. He has also stated that sub-stations having capacity of 33/11 KV and 66/11 KV would be set up in each block.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am asking the question. I would like to ask the Minister the procedure where by it would be decided whether a 33/11 KV or a 66/11 KV sub station is to be installed? Apart from this, States create another problem by not giving land. Infrastructure cannot be put up till land is made available. In view of this situation, have you told the State Governments, particularly the Bihar Government, to ensure availability of land for putting up the infrastructure?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We all are very old in this game. We are not new.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This one question consists of three parts.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was launched in the month of April 2005. It is unlike the previous plans or schemes. Rural electrification schemes were there earlier also. Earlier

also the Governments of the day had allotted money for rural electrification. The whole bottleneck was, on account of the distribution sector being very weak, augmentation was not possible unless and until renovation or modernisation is taken up and transmission and distribution losses are minimised.

So, unless the infrastructure is developed, the electricity cannot reach the villages. Therefore, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was launched. Under this Scheme, the Central Government is paying 90 per cent as capital subsidy and 10 per cent only will come from Rural Electrification Corporation. So, the total money will be given by the Centre. Not only that, the services of the public sector undertakings are made available to the State Electricity Boards from the construction to the commissioning stage. That is how the Scheme is drawn.

MR. SPEAKER: The State Government has to look into all these aspects.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Unless there is a cooperation from the State Government, it is rather difficult. But in this Scheme there are conditionalities, which are to be accepted by the State Governments. They have to sign the MoU so that they can implement the programme very well. The franchises are going to be associated at the level of implementation and the employment of youth of the village is also going to be linked. In a way, the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is also going to empower the youth in the villages. Their employment is going to be assured and the industries are going to come up. The Poverty Alleviation Programme is also linked with this Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is a very exhaustive answer. Do you want to ask another supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered. It seemed that the hon. Minister was acting as the one making publicity for Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He kept on parroting 'Rajiv Gandhi Yojana', 'Rajiv Gandhi Yojana.' I just want the reply to

my question. I had asked whether they were prepared to complete the on-going projects in Barh and Navi Nagar. Whether they would liaison with the State Government to make available land for the project? Instead the hon. Minister is advertising the Rajiv Gandhi Yojana....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: If not Rajiv Gandhi Scheme, should it be called Mulayam Singh Scheme. (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Adhir Chowdhary, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us utilize this important hour that we have in Parliament. There should not be any personal comment. You have unnecessarily provoked him. It will not be recorded. No derogatory comment will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the annexure-I of the reply given by the hon. Minister, the number of villages has been given but I feel that there is discrimination therein. The reason is that there are villages in Bihar where electrification has been completed only on paper but the same has actually not been done. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has included the villages where electrification has been completed on paper only. There is apparent discrimination in the figures provided by you. On what basis it has been done? Have the Government made the population or the backwardness of the State as the criterion? If both the factors have been taken into consideration then it was fixed at 94 in the year 2002-2003, at 118 in the year 2003-2004 and at 134 in the year 2004-2005 and on the other hand in Uttaranchal it was 218 in the year 2003, 454 in the year 2004-2005 and 266 in the year 2004-2005 that means, there is three fold difference between small and big State. I

*Not recorded.

would, therefore, like to know as to what has been the basis of identification of villages and whether those villages have also been included in it where electrification has been done on paper only? He should give a categorical reply and also should not indulge in unnecessary publicity.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, unfortunately, there are some people who are allergic to hearing the name of the late Rajiv Gandhi. I want to put the records straight here. The hon. Member should know that it was only during the premiership of the late Rajiv Gandhi, from 1985 to 1990, that almost 100 per cent target was achieved. During the Ninth Plan period, from 1997-2002, when India was shining under the regime of the NDA Government, the target achieved was only 47 per cent. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The image of the late Rajiv Gandhi is not affected by his comments.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All does like that. Who so ever is in the Government, does like that.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I do not want to provoke any hon. Member here. I do not want blame anybody. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. You have dealt with it. You may now please answer the question.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Therefore, the emphasis of the Rajiv Gandhi *Grameen Vidyutikaran* is to see that the village level infrastructure is properly laid. Unless that is done, village electrification, as he put it, would remain only on paper.

To the credit of the Government of Shri Laloo Prasad, consent for electrification of 22,000 villages have

been given by the State of Bihar. The other States are yet to give their consent...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, whatever you are saying is not being recorded. Why are you interrupting? You are not the Minister to answer.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member is a good friend of mine. Whatever he has mentioned with regard to stumbling blocks like acquisition of land etc., I would like to submit that we are in constant touch with the State Governments and we would see that all these hindrances are removed so that the scheme is smoothly implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: Two friendly supplementaries have taken 12 minutes!

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, out of the 50,000 villages to be electrified under the Rajiv Gandhi *Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*, the total number of villages that are to be electrified in the State of Uttaranchal during the Tenth Five Year Plan, whether all of the villages in the State of Uttaranchal would be covered. Secondly, what measures are being taken by the Government to ensure that there is a minimum gap between demand and supply of electricity so that the purpose of rural electrification is actually achieved?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: During the current year, the Government proposes to take up 40,000 villages for electrification. This year 9,000 villages would be taken up and in the next year 40,000 villages would be taken up and in the rest two years 40,000 villages in third year and 11,000 in fourth year would be taken up for electrification. Likewise, the entire process of electrifying the unelectrified village households would be completed.

As far as the State of Uttaranchal is concerned, they are yet to sign the conditionalities. The moment that is done, their figure will also be listed.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have got 26 names of hon. Members who wants to ask supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for raising the target for electrification of villages from ten thousand village to 50,000 villages which is a Lippy development. The target fixed for Gujarat in this regard has been completed early. A lot of work is being undertaken in Gujarat. But I would like to submit that Gujarat has been discriminated against in the allocation of funds.

Under the 'Kutir Jyoti Yojana' an allocation of Rs. 67.12 lakh was made in the year 2002-2003 and in the year 2003-2004 Rs. 37.50 lakhs and in the year 2004-2005 Rs. 27 lakh were allocated. However, no allocation was made to Gujarat under the Pradhanmantri Gramodhyog Yojana during the year 2002-2003. During the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 a sum of Rs. 712 lakh each was sanctioned. However, under the maximum needs programme no allocation was made to the State. Gujarat is first State in the country where all the villages have been electrified. Our country is predominantly a country of villages. If villages are prosperous then the country will also be better off. I would like to know whether 18000 villages of the State are to be taken up on priority basis for electrification with allocation of adequate funds for the State as the Planning Commission has agreed to provide 2500 crore of rupees to the State under the new scheme during the year 2005-2006.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member has confined himself to Gujarat only. In *Kutir Jyoti* programme there is an inherent defect. In case the village is not electrified, then *Kutir Jyoti* programme cannot take place because under *Kutir Jyoti* programme, below the poverty line families are provided with one point connection for bulb. In case, electricity is not there in the village, then naturally *Kutir Jyoti* programme cannot prosper in such villages.

Gujarat is yet to sign the conditionalities of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. The moment that is done, the villages that Shri Verma has mentioned will definitely be considered.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the Union Government consider any proposal for giving concessions with regard to electricity charges for rural Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people who are living below the poverty line?

MR. SPEAKER: Will there be any special rate for poor people?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I have already mentioned that it is 100 per cent free for below the poverty line families.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you.

Farmers have been waiting for several years to get electricity connection for their pump sets. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps the Government has taken to speed up electricity connection to the farmers' pump sets.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: As regards the electricity connection to farmers's pump sets, the Power Ministry is not going to issue any direction. It is for the State Governments to provide electricity connection to villages and farmers. Naturally, when it is provided, they will get it.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as energy sector is concerned the present condition of all the States is pitiable. I would like to thank and congratulate the Government and the Ministry for strengthening the energy sources of villages under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. This scheme will provide electricity not only to farmers but to common people also. But, I would like to raise here two points.

First, under the scheme there is a provision for only one sub-station under one block but there are certain blocks which are quite large where at least two sub-stations would be needed. I would therefore, request

that the funds be provided in this scheme for setting up two sub-stations.

My second question is quite important. Adequate funds are given to States by the Union Government but the funds are not utilized for the purposes these are given. The Union Government has provided funds to the State under APDRP and other schemes but the funds have been utilized for footing the power bills instead for the purpose these were given. I would therefore like to ask as to which scheme has been formulated to ensure that funds are utilized for their designated purpose.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member's first question was with regard to sub-station.

There are bigger blocks. In such cases, there may be more than one substation. That is the minimum in a block. Minimum one substation must be there. If it is bigger, naturally, it will be more than one.

With regard to the amount to be properly spent in terms of the this *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*, if the State Governments are not going to act according to the conditionalities that they have signed, then the Central Government has got the option to stop that. There will be consultants and auditors. Everything will be supervised and monitored and then only the money will be sanctioned. Otherwise, it will not be allowed to deviate the money to any other place.

MR. SPEAKER: Brevity will be appreciated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has said that amount for the year 2006-2007 has already been allocated and the allocation for this year has been enhanced to Rs. 2500 crore from Rs. 1100 crore for the year 2005-2006. Hon. Member Shri Prabhunath Singhji has asked about his State of Bihar and about the basis of allocation for States which you have not replied to.

Secondly, your intention is very clear in regard to providing electricity to rural poor for which you have

launched a drive too. In order to accelerate the pace of work in Bihar you have allocated items of work to power grid with the consent of the State Government. But it is most unfortunate that the power grid is lying idle since the allocation of items of work for them. Rural electrification work has come to a standstill. Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister that work through power grid should be expedited and the intention of both i.e. the Minister and UPA Government should be translated into action and electricity should reach to every village. Whether more fund will be allocated for this purpose or not? I want a reply to my queries from you.

MR. SPEAKER: It depends on him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He is asking as on what basis the fund is allotted. It is allotted on the basis of unelectrified villages and unelectrified village households. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken 47 minutes but the second question is not yet over.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: There are six States. For example, Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P., your State and Assam are the five States particularly.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, very miserable performance is there.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Eighty per cent of the villages which are unelectrified, it is on that basis. In the southern States, this is not the case. It is not according to the population or the region basis; it is on electrified or unelectrified basis. These unelectrified villages are more than 80 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: He has not said any thing about the power grid.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not answer.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Work is totally installed ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This was the important question.... (Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Opportunity has been given to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Opportunity was given but reply has not come.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtasb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Sorry. You cannot go on asking till your satisfaction. You should now realize why I do not give you opportunity—because of your non-cooperation. That is why, I am not giving you opportunity.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to know whether the Government has put in place any monitoring mechanism to see the actual utilisation of the funds that have been released by the Centre for rural electrification. When the fund is allocated, if it is not spent in a time-bound manner especially for the development of the rural electrification.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must develop a virtue of relevance and brevity—both.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What steps are contemplated to correct it? At the same time, does the Government think of involving the hon. Members of Parliament in monitoring the rural electrification scheme which is being financed by the Centre?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The hon. Member is correct. If the funds are not reaching on time, the scheme

suffers. That is what happened in earlier schemes. Now, in this case, the funds are going to be directly sent to the Central Public Undertaking agencies which are going to take up the jobs.

The supervision of Members of Parliament and the representative of the people at the district level is going to be associated with. There will be consultancy and even auditing will take place in the entire scheme of *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the scheme pertaining to providing electricity is a well conceived scheme of the Government. Rural people could be able to enjoy the service of power and children will be able to study in light. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble minister as to which new power generation centres are going to be set up in rural areas for supply of electricity to villages?

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, this is overall generation of electricity. That is also one of the conditions imposed on the States to subscribe signature and also assure that they will give uninterrupted generation of power to the villages. That is one of the conditions. That is to be agreed to by the States also.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 83—Shri Sushil Kumar Modi—not present.

Shri Hannan Mollah.

Irregularities in National Food For Work Programme

+

*83. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in which National Food

For Work Programme (NFFWP) is being implemented alongwith the quantity of foodgrains allocated there under since its inception till date, State-wise;

(b) the progress of the programme and the expenditure incurred on it till date;

(c) whether the Government has noticed any loopholes in the Programme and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the complaints regarding irregularities and delay in payments of wages in the form of foodgrains and cash given to the labourers working under NFFWP in some States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is also aware that the grain meant for workers reach the mandis as reported in Business Standard dated May 18, 2005;

(g) if so, the facts thereof;

(h) the action taken by the Government in the whole episode and to provide timely payment of wages alongwith strict enforcement of the Programme; and

(i) the steps taken towards extension of the Programme to more districts?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The NFFGWP is under implementation in the identified 150 most backward Districts of the country w.e.f. November 2004. During 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 2020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were allocated and released for the remaining five months of the financial year. During 2005-06, the allocation is Rs. 4500 Crore and 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Out of which an amount of Rs. 761.54 Crore and 8.26 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been released to the eligible

Districts. A statement indicating State-wise details of number of identified Districts, foodgrains allocated and released year-wise since inception is at enclosed Annexure.

(b) During 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 550.99 crore and 3.88 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been utilised to generate 783.68 lakh mandays through creation of economic social assets out of which 17568 works have been completed and 52385 works were under progress. During 2005-06 (upto May 05), an amount of Rs. 289.76 crore and 2.15 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been utilised to generate 514.99 lakh mandays through creation of economic social assets. 19122 works have been completed and 31232 works were under progress.

(c) to (e) The Government has been reviewing the implementation of the programme with the State Governments concerned and stressing upon them to ensure strict adherence to the Guidelines. Instructions have been reiterated to ensure timely payment of wages and in accordance with the rate of minimum wages fixed by the State Government concerned. Based on the observations relating to operational problems especially the non availability of foodgrains at some places, the Guidelines have a provision that in case the non-availability or less availability of foodgrains, the wage component in terms of foodgrains may be compensated through cash component so that timely payment of

wages goes unhindered which in turn enables smooth and effective implementation of the programme.

(f) and (g) The Government is aware of the news item published in the Business Standard dated 18th May 2005. The news item is not based on the facts. NFFWP Guidelines provides that 5 kg. of foodgrains and a minimum 25% of wages in cash must be paid in normal course. The value of foodgrains provided to the workers is calculated on BPL rates. There is no compulsion to pay at least 75% wages in the form of foodgrains. The stipulation of 5 kg. of foodgrains and a minimum of 25% wage in cash may be increased or decreased as per the local needs and availability of the two components of wages. Government of Rajasthan has reported that workers are using foodgrains for daily use and unused balance is kept by them for use in coming months. The FCI will be paid at BPL rates against the quantity of foodgrains lifted.

(h) The Government of India has reiterated instructions to all States to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines of the programme including the timely payment of wages.

(i) Since the NFFWP is initially meant for only 150 most backward Districts which have been finally selected and the programme has already been launched in these Districts, further inclusion of Districts is not possible at this stage.

Annexure

Sl. No.	State	No. of Distts. Identified	Foodgrains (in (MTs))			
			2004-05		2005-06	
			Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released (upto 26-07-2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	125413	125413	301948	150976

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	4724	
3.	Assam	5	108984	108984	412219	
4.	Bihar	15	272432	272432	655916	75404
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	109045	109045	262540	118297
6.	Gujarat	6	41042	41042	98814	
7.	Haryana	1	2894	2894	6968	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3121	3121	7514	3758
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	5074	5074	12216	3311
10.	Jharkhand	14	232004	232004	558580	
11.	Karnataka	3	30038	30038	72320	
12.	Kerala	1	5618	5618	13526	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	162310	162310	390782	136757
14.	Maharashtra	11	158998	158998	382807	10899
15.	Manipur	1	2614	2614	9887	4991
16.	Meghalaya	1	3562	3562	13473	
17.	Mizoram	1	626	626	2368	
18.	Nagaland	1	2984	2984	11286	
19.	Orissa	18	228863	228863	551018	245742
20.	Punjab	1	7356	7356	17711	
21.	Rajasthan	5	36269	36269	87322	43661
22.	Sikkim	1	2068	2068	7822	
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	49815	49815	119936	
24.	Tripura	1	10105	10105	38221	
25.	Uttaranchal	2	10418	10418	25083	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	270779	270779	651936	
27.	West Bengal	6	117568	117568	283063	32576
Total		150	2000000	2000000	5000000	826372

Note: Blank column denote non-claiming of 1st Instalment by the concerned States and thus could not be released during 2005-06.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, it is a very big statement like an essay in the school.

MR. SPEAKER: But you have asked for it!

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: But the reply given is this. The Food For Work Programme is one of the most important programmes for our country, especially the Special Food for Work is a prelude to the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The experience of this will be utilised when the new Employment Guarantee Scheme Bill is passed. So, we had some survey in Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and some other States. Our experience is very dismal. In Bihar and other States, we have seen that works are being given straightaway to the contractors which is prohibited under the Scheme. Women are not given proper and adequate wage. In Maharashtra, we have seen that men are asked to dig the mud and they send it to some distant places. But wage is paid only for the person who is doing digging work. His wife is carrying it to the distance place and she is not paid for it. Both together are getting one wage only.

MR. SPEAKER: For carrying it, the wage is not paid. These are details. You should put a specific question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: These are the experiences. Then comes the Monitoring Committee and timely payment. In many places, we have seen that there is no Monitoring Committee. Is the hon. Minister aware that this type of contract system is going on, women are being deprived of their livelihood and there is no Monitoring Committee? If this is so, you can imagine in which way this project is being implemented. What is your reaction to this?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of all the matters raised by the hon. Member. So far as matter pertaining to Madhya

Pradesh is concerned, we have sought information from the State Government and we have been informed that Panchayats have indulged in manipulations and we have registered FIRs against them. A report was published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' about Rajasthan on the basis of which we sought information on the matter from the State Government but the State Government has refuted it and has reported that work in this regard in the State is going on smoothly. A report was published in respect of Bihar and it was stated that work was being got done through tractor. On the basis of information we sought from the State, it has come to our notice that said scheme was meant to be executed through tractors, not for the food for work programme. Tender was floated in not regard.

People keep on saying such things absence of proper information. Such kind of irregularities could be attributed to those people in our country who are anti-rural and anti poor and do not want that money should go to villages. Therefore, the hon. Prime Minister started the Food for Work Programme in Rangareddy district of Andhra Pradesh on 14th November on the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It is a five years perspective plan under which people will get employment and it will help in arresting the trend of migration from villages to cities. Just now a mention was made here about employment to women and inquiry was made in this regard. Employment has been provided to 34 per cent women. People were of the view that one third employment will be provided to women through it but I am sure that it will provide more than that. People do not have employment there. I cannot say that irregularities are not being committed in rural areas but a formula of people participation, street vigilance and transparency has been suggested....(Interruptions). You please listen first about villages...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to reply.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get disturbed.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised some queries that is why I am telling him.

MR. SPEAKER: You please address to the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, information in regard to queries raised by the hon. Member will be given to all the hon. Members and to the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, it is a very important programme for the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a monitoring Committee consisting of 9 persons has been formed to oversee the implementation of the schemes formulated at the village level for beneficiaries of those schemes. I maintain that if a monitoring committee has not been constituted at a particular place, then I will see to it and investigate the matter. News relating to this information has been published in the local language newspapers all over the country so that the guidelines are brought to the notice of the common man. It is mandatory to have several retired personnel, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, women from villages in the 9 member monitoring committee. Guidelines for imparting training and information at the regional level in all the States have been issued in this regard. All the State Governments are always in touch. Besides, this Food for Work Programme has been chalked out for 5 years. This perspective plan has been made using experts. After all this, we are going to bring employment Guarantee legislation which will guarantee 100 days' employment in a year to the villagers. This will arrest the migration of villagers to the cities and people will get employment. It is a part of the National Common Minimum Programme

which we are going to implement through concrete steps. We expect support from the hon. Members of the House. Since, this is an ambitious, pro-poor and village oriented scheme, therefore, cooperation of all the people is needed for removing unemployment. We expect full cooperation from the hon. Members for the Scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any supplementary Question?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, there is some rigidity and over centralization in the guidelines.

[Translation]

There should be some flexibility in the guidelines, which are strict. They should also be in accordance with the need of an area which is lacking. There should be change in decentralization. The type of work the Government fixes cannot be found at the required place. There is need to change it. The programme cannot be initiated at several places due to allocation reaching late. Efforts should be made to expedite allocation.

12.00 hrs.

People have to travel 25-30 kms. for attending to their work. People should find work in their own village itself. What improvements can be made in order to solve this problem?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, we have given priority to five things. The highest priority has been given to water harvesting. You know it, you yourself are involved in this work. Water crisis is imminent in the country and the experts also believe it and that is why water harvesting has been accorded the highest priority. The safety measures to be taken against drought have also been given priority. After that, the safety measures against floods in various parts of the country have also been included in the priority list. Afforestation has also been included in the priority list.

In the end, I want to tell that the work related to connecting those rural places which have not been

connected to the roads, with the main roads, has also been given priority. We have given priority to these 4-5 works. Hon. Members say that every Panchayat and every village is to be connected with the scheme. In this regard, I would like to say that now the workers need not go very far from their homes, they will be able to get employment near their home itself. Various provisions have been made. Strict vigilance, in real sense, is very flexible. We will accept every suggestion from the hon. Members which will benefit people and provide them employment. We will not go back on those suggestions but will implement them.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Sale of NTC Mills Land

*84. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) has sold vacant Lands of a number of NTC Mills recently;

(b) if so, the details of the transactions and the money realised thereon; and

(c) the purpose for which the money realised thereon is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned by the BIFR, National Textile Corporation (NTC) has sold surplus lands in 41 mills for a sum of Rs. 2458.82 crores since 2002.

(c) The BIFR has already laid down the manner of utilization of the funds generated from sale of assets which includes VRS to workers, servicing of bonds, modernization and payment to creditors.

[English]

Non-Performing Assets

*85. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of loan to the tune of 96 crore is outstanding on account of Non-Performing Assets against big companies as reported in the *Danik Jagran* dated the July 5, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to enact stringent laws to recover the outstanding loans of nationalised banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be enacted;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts to deal with them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of all scheduled commercial banks as on 31st March, 2005 were of the order of Rs. 58091 crore. The top ten defaulter companies owe Rs. 3908 crore to banks/FIs.

(c) and (d) The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 has been enacted to facilitate recovery of outstanding loans. The Act, inter-alia, provides for enforcement of security interest for realization of dues without the intervention of courts or tribunals. The Government has also notified the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to enable Secured Creditors to authorise their officials to enforce the securities and recover the dues from the borrowers.

(e) and (f) 29 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and 5 Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) have been

set up all over the country for expeditious disposal of recovery suits filed by banks/FIs.

Disinvestment of BHEL

*86. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to divest 10% of Government equity in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is opposition to this move in certain quarters;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to review its decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) In May 2005, the Government decided on an 'offer for sale' of 10% equity of BHEL out of Government's holding of 67.72% through the 'book building' process. It was also decided that upto 15% of the equity offered for sale will be reserved for the employees of BHEL. However, letters have been received from workers unions and others opposing disinvestment in BHEL. The objections are under consideration. No further decision has been taken in the matter.

Construction of Roads under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana

*87. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads constructed/proposed to be constructed particularly in remote and rural areas under

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages covered/proposed to be covered thereunder in each State;

(c) the funds made available and utilized during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the additional funds provided to the concerned States against their demand for enhancement, if any;

(e) the particulars of roads which are still incomplete;

(f) the States that have not been released the amount even in the Fourth Phase of PMGSY; and

(g) the steps taken for the release of funds to State, achieving the targets within stipulated time and construction of the incomplete roads?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject. The details of proposals for road works approved by the Ministry of Rural Development, the road works completed, funds released and expenditure reported by States under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), so far, State-wise, are given in the Statement-I. According to the reports received from the States, 12401 road works are yet to be completed.

The total number of Habitations eligible for coverage under PMGSY and the number of Habitations approved for coverage in each State, so far, are given in the Statement-II.

'Bharat Nirman' programme launched in the current year has set a goal to connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly/tribal areas) with an all-Weather road by the year 2009. This requires about 1,55,000 Kilometres of roads to be constructed during the years 2004-05 to 2009-10.

Funds, over and above the amount allocated upto 2005-06, have been released to Assam (Rs. 13.46

crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs. 135.76 crore), Haryana (Rs. 10.96 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 171.62 crore), Mizoram (Rs. 37.51 crore) and Rajasthan (Rs. 97.24 crore) till date. Additional funds have also been provided to Chhattisgarh (Rs. 50 crore), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 41.44 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 43.45 crore), Rajasthan (Rs. 197.15 crore) and Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 129.96 crore) under ADB/World Bank assistance.

The funds for PMGSY are released to the States generally in two instalments. The release of funds to the States is governed by the level of utilization of funds earlier released to the States and the physical progress of works, as stipulated in the guidelines of PMGSY. The States which have not been able to receive the two instalments, against proposals approved in each Phase

of the programme, are indicated in the Statement-III.

As the release of funds depends on the progress of works, all the States are regularly advised to expedite the execution of PMGSY works and make payments to the contractors without any delay. The progress of works is reviewed regularly, including in the Regional Review Meetings with the States. The States have also been advised to furnish all the documents as stipulated in the guidelines of the programme, including complete Audit Reports and Utilization Certificates for each year since 2000-01. All the States have been advised on 2nd January, 2004 to forward proposals for completing the balance works of Phase-I and Phase II, wherever needed, for consideration of the Ministry.

Statement-I

State-wise details of road works approved, road works completed, amount released and expenditure (upto June, 05) under PMGSY

Sl. No.	State	Road Works Approved		Road Works Completed		Amount Released (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
		Number	Length (in Kms.)	Number	Length (in Kms.)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3733	9114.52	3134	7007.00	827.91	741.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	403	1361.77	325	947.86	127.46	124.54
3.	Assam	808	2325.36	506	832.56	564.46	352.44
4.	Bihar	1104	3553.19	416	1060.35	393.60	310.14
5.	Chhattisgarh	1034	6013.03	640	3766.86	855.76	680.21
6.	Goa	90	178.16	72	158.73	10.00	5.17
7.	Gujarat	1169	2463.48	917	1911.43	215.86	203.78
8.	Haryana	85	1213.58	61	900.00	135.96	125.26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	843	3907.30	350	1358.37	315.66	244.27
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	178	635.27	31	66.05	75.00	42.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	501	2752.90	328	1797.41	421.88	361.93
12.	Karnataka	1709	5442.30	1346	4409.68	365.68	349.23
13.	Kerala	366	679.98	169	309.90	79.56	64.27
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3065	14860.72	1699	7885.07	1715.07	1476.98
15.	Maharashtra	2158	5146.84	1429	2990.43	454.29	320.97
16.	Manipur	790	710.64	424	431.33	98.00	65.95
17.	Meghalaya	347	811.43	285	659.91	115.67	88.74
18.	Mizoram	80	1032.50	61	860.83	164.51	130.00
19.	Nagaland	185	1606.29	162	1476.61	106.95	95.23
20.	Orissa	2140	6417.92	1372	3801.70	874.79	749.23
21.	Punjab	516	1282.78	383	745.10	127.40	108.72
22.	Rajasthan	3534	13262.42	3115	11056.12	1173.39	1182.59
23.	Sikkim	115	1589.21	51	1316.72	70.97	53.62
24.	Tamil Nadu	2230	4196.89	1550	2751.81	432.92	331.19
25.	Tripura	254	700.60	205	449.27	76.60	49.64
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10891	19748.50	7400	12455.04	1571.32	1297.62
27.	Uttaranchal	213	1227.39	120	472.03	201.04	122.02
28.	West Bengal	906	4958.03	495	2461.28	849.17	655.79
Total		39447	117193.00	27046	74339.45	12420.88	10333.56

Statement-II

State-wise number of Habitations eligible for coverage and number of Habitations already covered under PMGSY

Sl. No.	State	Total to be covered Under PMGSY (as on 25-12-2000)	Total No. of Habitations already covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	980	913

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	415	84
3.	Assam	13144	2232
4.	Bihar*	17920	1793
5.	Chhattisgarh	12561	2230
6.	Goa	55	20
7.	Gujarat	4253	1001
8.	Haryana	2	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3494	1178
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2792	300
11.	Jharkhand	10696	1341
12.	Karnataka	876	322
13.	Kerala	438	393
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18492	3701
15.	Maharashtra	1751	888
16.	Manipur	598	0
17.	Meghalaya	756	126
18.	Mizoram	285	71
19.	Nagaland	94	42
20.	Orissa	14393	2668
21.	Punjab	536	418
22.	Rajasthan	11015	4228
23.	Sikkim	318	100
24.	Tamil Nadu	2640	1813
25.	Tripura	2091	150
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24284	8308
27.	Uttaranchal	2605	211
28.	West Bengal	25288	3404
Total		172772	37935

* Core Newtwork is being verified.

Statement-III*Details of Instalments not released*

Sl. No.	State	Phase-II		Phase-III		Phase-IV		Phase-V	
		IInd. Instt.	Ist. Instt.	IInd. Instt.	Ist. Instt.	IInd. Instt.	Ist. Instt.	IInd. Instt.	Ist. Instt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh				Not Released	Not Released			
2.	Assam					Not Released			
3.	Bihar	Not Released	Not Released*	Not Released*					
4.	Chhattisgarh					Not Released			
5.	Gujarat			Not Released	Not Released	Not Released			
6.	Haryana				Not Released	Not Released			
7.	Himachal Pradesh			Not Released	Not Released	Not Released			
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Not Released		Not Released					
9.	Jharkhand		Not Released	Not Released					
10.	Karnataka			Not Released					
11.	Kerala				Not Released	Not Released			
12.	Madhya Pradesh					Not Released	Not Released	Not Released	Not Released
13.	Maharashtra			Not Released	Not Released	Not Released			
14.	Manipur	Not Released	Not Released	Not Released					
15.	Meghalaya		Not Released	Not Released					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Mizoram					Not Released		
17.	Nagaland					Not Released		
18.	Orissa				Not Released	Not Released		
19.	Punjab			Not Released	Not Released	Not Released		
20.	Rajasthan					Not Released	Not Released	Not Released
21.	Sikkim			Not Released	Not Released	Not Released		
22.	Tamil Nadu				Not Released	Not Released		
23.	Tripura		Not Released	Not Released				
24.	Uttar Pradesh				Not Released	Not Released		
25.	Uttaranchal		Not Released	Not Released				
26.	West Bengal				Not Released	Not Released		
Total (States)								

* Phase III and Phase-IV combined.

Short Supply of Coal to Power Projects

*88. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of thermal power plants in the country at present;

(b) whether there is an acute shortage of coal in these power plants;

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

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to import coal to meet the said shortage.

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard;

(f) the States where power generation capacity has not increased during the last three years; and

(g) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the generation capacity?

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

(a) There are 298 coal, lignite, gas and liquid-fuel based thermal power stations in the country out of which, there are 144 power stations of more than 20 MW capacity.

(b) and (c) A number of thermal power stations (TPSs) in the country are facing problem of inadequate supply of coal. As on 24th July, 2005, thirteen (13) thermal power stations were 'critical' i.e. having coal stock of less than seven (7) days. Out of these, five (5) thermal stations were 'super critical' i.e. having coal stock of less than four (4) days.

Domestic coal production is not adequate to meet the requirement of the TPSs, and the supply of coal is, therefore, being augmented through import.

(d) and (e) Import of coal has been planned to build the coal stock at TPSs to reasonable level. Efforts

are being to import 13.45 million tonnes (MT) of coal by the select thermal power stations during the current year. i.e. 2005-06.

(f) There has not been any increase in power generation capacity during the last three years in the following States:—

Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Kerala, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Meghalaya.

(g) Following efforts are being made by the Government to increase the generation capacity:—

(i) A target of 41,110 MW capacity addition has been set in the 10th plan (2002-07) consisting of 14,393 MW, hydro, 25,417 thermal and 1,300 MW nuclear power.

(ii) Regular review meetings are being held at the highest level to monitor the timely completion of power projects and resolve various outstanding issues.

(iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.

(iv) Creation of Joint Ventures, encouragement for greater participation by private entrepreneurs, announcement of hydro policy laying emphasis on basin-wise development, etc., three stage clearance procedure, ranking study of potential sites, 50,000 MW hydro electric initiatives and advance action for capacity addition in 11th Plan and beyond to boost hydro power development.

(v) Provision of funds by the Central Government through Rural Electrification Corporation and Power Finance Corporation so that a good project with reasonable tariff should not be hampered on account of lack of funds. Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority keep a close watch for timely completion of sanctioned and on-going thermal

power stations in the central, state and private sector. Project-wise bottlenecks are identified, remedial measures are suggested and concerned project authorities are advised to undertake requisite steps/action to overcome the constraints.

[Translation]

**Fake Voluntary Social Organisations in
Rural Development Sector**

*89. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain voluntary social organisations are provided grants for development of rural areas every year by the Ministry of Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details of such organisations provided with the said grant during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 alongwith the amount paid to each of them;

(c) whether the existence of some fake organisations has also come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the total number of such organisations

and the amount paid to each of them during the said period; and

(e) the action taken against them and the amounts recovered therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1211 voluntary social organisations were provided grants during 2003-2004 and 618 during 2004-05 by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), an autonomous body under aegis of Ministry of Rural Development. State-wise names of these organisations and amount sanctioned and released to each of them for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 are available on CAPART's website: www.capart.nic.in. The details of such organisations provided with the said grant during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 alongwith the amount released to each of them by the Ministry of Rural Development under the schemes of Rural Housing (RH), SGSY/UNDP projects and Department of Drinking Water Supply (RM Division/CRSP Division) are enclosed as statement-I, II and III respectively.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. In the following two cases during the year 2003-2004, funds were provided by the CAPART but Bank Pass Books of these Voluntary Organisations were found to be forged/manipulated:—

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Voluntary Organisation(s)	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Gram Shree Khadi Vikas Sanstha Vill. Bhuski, P.O. Khusrupur, Block-Khusrupur, Distt. Patna, Bihar	30,43,218	22,32,740
2.	Manav Jagriti, Magurahi, Vill. Magurahi, Block-Hajipur, Distt. Vaishali, Bihar	5,12,000	2,68,972

Both the Voluntary Organisations are being placed under the black-listed category and action for recovery of amount is being taken.

Statement-I

Name of Scheme: Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development Projects Sanction to Voluntary Organization during 2003-04 and 04-05

Sl. No.	Name of the Agency	Amount released during 2003-04	Amount released during 2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Pinky G. Sansthan, Ambedkarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	4.87	
2.	Nehru Rural Development Society, Thiruvannamalai, TN	5.00	
3.	I.R. Community Development Society, Thiruvallar, TN	5.00	5.00
4.	Star School Samiti, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	4.66	4.66
5.	Comprehensive Area, Dev. Service, N. 24 Pargana, WB	5.00	20.00
6.	Agradut Polly Unnayan Samithi, Howrah, W.B.	5.00	5.00
7.	Nitya Krushi R. Dev. Educational and Health Society, Anantapur, A.P.	4.18	3.52
8.	Brethern Institute for Rural Development, Prakasham, A.P.		8.00
9.	Haritha Association for Learning Environment, Khammam, A.P.	2.74	
10.	Gramodaya Organisation for R.D. Krishi, A.P.		4.55
11.	Gramabhyudaya Seva Yuvajana Samajam, Srikakulam, A.P.		5.00
12.	Praja Pragathi Seva Sangham, Krishna, A.P.		4.375
13.	Village Development Society, Hyderabad, A.P.		3.38
14.	Zarpan Nasarpur Vibhag K Mandal, Surat, Gujarat	4.99	
15.	Sanathan M. Samajam and Nur. School, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	3.90	
16.	Wangoo Sabal Youth Development, Bishnupur, Manipur		5.00
17.	Sunray M. Multipurpose Co. Society, Dimapur, Nagaland	8.00	
18.	Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal, Orissa		8.00
19.	Shri Haridev Shiksha Samiti, Bharatpur, Rajasthan		3.93

1	2	3	4
20.	Netaji Subhash Ch. Bose Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur, Rajasthan		3.93
21.	Ahmedabad Study Action Group, Ahmedabad, Gujarat		4.00
22.	Welfare Services Eranakulam, Kerala		4.00
23.	Co-operation League in Dev. and Employment, Kanyakumari, T.N.		4.00
24.	Sarvabhom S. Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	3.98	
25.	Antrashtriya Bharashtachar Unmulan Evam Samaj Kalyan Paarishad Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	4.00	
26.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	4.00	
27.	Kalyachak Netaji Subhas Sangha, Midnapore, West Bengal	4.92	9.84
Total		70.24	106.185

Rural Building Centres

*List of Approved Projects and Amount of Central Assistance Released Through HUDCO
2003-2004 and 2004-2005*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Name of the Districts	Name of the Agencies	Amount Released	
				2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah	Multipurpose Social Service Society (NGO), Cuddapah	3.00	0.00
2.	Bihar	Sitamarhi	Rajendra Institute of Education and Social Welfare (NGO)	6.00	6.00
	Bihar	Champan East	Abinav Pre Fab Industry (NGO)	6.00	6.00
3.	Gujarat	Banaskantha	Jai Bharat Charitable Trust (NGO), Banaskantha	5.76	0.00
	Gujarat	Kutch	Rural Agro and Development Society (NGO)	5.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh	Leh Ecological Development Group, Leh (NGO)	10.00	0.00
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	People Trust (NGO)	3.00	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Basera Building Centre, (NGO) Rajgarh	6.00	6.00
	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	Energy Environment and Development Society (NGO)	6.00	6.00
7.	Manipur	Chandel	Rural Resources Development Organisation (NGO), Chandel	6.00	0.00
	Manipur	Thoubal	CEBTEC, (NGO) Thoubal	6.00	9.00
8.	Nagaland	Mokokchung	Association of Tribal Welfare Development, (NGO) Mokokchung	6.00	0.00
9.	Orissa	Dhenkanal	Institute of Social Work and Action Reserch (NGO)	6.00	0.00
	Orissa	Khurda	Mahatama Gandhi Khadi Gramodaya Samittii (NGO)	12.00	2.30
	Orissa	Sundergarh	SEWAK (NGO), Sundergarh	6.00	0.00
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnaur	Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation (NGO), Bijnaur	6.00	6.00
	Uttar Pradesh	Gautambudhnagar	Navtakniki Evam Samagri Kendra, (NGO)	6.00	0.00
	Uttar Pradesh	Hardoi	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan (NGO)	6.00	6.00
	Uttar Pradesh	Jalaun	Sankalp Sewa Sansthan, (NGO)	6.00	6.00
11.	Uttaranchal	Bageshwar	Kassar Trust (NGO), Bageshwar	6.00	6.00
	Uttaranchal	Tehri Garhawal	Rural Areas Development Society (NGO), Tehri Garhawal	6.00	0.00
12.	West Bengal	Midnapur West	West Bengal SC, ST and Minority Welfare Association (NGO)	6.00	0.00
Total				134.76	59.30

Statement-II**SGSY Division**

Sl. No.	Implementing Agency Jharkhand	Amount Released (Rs. Lakh)	
		2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	PRADAN	29.07	12.90
2.	Karra Society for Rural Action on Social Mobilization	—	12.64
3.	Lohardaga Gram Swarjya Sansthan (LGSS)	—	14.73
4.	Agrarian Assistance Association of Dumka	—	14.65
5.	Foundation for Emancipation of Marginalized (FEMALE) Ranchi	—	8.4
Orissa			
6.	Integrated Rural Development of Weaker Sections in India/ Deomali Jhimkiguda Mahila Society (IRDWS/DJMS) (also known as WIDA	—	—
7.	AMA Sangathan	—	14.88
8.	VIKALPA	22.21	11.1
9.	Lokdrusti	25.39	24.52
Rajasthan			
10.	ASTHA. ASTHA will implement the project jointly with Adivasi Mahila Jagriti Sansthan, Udaipur Kotra Adivasi Sansthan, Udaipur.	6.38	—
11.	Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)	12.93	—
12.	Samarthak Samiti	8.55	2.22

1	2	3	4
13.	Advancement Through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement (ARAVALI)	9.2	—
14.	Sankalp, Baran,	—	9.05
15.	BAIF, Baran,	—	16.74
16.	Cecoedecon, Baran,	—	7.12
17.	GVT Baran,	—	8.54
Total		113.73	241.00

Statement-III*Department of Drinking Water Supply**T.M. Division/CRSP Division***T.M. Division**

Project Name	Organisation	Duration	Total Cost/ Released	Status
Development of Tools that facilitate Participatory Management of Rural Water Resources	The Social Work and Research Centre (SWRC), Ajmer.	One Year	Rs. 5.50 Lakhs/ Rs. 4.40 Lakhs	Completed

CRSP Division

Project for	Organisation	Year	Amount Released
Training	Environmental Sanitation Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	2003-04	Rs. 12.50 Lakh
Training	Ramakrishna Mission, Lok Shiksha Parishad, Narendrapur, West Bengal.	2004-05	Rs. 19.80 Lakh

*[English]***Violation of CERC Guidelines*****90. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:****SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:**

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power trading companies have been flouting some of the conditions laid down by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) as reported in the Business Standard dated 4th July, 2005;

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

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

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

(a) to (c) As per the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Trading Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2004, the trading licensees are required to furnish information in specified form to the Commission on quarterly basis, a copy of which is also to be furnished to the Regional Load Despatch Centre (RLDC) and Regional Electricity Board (REB) or the Regional Power Committee (RPC), as the case may be. The licensees are also required to post the said information on their web sites.

It was brought to the notice of the CERC that the licensees were not complying with the requirements of submission of information to the REB/RPC and RLDC, and posting of report on the web sites. The CERC, therefore, issued orders directing the licensees to comply

with the requirement of the Regulation. The licensees have since submitted the compliance report to the Commission.

**Loan to Small Scale Industry,
Rural and Urban Sectors*****91. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:****SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether credit flow to rural sector is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the loans/advances given to the small scale industries, rural and urban sectors during the last three years, year-wise and the total figures as on date;

(d) whether loans given to rural sector are less in proportion to the deposits made by this sector in the Nationalised banks;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The loans and advances given by the public sector banks to SSI, rural and urban sectors during the last three years are given below:—

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Year Ending March	Loans to SSI	Loans to Rural Sector	Loans to Urban Sector	Deposit from Rural Sector	% of Rural Sector loans to Deposit from Rural Sector
1	2	3	4	5	6
2002	49743	35450	242784	83641	42.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
2003	52988	39590	277408	92263	42.9
2004	58278*	43928	320322	101174	43.4
2005 (upto Dec. 2004)	67634*	53054*	392887*	104741*	50.7

*Provisional

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The main reason for the low proportion of loans in relation to deposits in the rural sector in the concentration of business and industrial activities in urban and metropolitan areas.

(f) RBI had issued instructions to public sector banks in 1980 to achieve a credit deposit ratio (CD) of 60% in respect of rural and semi urban branches, separately. These instructions were reiterated in 1995. RBI has also advised the convenor banks to take up the issue in SLBC meetings for identifying measures for enhancing the CD ratio.

Credit Cards

*92. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines and norms with regard to operation of credit cards as reported in the Hindu dated June 29, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are cases of intimidation and harassment to credit card holders from Banks and Financial Institutions despite RBI guidelines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the interest of credit card holders and for implementation of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) With a view to mitigate problems faced by credit card holders, the Reserve Bank of India has placed draft guidelines on credit card operations on its website www.rbi.org.in. The Draft Guidelines, inter-alia, include directions regarding issue of cards, interest rates and other charges, wrongful billing, use of Direct Sales Agents/Direct Marketing Agents and other agents, protection of customer rights, redressal of grievances, internal control and monitoring system etc.

(c) and (d) Government has been receiving representations from individuals and different organizations regarding grievances against banks issuing credit cards, which are referred to the concerned Banks for redressal and appropriate action.

Loan to Farmers

*93. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether burden of loan on the poor and marginal farmers of our country is increasing while their sources of income are shrinking;

(b) If so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has decided to waive of the loan of farmers upto Rs. 10,000/- and propose to increase the loan limit through product marketing scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has issued fresh guidelines in regard to disbursement of loan to farmers as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated June 26, 2005;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is a proposal to set up a Risk Fund for agricultural loan;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) the steps taken by the Government to provide easy loan to farmers;

(j) whether any survey has been conducted regarding customer satisfaction on credit delivery in rural areas by banks; and

(k) if so, the outcome of such survey?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The All India Debt and Investment Survey, 1991 reveals that though the average debt of cultivator households has been increasing, their indebtedness to non-institutional sources has been showing a continuous decline. However, the exact level of indebtedness based on size of land holdings is not available.

(b) With a view to provide relief to the Small and Marginal Farmers, certain relaxations have been extended to them. The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirement for agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000/-. The banks have also been advised that total interest debited to the accounts of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term advances. Further, Government's policy announcement on 18th June, 2004 includes a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for small and marginal farmers, Debt Restructuring/Reschedulement for Farmers in distress and Farmers in arrears. The package also includes loans by banks to provide relief from indebtedness from non-institutional lenders such as money lenders and others.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to waive loans of farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-. Reserve Bank of India in its annual policy statement for 2005-06, has increased the limit on loans to farmers through the produce marketing scheme from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh under priority sector lending by Commercial Banks. NABARD has since raised the ceiling of the quantum of loans to an individual farmers from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh under its refinance scheme for marketing of crops to Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The following steps have been taken, inter-alia, to provide easier loans to farmers and people living in rural areas:—

(i) The banks have been asked to simplify the procedure for sanction of loan.

(ii) One page documentation has been circulated among banks for adoption.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks not to insist on collateral or margin for loans upto Rs. 50000/-.

(iv) Banks have been asked to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible farmers.

(v) Financing of Self Help Groups is being emphasised.

(vi) A Project has been initiated for lending by banks to joint liability groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees.

(j) and (k) Reserve Bank of India in its annual policy statement for 2005-06 has proposed to conduct a customer satisfaction survey soon on credit delivery in the rural areas with the help of an outside agency.

[Translation]

Wind Energy

*94. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether estimated potential of wind energy in the country is 45000 M.W. whereas only 1500 M.W. out of this is being tapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the country in the generation of wind energy as compared to other developing countries;

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to encourage public/private sector to tap full potential of this energy;

(e) whether some sites have been identified to tap wind energy in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the wind power installed capacity has reached 3740 MW in the country by the end of June, 2005.

(b) The present exploitable potential has been estimated at 14,500 MW, taking into consideration the grid constraints in the potential States. The wind power projects are mostly set up as commercial projects through private investments. The setting up of further wind power capacity and tapping of exploitable potential depend mainly on the availability of financing on attractive terms and suitable policy environment for setting up of wind power projects in the potential States.

(c) India presently ranks at the first position among the developing countries.

(d) Grid interactive wind power programme is essentially private sector driven. The efforts made by the Government to promote setting up of wind power projects include concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation and loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Wind power is being given preferential tariff in potential States. Continuous efforts are made to identify new wind power potential areas through wind resource assessment studies.

(e) and (f) Under the wind resource assessment programme of the Ministry, a total of 211 sites have so far been identified in 13 States and Union Territories, which can be considered suitable for setting up wind power projects. The wind resource assessment programme is being continued in order to cover more States and new areas for identification of further potential sites for wind power projects.

VAT

*95. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) in various States/UTs;

(b) the feedback received from various States/UTs on implementation of VAT;

(c) whether the income of various States has increased after its implementation;

(d) if so, the exact increase in tax collection in comparison to corresponding period in the previous year;

(e) the impact of implementation of VAT on inflation;

(f) whether any time limit has been fixed for claims of compensation for revenue loss as a result of implementation of VAT;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) details of such claims received as on date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (h) So far, 23 States/UTs have implemented VAT. The general feedback from the VAT implementing States/UTs is that the new system has been received well by the business community as well as the public. There were some initial problems at the time of introduction of VAT, which have been resolved by and large by the States through constant interaction with the stakeholders.

Although it is too early to make a precise assessment of the impact of VAT on revenues of the States/UTs, it is seen from the provisional figures of tax collection during the first quarter of current financial year received from the States/UTs that the overall trend of revenue collections is positive and encouraging.

Regarding the impact of VAT implementation on inflation, the same is difficult to assess, since inflation depends on a number of factors. However, the overall rate of inflation, reflected through the point-to-point movement in the Wholesale Price Index, has declined from 5.7% for the week ending 02 April, 2005 to 4.14% for the week ending 09 July 2005. Moreover, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has advised the States to constantly monitor the price movement of goods after introduction of VAT.

Regarding claims for compensation for revenue loss due to implementation of VAT, no time limit has been fixed for submission of such claims. So far, compensation claims have been received from 3 States, namely, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tripura.

[English]

Implementation of National Food for Work Programme

*96. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the guidelines issued under National Food for Work Programme are putting hindrance to implement the Programme itself;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that the value of foodgrains component for the period October, 2004 to April, 2005 is far less than the specified norms;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether it is a fact that 75% of wages paid to the workers in foodgrains under the expanded Food for Work Programme in 150 backward districts are calculated at APL prices;

(e) if so, the reasons and the basis of calculating the foodgrains at APL rates Rs. 10 a kilo which is inflating the entire cost of the Programme and depriving a large section of the people from its benefits;

(f) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this direction; and

(g) the rate on which the foodgrains are procured from FCI by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Guidelines of NFFWP enable smooth and effective implementation and provide necessary flexibility to address the local conditions, needs and problems. According to the Guidelines, the value of foodgrains distributed to the workers, is to be calculated at BPL rate.

(d) to (f) Under the programme, notified minimum wages are paid. Wages are paid through a mix of cash and foodgrains. 5 kg. of foodgrains and at least 25% of wages in cash must be ensured in normal case. The wages paid to the workers in the form of foodgrains are calculated at BPL rate and not at APL rate. As such, there is no question of inflating the cost of the programme nor does it affect the interest of the poor rural workers.

(g) According to the NFFWP Guidelines, FCI will be paid at BPL rate for the foodgrains lifted.

[Translation]

Frauds in Nationalised Bank

*97. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of fraud detected in nationalised banks during the last three years ending March 2005, bank-wise;

(b) the total amount involved therein;

(c) the nature for such frauds;

(d) the number of employees found involved therein;

(e) the action taken by the Government for the recovery of the said amount and against the officials involved in these frauds;

(f) the amount recovered so far; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) Bank-wise details of fraud cases reported by Nationalised Banks during the last three years ending March 2003, 2004 and 2005 and the amount involved therein are given in statement-I. Such frauds relate to misappropriation and criminal breach of trust, fraudulent encashment through forged instruments, negligence and cash shortages, cheating and forgery, irregularities in foreign exchange transactions and others like credit cards, internet banking, computer system frauds etc. As regards action against officials responsible for the frauds, each bank has its own service rules and vigilance machinery governing its employees and domestic inquiries are conducted as per the provisions thereof. Action taken against delinquent employees in nationalised banks for their involvement in fraud cases is given in statement-II. The banks have filed suits with Lok Adalats, Courts and Debt Recovery Tribunals for recovery of the amount involved in frauds. The banks are also required to report

all cases of frauds to CBI/Police so as to book the culprits and recover the dues of banks. RBI has reorted that during the last three years an amount of Rs. 495.89 crore has been recovered.

(g) Measures taken for prevention of frauds include, inter-alia, the following:—

- RBI advised banks to constitute Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, with a view to ensuring that the working of the internal inspection and audit machinery is monitored at the top most level in banks.
- RBI has instructed banks to review and refine the systems and procedures with regard to balancing of books, reconciliation of inter-branch accounts, review of the internal inspection/audit machinery, visit to branches by officials of controlling offices etc.
- Banks must ensure clear demarcation of duties and responsibilities of employees and periodical rotation of staff within the branch and from one branch to another.
- Banks must initiate disciplinary action promptly and awarding exemplary and deterrent punishment to the delinquent employees.
- RBI has also taken up with State Governments for computerization of property records and transactions, recording the encumbrances on the properties mortgaged to the banks with the Registrar of Assurances by payment of a nominal fee etc.
- Steps have also been taken to vigorously monitor the large value frauds. All the fraud cases involving repees one crore and above are monitored by the Department of Banking Supervision. RBI had also advised the banks in January 2004 to constitute a Special Committee of the Board for exclusive monitoring of large value frauds of Rs. 1 crore and above.

Statement-I

Total Number of Frauds and Amount involved therein Reported by the Nationalised Banks for the Financial Years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Public Sector Banks	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		No. of Frauds	Amount involved	No. of Frauds	Amount involved	No. of Frauds	Amount involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	422	29.27	408	111.59	383	90.62
	SBI (overseas branches)	2	0.02	10	0.05	1	0.03
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	9	0.74	24	4.55	30	2.62
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	39	12.34	56	14.33	62	12.57
4.	State Bank of Indore	15	4.37	14	1.02	41	5.28
5.	State Bank of Mysore	17	0.86	9	2.67	15	3.66
6.	State Bank of Patiala	9	0.46	25	4.70	48	10.92
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	9	0.70	10	19.90	17	0.81
8.	State Bank of Travancore	10	0.83	14	1.91	20	7.90
9.	Allahabad Bank	51	4.72	34	3.03	39	2.76
10.	Andhra Bank	54	14.37	49	12.95	62	10.60
11.	Bank of Baroda	121	13.50	165	52.70	229	33.91
	BOB (overseas branches)	4	0.67	9	0.40	7	0.36
12.	Bank of India	76	12.02	116	22.17	121	20.67
	BOI (overseas branches)	2	0.01	3	0.06	1	2.28
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	10	6.81	8	9.35	8	0.37
14.	Canara Bank	187	76.67	167	16.14	183	44.36
	Canara Bank (Overseas branches)	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
15.	Central Bank of India	61	11.45	99	28.99	161	50.23
16.	Corporation Bank	53	12.98	93	4.37	283	34.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Dena Bank	42	5.22	41	37.59	30	3.37
18.	Indian Bank	88	17.62	68	44.43	139	52.60
	Overseas Branches	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.06
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	39	10.14	58	5.91	88	13.51
	Overseas Branches	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	28	12.31	23	10.43	72	44.52
21.	Punjab National Bank	72	20.92	314	150.43	210	34.73
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	26	59.66	29	19.59	29	4.71
23.	Syndicate Bank	107	8.27	113	9.72	147	23.71
	Overseas Branches	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.43
24.	Union Bank of India	65	46.40	60	28.19	76	20.36
25.	United Bank of India	46	0.72	37	2.51	15	27.12
26.	UCO Bank	46	12.66	94	20.63	79	12.56
27.	Vijaya Bank	34	2.84	57	13.19	64	27.50
Total		1744	399.55	2207	653.50	2663	600.16

Statement-II*Action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in cases of Fraud*

Year	No of employees convicted	No. of employees awarded major/minor penalties	Out of-II dismissed/discharged/removed	No. of employees acquitted	No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in the Court	No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
2000	119	1491	424	69	741	2615
2003	65	2034	579	89	732	1738
2004	127	1590	461	69	635	1429
2005 (March)	18	375	114	6	667	1373

[English]

Achievements under SGSY

*98. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is being implemented;

(b) the amount sanctioned, released and utilized under the Yojana during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce this Yojana in the remaining States of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of achievements made indicating the number of persons provided employment under the Yojana till now and the targets fixed for 2005-06 alongwith the amount earmarked therefor. State-wise;

(f) whether the Government is satisfied with the

achievements under the Yojana from all States and Union Territories; and

(g) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the steps taken to make it a success?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is being implemented as a self employment scheme in the rural areas of all the States/UTs of the country except Delhi and Chandigarh. A statement showing, State-wise, amounts allocated, released and utilized during 2002-03 to 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(e) to (g) A statement showing, State-wise, total Swarozgaris assisted under the scheme since inception i.e. April, 1999 and upto June, 2005 is given in the enclosed statement-II. State-wise total Swarozgaris assisted, per capita investment and subsidy—credit ratios for the period 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement-III. On these parameters, most of the States/UTs are showing better performance during 2004-05 over 2003-04. Under SGSY no physical targets are fixed since it is felt that fixing of targets makes the programme target oriented and quality of implementation suffers.

Statement-I

State-wise Central Allocation, Releases and Utilisation Under the SGSY During 2002-03 to 2005-06

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (Upto June' 05)					
		Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation	Central Allocation	Central Releases				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3068.31	3738.02	5800.68	4238.88	3942.42	5631.80	5305.97	5305.97	6970.51	5305.67	2541.37	411.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127.10	78.06	162.50	221.53	139.60	176.17	276.91	278.92	245.76	276.91	120.27	
3.	Assam	3302.59	2802.61	3587.09	5756.15	5313.00	7417.91	7195.18	6595.62	8046.89	7195.18	3517.00	680.35
4.	Bihar	7300.00	3493.34	10822.77	10084.97	5488.81	11216.49	12623.79	9619.84	13442.98	12623.79	6046.34	1092.20
5.	Chhattisgarh	1620.58	1968.76	3510.70	2238.84	2025.44	2975.36	2802.45	2676.11	3863.97	2802.45	1342.27	98.95
6.	Goa	50.00	17.65	40.18	50.00	17.65	51.31	50.00	27.82	60.93	50.00	25.00	5.09
7.	Gujarat	1154.96	1403.27	2006.46	1595.58	1508.00	2415.12	1997.27	1946.40	2814.63	1997.27	956.62	363.78
8.	Haryana	679.48	827.79	1317.00	938.70	932.06	1437.07	1175.03	1175.08	1595.25	1175.03	562.80	6.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	286.16	348.62	593.07	395.33	304.77	642.77	494.85	467.42	745.26	494.85	234.98	15.79
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	354.16	350.44	650.91	489.27	427.45	842.03	612.44	436.74	779.94	612.44	227.45	
11.	Jharkhand	2751.41	1801.02	3939.38	3801.08	2817.41	4711.54	4757.98	4180.61	4055.95	4757.98	2278.90	
12.	Karnataka	2317.00	2686.99	4882.43	3200.94	2777.12	4711.28	4006.76	3735.03	5487.70	4006.76	1919.09	
13.	Kerala	1039.63	1266.55	2062.58	1436.25	1435.18	2054.13	1797.82	1783.56	2445.14	1797.82	861.09	128.32
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3474.22	4232.53	7402.90	4799.65	4397.14	7040.11	6007.91	5516.04	7592.17	6007.91	2877.58	463.24
15.	Maharashtra	4580.15	5579.85	8239.25	6327.49	5712.39	8805.51	7920.39	7409.42	10644.14	7920.39	3793.58	528.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16. Manipur		221.40	0.00		385.88	56.75		482.36	91.05		482.36	19.55	
17. Meghalaya		248.05	27.51	86.68	432.33	117.12	161.90	540.42	190.84	167.24	540.42	45.23	
18. Mizoram		57.40	86.06	84.03	100.04	99.96	138.00	125.06	146.76	189.77	125.06	61.13	
19. Nagaland		170.16	83.15	184.01	296.58	157.80	301.05	370.70	203.94	28.32	370.70	62.80	
20. Orissa		3509.50	4181.99	5499.02	4848.38	4553.07	6699.20	6068.94	5866.19	8281.82	6068.94	2906.80	79.52
21. Punjab		330.22	391.58	668.22	456.20	444.25	671.96	571.05	442.81	552.73	571.05	273.51	85.90
22. Rajasthan		1759.38	2143.41	2917.62	2430.60	2261.24	3157.57	3042.47	2941.56	4051.15	3042.47	1457.23	77.39
23. Sikkim		63.55	95.33	129.80	110.76	110.76	230.30	138.45	179.99	222.09	138.45	67.68	23.98
24. Tamil Nadu		2713.06	3290.35	5068.76	3748.10	3690.70	5852.91	4691.65	4676.06	7066.73	4691.65	2247.13	329.48
25. Tripura		399.75	599.65	975.63	696.73	696.74	967.15	870.92	1102.28	1136.56	870.92	425.71	18.43
26. Uttar Pradesh		10509.37	7126.87	14721.83	14518.73	11756.85	19564.60	18173.71	17293.83	27722.43	18173.71	8704.55	1001.09
27. Uttaranchal		552.30	667.95	1305.22	763.00	686.02	1356.48	955.10	954.59	1686.24	955.10	457.45	154.60
28. West Bengal		3900.11	1121.19	5355.23	5388.01	2617.59	5298.25	6744.42	4608.31	7317.61	6744.42	2916.79	625.64
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		50.00	0.00	14.41	50.00	0.00	4.24	25.00	25.00	2.78	25.00	6.25	
30. Daman and Diu		50.00	0.00	1.34	50.00	0.00		25.00	0.00	0.06	25.00	0.00	
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		50.00	0.00		50.00	0.00	6.16	25.00	12.50		25.00	0.00	
32. Lakshadweep		50.00	0.00	0.70	50.00	0.00	2.53	25.00	0.00	1.16	25.00	0.00	
33. Pondicherry		50.00	53.64	80.67	50.00	25.00	44.91	100.00	100.00	104.28	100.00	0.00	4.04
Total		56790.00	50464.18	92111.27	80000.00	64512.29	104585.81	100000.00	90010.29	127322.29	100000.00	46956.15	6194.61

NR—Not Reported

Statement-II

State-wise Total Swarozgaris Assisted Since Inception (1-4-99) upto June, 2005

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Total No. of Swarozgaris Assisted
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	564915
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10068
3.	Assam	215350
4.	Bihar	749472
5.	Chhattisgarh	130149
6.	Goa	2967
7.	Gujarat	140578
8.	Haryana	95767
9.	Himachal Pradesh	52195
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	55736
11.	Jharkhand	292472
12.	Karnataka	224539
13.	Kerala	153820
14.	Madhya Pradesh	392865

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	435291
16.	Manipur	0
17.	Meghalaya	14937
18.	Mizoram	9003
19.	Nagaland	16670
20.	Orissa	394351
21.	Punjab	39172
22.	Rajasthan	207072
23.	Sikkim	10087
24.	Tamil Nadu	400285
25.	Tripura	66382
26.	Uttar Pradesh	800243
27.	Uttaranchal	50633
28.	West Bengal	212011
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2209
30.	Daman and Diu	113
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	125
32.	Lakshadweep	46
33.	Pondicherry	3831
Total		5743354

Statement-III

Total Swarozgaris Assisted, Per Capita Investment and Subsidy and Credit Ratio during 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2003-04			2004-05		
		Total No. of Swarozgaris Assisted	Per Capita Investment (In Rupees)	Subsidy Credit Ratio	Total No. of Swarozgaris Assisted	Per Capita Investment (In Rupees)	Subsidy Credit Ratio
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79736	16014	2.40	84825	16241	2.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Arunachal Pradesh		1220	21361	1.19	1768	20438	1.23
3. Assam		45480	16931	1.48	64814	15338	1.59
4. Bihar		111613	24276	2.20	128075	24754	2.11
5. Chhattisgarh		22926	26660	1.77	28842	25177	1.71
6. Goa		364	22591	3.07	683	19098	2.48
7. Gujarat		21462	23311	1.91	27457	22775	2.00
8. Haryana		11863	30312	2.20	14132	29738	2.19
9. Himachal Pradesh		7928	29889	3.46	8950	32678	3.73
10. Jammu and Kashmir		6965	34789	4.19	8039	36504	3.92
11. Jharkhand		66644	15089	1.63	46362	17323	1.67
12. Karnataka		43293	23090	1.86	52976	22007	1.84
13. Kerala		20062	20343	1.61	23306	21167	1.61
14. Madhya Pradesh		41979	34617	2.09	48777	33105	2.21
15. Maharashtra		60451	26343	1.66	70146	25680	1.59
16. Manipur		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
17. Meghalaya		5514	5457	4.64	4333	6381	3.12
18. Mizoram		1457	11301	0.99	1488	12655	0.64
19. Nagaland		4177	9165	1.23	481	2644	2.00
20. Orissa		59289	18926	2.27	65712	23878	1.64
21. Punjab		6554	96832	0.29	5246	32353	2.53
22. Rajasthan		28618	36221	3.32	35225	37465	3.47
23. Sikkim		1942	17649	1.36	1598	17367	1.07
24. Tamil Nadu		61120	11939	1.30	74927	14208	1.82
25. Tripura		6581	38859	2.22	9301	20405	3.91
26. Uttar Pradesh		140622	23070	1.69	246824	23219	1.82
27. Uttaranchal		10780	23228	1.62	12493	25916	1.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28. West Bengal		27008	20704	1.66	28280	19865	1.47
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		350	114	0.00	12	312917	0.01
30. Daman and Diu		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		125	14848	2.06	0	NR	NR
32. Lakshadweep		26	33962	0.00	6	31667	2.17
33. Pondicherry		708	21661	1.41	1409	14360	1.47
Total		896857	22489	1.82	1096487	22669	1.94

N.R.=Not Reported

Hidden Charges of Private/Foreign Banks

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that many private and foreign banks are imposing high cost transaction on retail consumers and are not disclosing many hidden charges on retail loans like housing loans, automobile loans, etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines to those banks to ensure transparency and proper disclosure of information; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against banks which are misguiding and overcharging the general public?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has issued the guidelines on Fair Practices Code for Lenders in May 2003. The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has also prescribed the Fair Practice Code setting out standards of fair banking practices to be followed by the member banks while dealing with individual customers. The Fair Practice Code, inter-alia, prescribes that a customer should be given upfront details of all

charges applicable to the products offered by a bank. RBI is also working out the modalities for setting up of the Banking codes and Standards Board of India in order to provide a comprehensive code of conduct for fair treatment of customers by the banks.

(c) Complaints received by the Government from individuals/organizations etc. are forwarded to the concerned banks for redressal/appropriate action. Apart from this, RBI has also set up Banking Ombudsmen for redressal of grievances of the customers.

Policy on Subsidies

*100. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government had lately undertaken a study of the subsidies with a view to minimising subsidies and to eliminate unnecessary and uncalled for subsidies;

(b) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken;

(c) the amount of unnecessary and uncalled for subsidies granted during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and percentage of GDP these subsidies constitute;

(d) the total subsidies and those considered unnecessary as provided for in 2005-06; and

(e) the major sector identified for reducing subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government of India makes a commitment to target all subsidies at the poor and the truly needy like small and marginal farmers, farm labour and urban poor. In pursuance of this, the Ministry of Finance commissioned a study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi. Based on the study by NIPFP, a report outlining some policy issues was presented to Parliament on December 23, 2004 for generating an informed debate on the subject. This report defined subsidies as unrecovered costs in the public provision of non-public goods and estimated the total Central Government subsidies at Rs. 1,04,913 crore or 4.25 per cent of GDP in 2002-03 and Rs. 1,15,824 crore or 4.18 per cent of GDP in 2003-04. The report further classified subsidies based on a particular subjective perception of costs and benefits in a three-tier hierarchy of Merit I, Merit II and Non-Merit. The report argued that while the merit goods deserve subsidization in varying degrees, Merit I dominates Merit II in terms of desirability of subsidization and the case for subsidizing Non-Merit goods was a tenuous one. No estimate of subsidies for 2004-05 or beyond has been made in the report. Further, no categorization in terms of unnecessary or uncalled for subsidy has been attempted. Discussions and consultations on targeting subsidies is an exercise which is underway.

Kisan Credit Card

867. DR. K. DHANARAJU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued to farmers in each State Particularly in Tamil Nadu, during the last three years as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any target fixed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Seizure of Satellite Phone and Wireless Set from IGI Airport

868. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of pre-activated highly sophisticated satellite phones and wireless sets has been seized by customs at Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

(b) if so, the value and other details of the seized equipment alongwith the country of their origin;

(c) whether the Government has been able to identify the ultimate recipients and people behind this despatch;

(d) if not, whether the Government has taken up this matter with the countries of origin/despatch to know about the source from which payment have been made to them; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A consignment consisting of one satellite phone, 40 wireless handsets, 60 antennas of various frequencies, a belt with an electronic charger device fitted inside along alongwith 150 meter as black co-axial cable and 6 sets of head phones valued at Rs. 2,30,212/- was seized on 15-06-2005. The country of origin of these goods was Saudi Arabia.

(c) The goods were sent by Sh. Sajjad Shekh from Riyadh and were cleared by Sh. Mohd. Amin Khan to be finally delivered at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Since the case appeared to be involving national security angle, the accused was handed over to the special Cell of Delhi Police for further interrogation and investigation.

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

[Translation]

Eradication of Rural Unemployment

869. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed rural persons in the country as on date State-wise;

(b) the details of amount allocated/sanctioned and released to alleviate the rural unemployment during each of last three years and in the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be given employment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not conducted any survey on the prevalent unemployment of rural persons. However, according to the last two Quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, estimated unemployed persons by Current Daily Status (CDS) for selected States are given as under:—

*Estimated No. of Unemployed Persons (000)
CDS basis in Rural Areas*

Sl. No.	Selected States	1993-94	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1615	2153
2.	Assam	507	532
3.	Bihar	1565	2033

1	2	3	4
4.	Gujarat	659	629
5.	Haryana	263	217
6.	Karnataka	629	638
7.	Kerala	1125	1800
8.	Madhya Pradesh	621	903
9.	Maharashtra	986	1567
10.	Orissa	728	787
11.	Punjab	138	207
12.	Rajasthan	169	470
13.	Tamil Nadu	2088	2196
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1218	1462
15.	West Bengal	1575	3127
All India		14336	19495

(b) The details of amount allocated and released by the Ministry of Rural Development to the State Governments under the employment generation schemes namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is enclosed at statement-I—III.

(c) As per the estimates the increase in employment opportunities during the 10th Plan under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is likely to be as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Increase in employment opportunities during the Tenth Plan (Million Persons Years)
1.	SGRY	1.29
2.	SGSY	0.80
3.	PMGSY	6.77

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	SGRY												
		2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			
		Allocation	Release	Utilisation	Allocation	Release	Utilisation	Allocation	Release	Utilisation	Allocation	Release	Utilisation	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25303.08	31677.75	42411.96	29352.24	33465.14	49996.72	31316.24	30085.93	22317.62	37519.107	12381.30		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1315.97	1070.61	1427.27	1523.80	1902.00	1257.74	1662.64	1508.69	685.09	2032.12	623.53		
3.	Assam	34168.57	24632.03	40720.93	39564.71	29681.01	60117.00	43157.33	32124.06	39533.75	52747.853	16654.75	3761.42	
4.	Bihar	48436.68	39402.65	53494.00	56183.61	43350.80	63359.77	62016.19	63246.29	63479.62	74299.84	19588.50	3818.73	
5.	Chhattisgarh	12381.41	16393.40	23966.08	14359.16	16031.12	25208.01	17478.19	17242.22	17757.39	20940.12	9213.65	3156.78	
6.	Goa	211.15	114.49	72.31	245.24	149.23	78.92	448.99	390.07	282.73	537.92	177.52	3.84	
7.	Gujarat	10304.41	8238.13	11603.04	11954.89	12804.67	23107.24	13711.07	14089.83	14856.35	16426.84	6829.12	1105.93	
8.	Haryana	5720.33	7909.00	14381.59	6635.96	7469.60	10674.47	7223.17	7391.28	6794.28	8653.88	3339.78	6.05	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2409.05	2753.78	2537.84	2794.67	3220.01	4930.56	3041.97	3006.44	3683.45	3644.5067	27.00	480.87	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2873.12	3410.16	6085.94	3332.81	12162.30	6153.94	3574.69	4168.93	4197.50	4282.76	194.94		
11.	Jharkhand	33105.31	26963.95	34609.51	38404.75	34717.46	42553.50	42058.03	36088.21	39485.11	50388.533	16628.21		
12.	Karnataka	18797.44	22466.15	40417.14	21804.96	23814.45	42822.11	23386.32	25002.47	20658.55	28018.493	8913.26		
13.	Kerala	8434.03	9970.25	10991.97	9783.41	10643.50	13681.63	10493.47	11558.61	13565.39	12571.92	5531.65	416.58	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29121.44	34720.77	47546.30	33784.31	36232.78	55231.60	37744.85	38845.14	40023.35	45221.04	15064.74	788.74	
15.	Maharashtra	37336.89	41352.14	50853.67	43310.99	41479.03	66547.93	46229.57	45756.39	49000.74	55386.347	19038.69	2950.60	

[illegible]

Total	473510.00	488257.52	715877.84	549180.16	538415.20	847360.27	599109.55	585143.86	591176.67	719225.29	247739.77	41408.84
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Statement-II

Sl. States/UTs No.	SGRY													
	2002-03				2003-04				2004-05				2005-06 (upto June' 05)	
	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation	Central Allocation	Central Releases	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3068.31	3738.02	5800.68	4238.88	3942.42	5631.80	5305.97	5305.97	6970.51	5305.97	2541.37	411.76	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127.10	78.06	162.50	221.53	139.60	176.17	276.91	278.92	245.76	276.91	120.27		
3.	Assam	3302.59	2802.61	3587.09	5756.15	5313.00	7417.91	7195.18	6595.62	8046.89	7195.18	3517.00	680.35	
4.	Bihar	7300.00	3493.34	10822.77	10084.97	5488.81	11216.49	12623.79	9619.84	13442.98	12623.79	6046.34	1092.20	
5.	Chhattisgarh	1620.58	1968.76	3510.70	2238.84	2025.44	2975.36	2802.45	2676.11	3863.97	2802.45	1342.27	98.95	
6.	Goa	50.00	17.65	40.18	50.00	17.65	51.31	50.00	27.82	60.93	50.00	25.00	5.09	
7.	Gujarat	1154.96	1403.27	2006.46	1595.58	1508.00	2415.12	1997.27	1946.40	2814.63	1997.27	956.62	363.78	
8.	Haryana	679.48	827.79	1317.00	938.70	932.06	1437.07	1175.03	1175.08	1595.25	1175.03	562.80	6.88	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	286.16	348.62	593.07	395.33	304.77	642.77	494.85	487.42	745.26	494.85	234.98	15.79	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	354.16	350.44	650.91	489.27	427.45	842.03	612.44	436.74	779.94	612.44	227.45		
11.	Jharkhand	2751.41	1801.02	3939.38	3801.08	2817.41	4711.54	4757.98	4180.61	4055.95	4757.98	2278.90		
12.	Karnataka	2317.00	2686.99	4882.43	3200.94	2777.12	4711.28	4006.76	3735.03	5487.70	4006.76	1919.09		
13.	Kerala	1039.63	1266.55	2062.58	1436.25	1435.18	2054.13	1797.82	1783.56	2445.14	1797.82	861.09	128.32	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3474.22	4232.53	7402.90	4799.65	4397.14	7040.11	6007.91	5516.04	7592.17	6007.91	2877.58	463.24	
15.	Maharashtra	4580.15	5579.85	8239.25	6327.49	5712.39	8805.51	7920.39	7409.42	10644.14	7920.39	3793.58	528.37	

Statement-III

Sl. No.	State	NFFWP					
		2004-05			2005-06		
		Allocation	Release	Utilisation	Allocation	Release	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12214.72	12214.72	4116.71	27199.63	13599.82	4747.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	190.80	190.80	117.27	425.26	0	43.26
3.	Assam	16645.79	16645.79		37100.61	0	4831.92
4.	Bihar	26411.54	26456.54	7778.38	58812.89	8753.81	3369.14
5.	Chhattisgarh	10410.19	10410.19	6393.51	23181.35	10421.85	589.43
6.	Gujarat	3994.69	3994.69	234.51	8895.33	0	0
7.	Haryana	281.85	281.85	0.00	627.62	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	303.91	303.91	200.58	676.75	338.38	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	494.26	494.26	145.97	1100.6	298.29	186.48
10.	Jharkhand	22595.70	22595.70	2120.03	50315.9	0	0
11.	Karnataka	2925.38	2925.38	176.15	6514.2	0	1037.56
12.	Kerala	547.14	547.14	125.37	1218.36	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15808.32	15808.32	6787.57	35201.76	12319.07	6275.46
14.	Maharashtra	15495.26	15495.26	1982.62	34504.7	981.55	0
15.	Manipur	399.22	399.22		889.78	444.89	0
16.	Meghalaya	543.85	543.85	150.14	1212.16	0	229.28
17.	Mizoram	95.52	95.52		212.89	0	93.35
18.	Nagaland	455.72	455.72		1015.71	0	276.39
19.	Orissa	22283.67	22283.67	14640.55	49621.06	22129.04	0
20.	Punjab	716.32	716.32	698.45	1595.09	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Rajasthan		3532.69	3532.69	2498.55	7866.58	3933.31	700.29
22. Sikkim		315.73	315.73	150.00	703.7		49.5
23. Tamil Nadu		4851.58	4851.58	2652.40	10803.45	0	0
24. Tripura		1543.37	1543.37	644.32	3439.89	0	769.13
25. Uttar Pradesh		1014.86	1014.86	52.46	2259.88	0	45.96
26. Uttaranchal		26378.11	26378.11	1982.07	58738.53	0	2501.68
27. West Bengal		11449.81	11449.81	1451.64	25496.32	2934.28	3229.63
Total		201900.00	201945.00	55099.25	449630	76154.29	28975.71

*[English]***Criminal Procedure Code, 1973**

870. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Court lawyers in Tamil Nadu and other States are agitating due to recent amendment in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken to review the same in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 was assented by the President on 23-6-2005. The required notification to bring the Act into force is yet to be published. Some representations from Lawyers' Associations raising objection to some provisions of the Act have also been received by the Government. So far no decision has been taken to review the provisions of the Act.

[Translation]

Utilization of Funds under Indira Aawas Yojana

871. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated/released under Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether no work has been undertaken under the said Yojana in many States including Gujarat, West Bengal and Bihar;

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

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

(e) whether the funds released for rural housing schemes so far have been utilized fully by the States;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Union Government has received requests from the States Governments for the enhancement of funds under the scheme during the said period;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) State-wise details of the fund sallocated/released under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years and current year is enclosed in the statement.

(b) to (d) Under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), financial assistance is provided to Below the Poverty Line (BPL) shelterless households for construction of

houses in the rural areas. Since the scheme is being implemented throughout the country except Delhi and Chandigarh, question of non execution of works by the State Governments including the States of Gujarat, West Bengal and Bihar, does not arise.

(e) and (f) As per the IAY Guidelines, the State Governments are allowed to carry forward 15% of the total funds available with them to the next financial years. Therefore, all the State Governments have utilized the funds available with them upto the previous year subject to above condition.

(g) to (i) Request from certain States such as Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. has been received in the Ministry. Since the funds are allocated on the basis of a pre-determined criteria, requests of the States for enhancement of funds could not be agreed to.

Statement

State-wise Central Allocation and Central Releases under the Indira Aawas Yojana during last three year and current year

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Rs. in lakhs
		Allocation Centre	Releases Centre	Allocation Centre	Releases Centre	Allocation Centre	Releases Centre	Allocation Centre	Releases Centre	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12070.22	12357.15	13669.37	12946.66	17981.83	19190.68	24399.42	10607.51	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	569.92	738.43	627.75	797.11	825.98	1106.03	949.43	448.69	
3.	Assam	12823.65	9987.33	14124.59	14702.75	18584.99	22080.95	20994.23	10387.19	
4.	Bihar	32787.84	19729.90	37131.83	25848.10	48846.34	91533.13	72020.72	12109.06	
5.	Chhattisgarh	2064.05	2027.85	2337.51	2520.38	3074.96	3135.95	3773.17	2608.52	
6.	Goa	77.98	39.00	88.32	69.56	116.18	90.17	150.28	85.00	
7.	Gujarat	3468.85	5518.01	3928.46	3744.63	5167.82	5416.01	11966.03	3423.24	
8.	Haryana	1172.95	1189.76	1328.34	1365.84	1747.40	1785.10	1690.04	1118.61	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	518.91	857.59	587.66	574.16	773.06	767.60	592.56	410.09	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	620.72	458.65	702.96	698.17	924.74	928.43	1840.52	843.45	
11.	Jharkhand	9633.38	5455.84	10909.67	8693.64	14351.50	11960.36	6423.93	5383.90	
12.	Karnataka	6243.52	4852.22	7070.71	6580.16	9301.41	7831.84	9400.43	4954.40	
13.	Kerala	3868.97	2970.30	4381.56	4272.75	5763.87	5841.32	5227.51	2582.71	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7202.92	7018.01	8157.24	8333.54	10730.71	10594.54	7504.14	5416.58
15.	Maharashtra	11077.83	10109.70	12545.56	12315.63	16503.47	15569.13	14714.56	8492.42
16.	Manipur	679.51	260.01	748.47	446.05	984.83	921.55	824.15	248.34
17.	Meghalaya	902.85	906.15	994.44	481.18	1308.47	1435.65	1435.38	241.23
18.	Mizoram	216.73	174.58	238.73	319.91	314.12	343.68	305.89	162.94
19.	Nagaland	582.84	291.42	641.95	673.94	844.67	865.88	949.84	490.39
20.	Orissa	9716.97	32543.45	11004.35	27731.05	14476.04	13954.68	14149.75	7474.30
21.	Punjab	777.00	598.55	879.95	802.72	1157.56	1039.86	2077.71	1314.39
22.	Rajasthan	3273.06	3149.31	3706.70	3748.00	4876.10	4971.71	6013.11	3383.86
23.	Sikkim	156.25	149.87	172.10	161.71	226.45	250.51	181.66	125.77
24.	Tamil Nadu	6061.33	6205.43	6864.39	6922.99	9030.00	9921.24	9768.97	5384.73
25.	Tripura	1318.25	1977.39	1451.97	1340.96	1910.49	2295.75	1849.42	1023.91
26.	Uttar Pradesh	22100.00	20996.84	25028.00	24672.82	32923.88	31509.17	32348.75	18902.12
27.	Uttaranchal	2295.43	2011.59	2599.55	3263.04	3419.68	3400.03	1621.77	1081.10
28.	West Bengal	13026.91	10161.08	14752.84	12892.42	19407.12	19084.50	19518.40	9582.45
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	146.82	40.32	166.27	110.44	218.73	352.93	309.46	0.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	77.05	0.00	87.26	33.35	114.78	33.35	51.56	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	31.89	0.00	36.12	0.00	47.51	0.00	23.07	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	2.50	2.50	2.83	2.84	3.72	3.86	20.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	72.90	74.63	82.55	41.28	108.59	94.43	154.14	0.00
Total		165640.00	162852.84	187050.00	187107.78	246067.00	288310.02	273240.00	118266.70

*[English]***Consumption of Gold**

872. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of gold assessed in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantity of gold produced in the country to meet the requirement and quantity imported during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to increase the production of gold in the country to reduce the gap between demand and supply of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Gold in the country is mainly consumed in unorganized sector. Therefore, there are no firm estimates of consumption of gold in the country. Very rough estimates suggest that consumption of gold in India is about 800 tonnes per annum.

(b) The quantity of gold produced in the country and quantity imported during the period from 2001-02 to 2003-04 is given below:—

Year	Quantity produced (in Kilogram)	Quantity imported (in Kilogram)
2001-2002	2810	471407
2002-2003	3153	606662
2003-2004	3363	766596

(c) Government of India has issued a number of reconnaissance permits for exploration of gold. Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, is the only company in the country which has been entrusted with the task of

production of gold. HGML has informed that the company has taken steps like modernization/expansion of its mines and mills, deepening of shafts, exploratory surface/ underground diamond drilling, opening up of new satellite mines, searching new gold bearing areas under the reconnaissance permit/prospecting licenses etc. in order to boost the production of gold.

*[Translation]***Black-listed Non-Governmental Organisations**

873. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the non-governmental organisations in Rural Development Sector which have been black-listed due to their involvement in irregularities and corrupt practices since 2002 to till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has ensured that the in-charge of new non-governmental organisations which are being given assistance are not black-listed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps taken to ensure that black-listed non-governmental organisations do not get any grant in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The state-wise details of the non-governmental organisations in Rural Development Sector which have been blacklisted by Council for advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development, due to their involvement in irregularities and corrupt practices since 2002 till date are given at the statement enclosed.

(b) CAPART has instituted a system of monitoring and put enough safeguards in place to see that only good and credible NGOs get its support and assistance

and it has not to resort to the extreme step of blacklisting the NGOs.

(c) The steps taken by CAPART to ensure that the blacklisted non-governmental organisations do not get grant in future are as follows:—

(i) Names of the non-governmental organisations are entered into CAPART's database and put on its website immediately after their blacklisting and their names are also circulated among other funding Departments/Agencies to apprise the latter of such blacklisted NGOs.

(ii) All the project proposals received from non-governmental organisations are desk appraised in CAPART in a systematic manner so as to ensure that blacklisted non-governmental organisations and their projects are not entertained for funding. In the case of projects of non-blacklisted NGOs, if everything is found in order at the desk appraisal stage, their project proposals are processed for pre-funding appraisal through

Empanelled Facilitator-cum-Evaluators (FCEs), who are subject matter specialists. Based on their findings, the proposals are further processed and the scale of assistance to be extended is decided either by the Regional Committee or National Standing Committee or Executive Committee as per authorization of each committee. On sanction, funds are released in stages in installments depending upon the requirement on the basis of periodic progress and field evaluation reports.

(iii) Copies of sanction letters of the approved proposals are endorsed to the District Magistrate and Collector, PO, DRDA, Chairman, Zilla Parishad, President of Block Panchayat Samiti, President of Gram Panchayat and the concerned MLA and MP in whose jurisdiction the CAPART funded activities are implemented.

(iv) Submission of photographs of the members of Executive Committee of voluntary organisations (VOs) is made mandatory in order to avoid funding to the VOs run by proxy/non-existent VOs etc.

Statement

List of Organisations Black-Listed by CAPART since '01 Jan, 2002'

State : Andhra Pradesh

No.	VO Name and Adresses	Status Dt
1	2	3
1.	Kisan Development Society Peddanapalli, B Sittypali, Chilamathur, Distt. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	07-Aug-2002
2.	Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangham Gandhi Nagar, Nidadavalu, W.G. Dist., Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003
3.	Artisans (India) International Foundation B-50, S.B.H. Colony, Saidabad, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003
4.	Arya Chandra Handicrafts Artisans and Social Welfare Madepalli, Eluru Rural Mandal, West Godavari Distt. Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003

1	2	3
5.	Collective Rural Operation of the Poor 2-86, C/o Pothedar, Narsimhulu, Apsed sub-station Pargi, Distt. Ranga Reddy	04-Aug-2003
6.	Joint Effort of Suppressed Upliftment Services 36th Ward, Pedapadu Road, Near R.C.M. Chruch, Eluru, W.G. Dist., Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003
7.	Paschima Godawari Zilla Adi Andhra Adi Andhra Christian Bhimadole, West Godavari District	04-Aug-2003
8.	Shri Lakshmi Harijan Mahila Mandali Amberapeta, Bhimadole Mandal, Distt. West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003
9.	Shri Lakshmi Harijana Mahila Mandali Nallajerla, Bommuru, Rajamundry Rural Distt. East Godavary, Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003
10.	Velankhanni Social and Educational Society 2-1-21, R.C.M. Compound, Vangayagudem Distt. West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	04-Aug-2003

Total Number of VO's in the state : 10

State : Bihar

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | (Ariundi) All India Rural and Urban Development
Vill.-Bahadurpur, PO-Karauta, Distt.-Patna, Bihar | 02-Mar-2005 |
| 2. | Adarsh Jan Kalyan Kendra
Vill.-Gangapur, PO-Gangapur, Block-Hulasganj, Distt.-Jehanabad | 02-Mar-2005 |
| 3. | Anjana Mahila Suchi Shilp Kala Prashikshan Kendra
Vill.-Basanpur, PO-Uttarnawa, Distt.-Nalanda, Bihar | 02-Mar-2005 |
| 4. | Bal Vikas Seva Sadan
Vill./PO-Nehalpur, Block-Ratni, Distt.-Jehanabad, Bihar | 02-Mar-2005 |
| 5. | Bhumika Vaishali
Vill./PO-Harpur Fatikwara, Block-Mahnar, Distt.-Vaishali, Bihar | 02-Mar-2005 |
| 6. | Bihar Samajik Vikas Samiti
E-29, PC Colony, Lohiya Nagar, Kankarbagh, Block-Patna Sadar,
Distt.-Patna, Bihar | 02-Mar-2005 |

1	2	3
7.	Bihar Vikas Jan Parishad Vaishali Niwas, Sultanganj, Block-Patna Sadar, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
8.	Dehati Duniyan Vill./PO-Baldarabad, Block-Arawal, Distt.-Jehanabad, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
9.	Future of India C/o Sh. Ramanand Singh, AT/PO Budhra, Distt. Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
10.	Harijan Vikash Silai Katai Centre Vill.-Udaypur, PO-Ankuri, Block-Paliganj, Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
11.	Jai Prabha Seva Samiti Makhdumpur, Jehanabad, Distt.-Jehanabad, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
12.	Karpi Gramin Samanway Samiti Vill./PO-Karpi, Arwal, Block-Bansi Saraspura, Distt.-Jehanabad, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
13.	Lok Parivartan Kendra Vill.-Jaipur Dhanki, Post-Kumhrar, District-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
14.	Mahila Prashikshan Jan Kalyan Parishad, Mandiri, Patna	02-Mar-2005
15.	Manav Samaj Darpan Sansthan Vill./PO-Asthawan, Distt.-Nalanda, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
16.	Manav Sewa Samaj, Mendrauni Naya Tola, Kumhrar, Kankarbagh, Block-Patna Sadar, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
17.	Nai Roshni Bhagirathi Lane, Beside Harijan Hostel, Mahendru, Patna Sadar, Patna	02-Mar-2005
18.	Nalanda Harijan Kalyan Sansthan Vill./PO-Murgaun, PS and Block-Ghoshi, distt.-Jehanabad, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
19.	Nari Bal Seva Sansthan Bal Bhawan Jhanjharpur, PO-Jhanjharpur RS, PS-Madhepur, Distt.-Madhubani, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
20.	Prakritik Samanwaya Sewashram Jay Prakash Nagar-Patna, Block-Patna Sadar, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
21.	Pryas Samajik Evam Aarthik Vikas Parivartan Sanstha House No.-133, Road No.-2A, New Patliputra Colony, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
22.	Sai Pratibha Khoj Sansthan Bahadurpur, 8, M/76, Kankarbagh, Block-Patna Sadar, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005

1	2	3
23.	Samaj Kalyan Sewa Samiti Vill./PO-Vikramganj, Distt.-Rohtas, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
24.	Sant Fransis Vikas Sansthan Vill.-Usrahiya, Post-Shakhi, Distt.-Sitamarhi, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
25.	Seva Ashram, Fatehpur Vill.-Fatehpur, PO-Kanholi, Distt.-Vaishali	02-Mar-2005
26.	Shoshit Mahila Seva Mandal Moha-Inka Kuncha, Sadar Gali, Block-Patna Sadar, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
27.	Sidharth Seva Sansthan, Karauta Vill.-Narauli, PO-Karauta, Block-Pundarak, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
28.	Surabhhi Vill.+PO-Brahampur Chourasta, Buxor	02-Mar-2005
29.	Surya Mukhi Vikas Sansthan Vill.-Mustafapur, PO-Malti, Distt.-Nalanda, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
30.	Ujval Vananchal Seva Sansthan Vill./PO-Ajaipur, Distt.-Nalanda, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
31.	Yuva Kalyan Vikas Kendra Janak Plaza, West Boring Canal Road-Patna, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	02-Mar-2005
32.	Indian Institute for Third World Human Resource Professors Colony, Ashiana Road, Block-Digha Ghat, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	04-Mar-2005
33.	Swayam Sevi Sangathan Vikas Evam Samanvay Samiti Janta Road, Post-G.P.O., Distt.-Patna, Bihar	04-Mar-2005
34.	Baraila Foundation Vill.-Hari Prasad, PO-Bhurtuzapur, Block-Jandaha, Distt.-Vaishali, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
35.	Gram Vikas Sansthan, Bahera House of Sri Satrugan Prasad Singh, Kurji, Balapur, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
36.	Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Narhat Vill.-Narhat, Post-Narhat, Distt.-Nawada, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
37.	Jai Prakash Bal Vikas Evam Mahila Audyogik Seva Kendra Mohalla-Jahagirpur, PO-Bharpura, Bhaiya-Sonpur, District-Saran, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
38.	Kalyan Upbhokta Skshicha Evam Anusandhan Vill./PO-Bahpura, Block-Bihta, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	06-Apr-2005

1	2	3
39.	Mahila Utthan Sansthan Vill./PO-Kalambag Road, Distt.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
40.	Shashi Seva Sansthan H.No.-245, Hanichak (Anishabad), Near Middle School, New by Pass Road, Patna, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
41.	The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Socio Economic Change Vill.-Sherpur Narouli, PO-Karouta, Distt.-Patna, Bihar	06-Apr-2005
42.	Women's and Child Development Association At-Amgola, Satsang Gali Badhahi Tola, Block-Muzaffarpur Sadar, Distt.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar	06-Apr-2005

Total Number of VO's in the state : 42

State : Haryana

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Anil Gram Udyog Mandal
House of Sat Pal S/o Sharda Ram, Vill. Bari, V. and P.O. Thanser | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 2. | Anjum Udyog Mandal
Banso Gate, Block-Karnal | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 3. | Karan Khadi Gramudyog Samiti
Vill. Kabari, Block-Panipat | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 4. | Kaushik Gram Udyog Mandal
Jogi Dass Building, Chaura Bazar, Karnal | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 5. | Khadi Seva Niketan
Chamanlal S/o Sh. Teluram, Vill./Po Tundla, Distt. Karnal, Haryana | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 6. | Rastriya Khadi Gram Udyog Mandal
Vill. Rawar, Distt. Karnal, Haryana | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 7. | Saraswati Khadi Gramodyog Samiti
Vill. Ranwar, Karnal, Haryana-132001 | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 8. | The Pawan Gramudyog, Mandal | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 9. | Mahila Pragati Mandal
Vill./PO Kirdan, Distt. Hisar, Haryana | 06-Jan-2004 |

Total Number of VO's in the state : 9

1

2

3

State : Maharashtra

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Acil Navsarjan Rural Development Foundation (ANARDF)
C/o Aegin Chemical Industries Ltd., Baldota Bhavan 117 Maharshi Karve Marg,
Distt. Bombay, Maharashtra | 01-Dec-2004 |
|--|-------------|

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

State : Manipur

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Indigenous Innovation and Capacity Foundation
W/1, Lhangnom Veng, Moreh-795131, Manipur, Chandel | 02-May-2005 |
|--|-------------|

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

State : Mizoram

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Centre for Development of Rural Areas
T-14, Thikhuahtlang, P.B. No-121, Distt. Aizawl, Mizoram | 11-Jan-2002 |
| 2. Mizoram Buddhist Development Welfare Association
Vill.-Tablabagh, P.O.-Demagiri (Tlabung) | 11-Jan-2002 |

Total Number of VO's in the state : 2

State : Orissa

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Rajiv Gandhi Youth Club
P.O. Bankual, Via-Marthapur | 18-Mar-2002 |
|---|-------------|

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

State : Rajasthan

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Shree Haridev Siksha Samiti
D-83, Ranjeet Nagar, Bharatpur | 19-Apr-2005 |
|--|-------------|

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

State : Tamil Nadu

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Society for Action in Rural Development
11/B1, Sukur Street, Polur, T.S.R. Distt. Tamil Nadu | 04-Aug-2003 |
|--|-------------|

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

1	2	3
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State : Uttar Pradesh

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Manav Kalyan Samaj Utthan Sansthan
Sukhdev Nagar Colony, Sonkh Road, Distt. Mathura Uttar Pradesh | 11-Jan-2002 |
| 2. | Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Evam Bal Utthan Samiti
Kamta Prasad Ki Gali, Basliganj, Distt. Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh | 13-Aug-2002 |
| 3. | Adarsh Gramodyog Seva Sansthan
VIII. Phirojpur, PO Sambhal, Distt. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 4. | Deepak Gramodhyog Sansthan
Village Tiwaya, Tiwaya (PO), Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 5. | Gramodyog Seva Sadan
Rudrayan, Sarnabal, Distt. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 6. | Gramodyog Seva Sansthan
Kaili Patrasi, PO Rudayan, Distt. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 7. | Mitrapal Khadi Gramodyog Seva Sansthan
At/PO Nandrauli, Distt. Badaun, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 8. | Phool Gramodyog Sansthan
Vill. Khelia, Rehra, Distt. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 9. | Vishnu Swarg Ashram
Rasulpur Dhatra, PO Sambhal, Via Sarayatareen PO Sherpur,
Distt. Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 04-Aug-2003 |
| 10. | Mahila Utthan Prashikshan Sansthan
At and PO-Maniyan, Mirzabad, Ghazipur | 10-Mar-2005 |
-

Total Number of VO's in the state : 10

State : Uttaranchal

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | Mahila Vikas Sansthan
68/3, Chandra Nagar, Distt.-Dehradun, Uttaranchal | 13-August-2002 |
|----|--|----------------|
-

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

1

2

3

State : West Bengal

1. Asha Welfare Society

19-August-2002

VIII./PO Ganesh Nagar via Namkhana, Distt. 24 Parganas

Total Number of VO's in the state : 1

Total Number of Organisations (BLA) : 80

*[English]***Loans to Bhopal Gas Victims**

874. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a scheme for the disbursement of loans to the Bhopal gas victims;

(b) if so, the details regarding its progress since the introduction of the scheme;

(c) whether the process of sanctioning loans is too tardy;

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

(e) the amount of loans sanctioned to the Bhopal gas victims so far, bank-wise?

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

Pay Revision of NTC Staff

875. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding Pay revision of the Technical/Supervisory Staff of both the subsidiaries of NTC (SM) Ltd. and NTC (MN) Ltd. in the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the reason for delay in the implementing the orders?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) NTC has already decided to implement the revised pay scales for technical/Supervisory staff of NTC (SM)/NTC (MN) w.e.f. 1-12-2004.

Dena Bank Credit Flow

876. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dena Bank has accorded priority in areas like agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and corporate sector to expand its credit flow;

(b) whether the bank has also identified 200 top rural branches across the country to double the credit flow to the agricultural sector;

(c) if so, the number of branches expected to be opened in West Bengal;

(d) whether the bank propose to allocate fund to agriculture sector with Rs. 500 crore, Rs. 600 crore to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Rs. 1200 crore to corporate sector; and

(e) if so, the bank's earlier credit flows to these sectors during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The

information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Sale of Chinese Clothing Items

877. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an apprehension in Indian Textile Sector players about the possibility of Chinese clothing items Swamping the Indian market for domestic consumption at throw away prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Indian Textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) In the liberalized trade regime, the imports are governed by market forces subject to Foreign Trade Policy in force from time to time. The import and export of almost all textile items have been permitted freely under the existing Foreign Trade Policy. The quantum of textile imports from China would depend upon market conditions and other factors like quality, prices, accessibility, varieties, etc., of textile items and consumer preferences.

(c) Government is monitoring the imports and would strive to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. To protect local industry from the injurious effect of imports, action under anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures etc. of WTO could be taken if necessary.

Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen Indian textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:—

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

- (ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.
- (iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.
- (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 excise exemption option.
- (vi) A combination of ad-valorem or specific customs duty on whichever is higher basis has been levied to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports.
- (vii) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (x) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (xi) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (xii) The Government has de-reserved the ready-made garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

[Translation]

Insurance Cover to Rural Poors

878. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared certain schemes to provide insurance cover to the rural poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the number of people likely to be benefited from these schemes; and

(d) the role envisaged for the State Governments in implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced Universal Health

Insurance Scheme (UHS) for BPL families which provides hospitalization expenses upto Rs. 30,000/- on a floater basis for a premium of Rs. 365/- for individual, Rs. 548/- for a family of 5 persons and Rs. 730/- for a family of 7 persons with a subsidy of Rs. 200/-, Rs. 300/- and Rs. 400/- respectively.

(c) As on 30-06-2005, under UHS 33994 families comprising 1,19,299 persons have been covered.

(d) The States have to play an active role in identifying the beneficiaries, spreading the awareness about the scheme and facilitating the process of avallment of benefits.

Restructuring of Science and Technology

879. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minimum Common Programme of the Government aimed at strengthening the structure of "Science and Technology" and development of Science and Technology in Prime areas and to Start Applied Missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any system of encouragement of Scientist's and Technologist's and other expert institutions in the country;

(d) whether the Government is assisting and co-ordinating with foreign based institutions of above expertise and to provide other projects to the country.

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is considering any action plan regarding the translation of Science and Technology in vernaculars including official language Hindi;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government is considering any translation incentive scheme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bio Diesel from Plants

880. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Delhi College of Engineering has recently developed Bio-diesel from some plants which is energy efficient, cost-effective, pollution free and termed as domestic fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the production of bio-gas and bio-diesel in the country and to save the valuable foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The Delhi College of Engineering has been engaged in research in the area of bio-diesel for the last two years. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has sponsored a R and D project in the Delhi College of Engineering in December, 2004 to develop an efficient bio-diesel reactor for rural application and utilization of multi-feedstock derived bio-diesel in medium capacity diesel engines.

(c) The MNES has been implementing the National Project on Bio-gas Development since 1981-82. Since inception of the programme till 2004-05, about 3.8 million family size biogas plants have been installed. For the

development of bio-diesel sector through cultivation of Jatropha plant with the objective of mass-producing bio-diesel as a substitute to petroleum based fuels and for saving valuable foreign exchange, the Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry to operationalise the recommendations of the Planning Commission Report on Bio-Fuel.

Setting up of Jute Service Centre

881. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up some Jute Service Centres in the country, specially in Gujarat;

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

(c) the time when these centres are likely to be set up;

(d) the number of jute/textile mills proposed to be set up in order to increase the trade share of textile/jute industries in the international trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Centre for Jute Diversification, Ministry of Textiles, Kolkata has set up a Jute Service Centre in the state of Gujarat. The Centre has been set up in collaboration with M/s. Stellar India, Plot No. 1301/2, Sector 7D, NR CH 3 Circle, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad-382 007. This Centre has started operation w.e.f. 1st April, 2005.

(d) and (e) The Government has no proposal to set up any textile/jute mills on its own. However, the Government is facilitating the entrepreneurs through various schemes and policies to assist them in setting up such mills. The Government is also creating a conducive environment for the growth of the textile/jute industry in the country.

**Revamping of Rural Development
Schemes**

882. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to restructure/revamp all schemes dealing with rural development by merging them;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any request from certain States in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of such schemes;

(d) whether any new guidelines in this regard have been issued;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time by which these schemes are to be revamped; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that the funds allocated to the States through the various programmes/schemes are actually spent on the propose for which they are allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Questions do not arise.

Scheme for Upliftment

883. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes for Textile/Handloom/ Handicraft Sector which play a vital role in the empowerment and upliftment of women artisans and particularly these belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including OBCs; and

(b) the details about the schemes, outlays and expenditure and achievements made in each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Ministry of Textiles implement various schemes for promotion and development of textiles in the country. The activities in the Sector are mainly concentrated in the decentralized sector, particularly in Handloom and Handicrafts. Though there are no specific schemes targeting women, they form a large part of the target group. The major beneficiaries of the schemes are all categories of artisans, including Women Artisans, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including OBCs. The details about the Schemes are as under:—

Year : 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Total outlay (Rs. in crore)	Achievement	
			Financial (Rs. in crore)	Physical
1	2	3	4	5
Handicraft				
1.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna	18.92	17.09	99 Clusters

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bima Yojna for Artisans	1.00	0.62	28000 Artisans
3.	Special Handicraft Training Project	3.39	3.11	481 Programmes
4.	Workshed Scheme for Handicrafts Artisans	1.32	1.72	574 Workshops
Handloom				
5.	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojna	47.67	42.87	480 Projects
6.	Integrated Handloom Training Project	16.06	16.05	16540 Trainees
7.	Weavers' Welfare Scheme	8.00	8.00	2,45,764 beneficiaries
8.	Bunkar Bima Yojna	5.50	1.89	176940 beneficiaries
9.	Work Shed-cum-Housing Scheme	15.00	12.52	6893 Units
Total		116.86	103.87	

Targets under Indira Aawas Yojana

884. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any targets for construction of houses under Indira Aawas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the quota of total houses or to provide additional quota to the flood victims under Indira Aawas Yojana;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Targets under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) are fixed on year to year basis. So far as Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) is concerned, no targets are fixed at the Central level as the funds were used to be transferred to the States by the Planning Commission. However, the PMGY has been discontinued from the current financial year. The State-wise targets fixed under the IAY upto the current year of the 10th Five Year Plan are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) There is no special quota fixed for flood victims under the IAY. However, 5% of the total annual allocation is kept apart to meet the exigencies arising out of natural calamities and other emergent situations. In order to provide a relief to the victims of natural calamities, a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh including State share is provided for a district affected by natural calamities on receipt of proposals from the State Governments. In addition, the required assistance is provided to the affected States/areas on the basis of the recommendations made by the Central Teams deputed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Nodal Ministry) to assess the damage.

Statement

*State-wise and year-wise targets under the Indira Aawas Yojana during the
Xth Five Year Plan Period*

Unit in Nos.

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Targets during the year			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96562	109355	115083	130130
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4283	4718	4966	4603
3.	Assam	96371	106149	111735	101790
4.	Bihar	262302	297054	312617	384111
5.	Chhattisgarh	16512	18700	19680	20124
6.	Goa	624	707	744	801
7.	Gujarat	27751	31428	33074	63819
8.	Haryana	9384	10626	11184	8960
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3900	4416	4648	2873
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4665	5283	5560	8924
11.	Jharkhand	77067	87277	91850	34261
12.	Karnataka	49948	56565	59529	50136
13.	Kerala	30952	35052	36889	27880
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57624	65258	68676	40022
15.	Maharashtra	88623	100365	105622	78478
16.	Manipur	5107	5625	5921	3996
17.	Meghalaya	6785	7474	7866	6959
18.	Mizoram	1629	1794	1888	1483
19.	Nagaland	4380	4825	5078	4605

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	77736	88035	92646	75465
21.	Punjab	6216	7040	7408	11081
22.	Rajasthan	26184	29654	31207	32070
23.	Sikkim	1175	1293	1361	881
24.	Tamil Nadu	48491	54915	57792	52101
25.	Tripura	9907	10912	11486	8967
26.	Uttar Pradesh	176800	200224	210713	172527
27.	Uttaranchal	17250	19536	20559	7863
28.	West Bengal	104215	118023	124206	104098
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	881	998	1050	1238
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	462	524	551	206
31.	Daman and Diu	192	217	228	92
32.	Lakshadweep	15	17	18	80
33.	Pondicherry	438	495	521	617
Total		1314431	1484554	1562356	1441241

Rural Electrification

885. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target set to provide electricity to villages in the country through Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount spent thereon during each of the last three years State-wise till date; and

(d) the time by which the target fixed for is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A target of electrification of 5000 unelectrified remote census villages through non-conventional energy sources has been set for the Ministry for the 10th Plan period. The Ministry has so far provided support for such electrification of 3064 villages of which 1944 have been completed while work is in various stages of completion in the balance 1120 villages.

(c) A statement giving the State-wise amount spent for the last three years is enclosed.

(d) The target set for the Ministry for the 10th Plan could be achieved provided proposals are received in complete form from the State Governments.

Statement**State-wise Details of Funds Released****(Rupees in Lakhs)**

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	108.50		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	108.63	484.00	66.08
3.	Assam	88.50		23.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	595.00	332.13	8.00
5.	Gujarat		8.61	
6.	Haryana		83.88	
7.	Himachal Pradesh		12.00	15.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	607.00	511.50	
9.	Jharkhand	105.80	837.41	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	109.25		
11.	Maharashtra		313.63	
12.	Manipur	730.00	33.00	79.01
13.	Meghalaya	322.55		175.85
14.	Mizoram		144.75	
15.	Orissa			42.89
16.	Rajasthan		184.50	176.22
17.	Sikkim		8.60	
18.	Tamil Nadu		367.00	
19.	Tripura		741.50	1062.40
20.	Uttaranchal	344.61	720.05	50.52
21.	Uttar Pradesh		1342.70	0.57
22.	West Bengal	357.00	2388.95	72.05

Fraudulent Companies

886. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 742 replied on March 4, 2005 regarding investigation of fraudulent companies and state:

(a) the details of the investigation report; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The investigation of M/s. Xerox Modi Corp Ltd. was carried out by an inspector appointed by the Central Government u/s 237 of the Companies Act, 1956. The report was received on 8th June 2004. After examination of the report, prosecution for thirteen (13) violations of various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 as were identified in the report, has since been ordered.

The copies of the investigation report were provided to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Central Board of Excise and Customs and the Directorate of Enforcement in the Department of Revenue who were advised to proceed against the company and its Directors for violation of the Acts under their respective jurisdiction such as Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Indian Penal Code, 1860, Customs Act, 1962, Central Excise Act, 1944, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 etc.

[Translation]

Foreign Banks

887. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord permission for opening of branches of foreign banks in small towns of the country to facilitate loan to Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) For further enhancing the efficiency and stability of the banking sector in India, the Reserve Bank of India has issued Road map for presence of foreign banks in India on 28-02-2005 which also provides for more liberal policy for opening of branches in underbanked areas. These guidelines are available on the RBI website www.rbi.org.in. Foreign Banks in India are required to provide 32% of their net bank credit (NBC) to priority sector including small scale industries.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Interest Rate on Plan Loans to Tamil Nadu

888. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has represented for reduction in interest rates on plan loans of Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details and the response of the Union Government and the rate of interest on plan loans which have reduced during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State Governments including Tamil Nadu have requested from time to time for allowing swapping of high cost Government of India loans, waiver of loans, rescheduling of loans, reduction of rate of interest etc.

(b) Rate of interest on Gol loans was brought down from 12% to 11.50%, 10.50% and 9% during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. Central Government has also accepted the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) to consolidate all Government of India loans given to States before

March 31, 2004 and outstanding on March 31, 2005 in a new twenty year loan at 7.5% interest subject to States adopting fiscal responsibility law.

White Paper on Duty Structure

889. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a strong demand from the public representatives to issue white paper on the costing and duty structure of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to issue white paper on the costing and duty structure of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has received no specific demand from the public representatives to issue white paper on the cost of production of petroleum products and the customs and central excise duty structure and rates.

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

New Policy on Maps

890. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a new policy which provides for the release of two series of maps-defence and open;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines for use of these maps by the Ministries/ Departments and Defence forces;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this open series maps will be available to the public and private agencies and non-governmental agencies involved in planning and development of irrigation projects, roads, bridges and hospitals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The open series maps will be made available to the public/private agencies/non-governmental agencies to carryout planning for all socio-economic developmental activities, conservation of natural resources, disaster mitigation and infrastructure development after a one time clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

Export Duty Drawback Facilities

891. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export duty drawback is given to oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to ask the companies to forgo the export duty drawback facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has been sanctioned drawback to the tune of Rs. 8,16,986 during 2004-05 and Rs. 12,42,788 during 2005-06 (upto 15-7-2005).

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Bio-Tech Parks

892. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bio-technology parks functioning in the country at present;

(b) the achievements made by each of these parks since its inception;

(c) whether several State Governments have forwarded proposals for setting up of such parks; and

(d) the details of parks proposed to be set up in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, at present the Biotechnology Park at Lucknow and SP Biotechnology Park at Hyderabad are functional. The Department of Biotechnology has supported the Biotechnology Park at Lucknow and has funded five Biotechnology Incubator Centers in the Biotechnology Parks each at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh; Bangalore, Karnataka; Trivendrum, Kerala; Dera Bassi, Punjab and Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The establishment and operationalisation of Biotechnology Parks and the Biotechnology Incubator Centers is progressing fast and it is designed to help the startup companies, small and medium enterprises who are not in a position to incur high capital expenditure in the biotech industry.

(c) and (d) Several State Governments are in the process of formulating proposals for setting up of Biotech Parks/Biotech Incubation Centers in consultation with the

Department of Biotechnology. So far the proposals from Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Punjab have been received by the Department.

[English]

Land Reforms and Development of Wasteland

893. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI MANSUKHBAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land found to be wasteland in the country as on date and the percentage of such land vis-a-vis the total land;

(b) whether the Government has constituted a high powered committee to invite suggestions regarding land reforms and wasteland development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for selection of the members of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India 2000 published by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, 63.85 m. ha. area have been identified as wastelands in the country, which is 20.17% of the total surveyed area of the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Ministry has not constituted any high powered committee on land reforms and development of wasteland.

[Translation]

Dabhol Power Project

894. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
 SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
 SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL:
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
 SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI:
 SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
 SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
 SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 796 on March 4, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) constituted to examine and decide all issues related to Dabhol Power Project has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the EGOM and the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the power project is likely to be restarted?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A restart of the plant within the next one to one and half years could be possible subject to the negotiations proceeding as envisaged.

Central Law University

895. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
 SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has received proposals to set up a Central Law University and National Law Schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering a proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) One of the recommendations made in the Report of the Special Subject Group on the Administrative and Legal Simplifications constituted by the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry on 14-12-1998 relates to setting up of three National Law Schools in eastern, western and northern regions of the country on the pattern of the National Law School at Bangalore. This Department has already accepted the State said recommendations in principle and it is felt that this purpose can be achieved by Establishing one university, namely National Law University, with its three National Law Centres in the said three regions, with an enabling provision for setting up more centers as per future needs. As per Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), the proposal will form part of plan expenditure. Therefore, a plan scheme has to be formulated in consultation with the Planning Commission and to be examined under Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) procedure. On the advice of Department of Expenditure, the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Urban Development to prepare a lay out, cost of construction etc. Thereafter the proposal is to be put upto the Cabinet.

(e) No specific time frame can be fixed for the setting up of the Proposed University.

Loans to Small and Medium Industries

896. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
 SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
 SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for allocation of loans to small and marginal industries during the year 2004-05;

(b) the amount of loans granted during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for providing loans to the said industries during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government has not fixed targets for allocation of loans to small and marginal industries.

(b) RBI has reported that total advances to small scale industries as on March 31, 2005 stood at Rs. 67,634 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Self Employment under Swarnajayanti
Gram Swarozgar Yojana**

897. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any arrangements for providing self employment opportunities to those seeking self employment through the Self-Help Groups or in individual capacity under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana meant for alleviation rural poverty and unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of persons in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh covered under this scheme in the individual capacity so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the facility of self employment is not being provided to the persons seeking self employment in individual capacity;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Swarnajanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as a self employment scheme with the objective to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line. This objective is to be achieved by inter-alia organizing the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through a process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The assisted families (Swarozgaris) may be individuals or groups (Self Help Groups). However, emphasis is on the group approach.

A statement showing, State-wise, individual swarozgaris assisted under the scheme since its inception i.e., April, 1999 and upto June, 2005 is enclosed.

Statement

**State-wise Individual Swarozgaris Assisted Since
Inception (1-4-99) upto June, 05**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Individual Swarozgaris Assisted
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132893
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8345
3.	Assam	21491
4.	Bihar	562544
5.	Chhattisgarh	94878
6.	Goa	1816
7.	Gujarat	110318

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	64263
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21599
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30667
11.	Jharkhand	191980
12.	Karnataka	51841
13.	Kerala	88950
14.	Madhya Pradesh	188907
15.	Maharashtra	245655
16.	Manipur	0
17.	Meghalaya	2715
18.	Mizoram	561
19.	Nagaland	5382
20.	Orissa	237836
21.	Punjab	26826
22.	Rajasthan	184564
23.	Sikkim	8307
24.	Tamil Nadu	36857
25.	Tripura	48745
26.	Uttar Pradesh	379744
27.	Uttaranchal	15911
28.	West Bengal	143929
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	114
30.	Daman and Diu	68

1	2	3
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	125
32.	Lakshadweep	45
33.	Pondicherry	577
Total		2908453

N.R.—Not Reported

Dairy Development Project under SGSY

898. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a special dairy development project under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the persons living below poverty line in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken to start the same at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal to start a special dairy development project under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the persons living below poverty line in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh. However, the Ministry has sanctioned 18 special projects for dairy development to the different States of the country with a total cost of Rs. 207.01 crore. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement
*Special project sanctioned for Dairy Development under the SGSY since inception i.e. 1-4-99
(as on 27-7-2005)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Sector	Sector Code	Implementing Agency	Period in which Project Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Special Project for Economic Assistance to 6275 IAY (Innovative) Houses Swarozgaris in Madaksira Block, Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh	AP	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Anantapur	2001-2002 (11-03-2002)
2.	Project on Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities for Rural Poor SHG Women through Integrated Dairy Development in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh	AP	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Warangal	2003-2004
3.	Special Project for Establishing 10 MT Per Day Capacity Milk Powder Plant in Muzaffarpur, Bihar	Bihar	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Muzaffarpur	2003-2004 (11-02-2004)
4.	Special Project for Technology Upgradation, Capacity Expansion of Dairy Activities and Establishment of Milk Chilling Centre in Begusarai District, Bihar	Bihar	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Begusarai	2004-2005 (11-03-2005)
5.	Special Project for Dairy Development in Vaishali, Bihar	Bihar	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Vaishali	2004-2005 (11-03-2005)
6.	Special Project for Improving Socio Economic Condition of BPL Families in Kheda District through Dairying and Animal Husbandry Practices	Gujarat	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Kheda	2003-2004
7.	Special Project for Milch Live Stock Improvement in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh	HP	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Solan	2001-2002 (9-11-01)

8. Special Project for Self Reliance through Sericulture and Dairy in Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh	HP	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Hamirpur	2001-2002 (11-3-02)
9. Special Project for Intensive Dairy Development Project in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh	HP	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Kangra	2002-2003 (28-11-02)
10. Special Project for Infrastructure Development for Upliftment of Dairy Farmers Specially BPL Families, Kolar	Karnataka	Dairy Development	1	ZP, Kolar.	2003-2004 (17-12-03)
11. Special Project of "Establishment of Dairy Farm for Rural BPL beneficiaries under SSY" in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh	MP	Dairy Development	1	ZP, Chhindwara	2001-2002 (27-03-02)
12. Special Project of Milk Powder Plant at Bhubaneswar Dairy Chandrasekharpur, District Khurda, Orissa (OMFED)	Orissa	Dairy Development	1	(OMFED)	2001-2002 (11-03-02)
13. Innovative Project for Dairy Development in Border District Gurdaspur of Punjab	Punjab	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Gurdaspur	2000-2001 (26-03-2001)
14. Special Project for Dairy Clubs Advrnt of Economic Independence Muktsar District of Punjab	Punjab	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Muktsar	2001-2002 (26-03-2001)
15. Special Project for Sikar Dairy, Sikar District, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Dairy Development	1	Rajasthan Cooperative Development Federation, Jaipur	2001-2002 (04-03-2002)
16. Infrastructure Deveopment of Milk Union and Dairy Plant under Coroporative sector in Bharatpur District, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Bharatpur	2002-2003 (31-03-2003)
17. Special Project 'Dheeno-Dhapo' District Bikaner, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Bikaner	2002-2003 (31-03-2003)
18. Project for Dairy Development in Ajmer District of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Dairy Development	1	DRDA, Ajmer	2003-2004 (16-10-03)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Project Period	Total Project Cost	Central Share	Central Funds Released			Total Central Release
					First Instalment Released	Second Instalment Released	Third Instalment Released	
1	2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Special Project for Economic Assistance to 6275 IAY (Innovative) Houses Swarozgaris in Madaksira Block, Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh	3 Years	982.000	465.750	186.300	186.300		372.600
2.	Project on Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities for Rural Poor SHG Women through Integrated Dairy Development in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh	3	1500.000	656.250	262.500			262.500
3.	Special Project for Establishing 10 MT Per Day Capacity Milk Powder Plant in Muzaffarpur, Bihar	1	460.000	345.000	138.000			138.00
4.	Special Project for Technology Upgradation, Capacity Expansion of Dairy Activities and Establishment of Milk Chilling Centre in Begusarai District, Bihar	3	875.800	338.100	135.240			135.240
5.	Special Project for Dairy Development in Vaishali, Bihar	3	1361.000	637.500	255.000			255.000
6.	Special Project for Improving Socio Economic Condition of BPL Families in Kheda District through Dairying and Animal Husbandry Practices	3	3237.500	1125.000	450.000			450.000
7.	Special Project for Milch Live Stock Improvement in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh	4	886.950	536.350	214.544			214.544
8.	Special Project for Self Reliance through Sericulture and Dairy in Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh	5	1500.000	735.750	294.430	294.170		588.600

9. Special Project for Intensive Dairy Development Project in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh.	5	1301.250	863.550	345.420	345.420
10. Special Project for Infrastructure Development for Upliftment of Dairy Farmers Specially BPL Families, Kolar	3	1188.730	739.090	295.640	295.640
11. Special Project of "Establishment of Dairy Farm for Rural BPL beneficiaries under SSY" in Chindwara District of Madhya Pradesh.	5	697.950	422.925	169.170	168.984
12. Special Project of Milk Powder Plant at Bhubaneswar Dairy Chandrasekharpur, District Khurda, Orissa (OMFED)	2	900.000	675.000	270.000	270.000
13. Innovative Project for Dairy Development in Border District Gurdaspur of Punjab	2	730.000	371.250	185.630	148.500
14. Special Project for Dairy Clubs Advermt of Economic Independence Muktsar District of Punjab	2	750.000	277.500	138.750	83.250
15. Special Project for Sikar Dairy, Sikar District, Rajasthan	2	1100.000	825.000	330.000	330.000
16. Infrastructure Development of Milk Union and Dairy Plant under Coroporative sector in Bharatpur District, Rajasthan	3	1262.290	744.470	297.788	297.788
17. Special Project 'Dheeno-Dhapo' District Bikaner, Rajasthan	3	1497.900	844.840	337.936	337.936
18. Project for Dairy Development in Ajmer District of Rajasthan	3	469.750	352.310	140.920	140.920
Grand Total		20701.120	10955.635	4447.268	881.204
				26.800	5355.272

[English]

New Pension Scheme

899. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote old age income security by establishing, regulating and development pension funds under the New Pension System;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of subscribers to pension schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Government has already implemented a new restructured defined contribution pension scheme, New Pension System (NPS) for all new Central Government recruits (excluding Armed Forces, in the first stage) with effect from 1-1-2004. The NPS will also be available, on a voluntary basis to all persons including self-employed professionals and others in the unorganized sector. The Government proposes to have a legislative framework providing, inter-alia, for a statutory Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) entrusted with the responsibility of promoting and ensuring the orderly growth of the pension sector. To safeguard the interests of the subscribers, penalties are being proposed for non-compliance with the regulatory provisions.

Agreement on Power Sharing

900. SHRI DUS'HYANT SINGH:

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity of Anandpur Sahib Hydel Power Project;

(b) the States which are supposed to get share from the unallocated power of that project;

(c) whether Rajasthan is one such State;

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving any share to Rajasthan from that project; and

(e) the steps taken to allocate power to Rajasthan from the project?

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

(a) The installed capacity of Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project commissioned by the Government of Punjab is 134 MW (4 X 33.5 MW).

(b) to (e) The Government of Rajasthan has lodged a claim for share of power from hydel projects including Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project executed/being executed by the Government of Punjab. An agreement had been signed between the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Haryana and Governor of Punjab and Government of India on 10-05-1984 regarding supply of cooling water for Ropar Thermal Power Station and commissioning of Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project. It was agreed that the claims of Haryana and Rajasthan for sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project and 4 other projects, would be referred by Government of India to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion as to whether the States of Rajasthan and Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these projects and if they are, then what would be the share of each State.

In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place since 1984. So far, no consensus has emerged due to divergent views. Further, consequent upon the enactment of the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 by the Government of Punjab terminating all its agreements on sharing of water with the other States, Union Government has referred the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for seeking its advice.

PSUs for Disinvestment

901. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a list of PSUs for disinvestments;

(b) if so, their names and the funds estimated to be raised in the process;

(c) whether the Ministry has written letters recently to the nodal ministries of those PSUs to formulate guidelines for disinvestments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the responses by the ministries concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Government has decided in principle to list currently unlisted, profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), each with a net worth in excess of Rs. 200 crores and to sell minority shareholding of the Government in listed, profitable CPSEs either in conjunction with fresh equity to be issued by the CPSE concerned or independently by the Government subject to the residual equity of the Government remaining at least 51% and the Government retaining management control of the CPSE. However, specific cases of disinvestment are to be approved on a case-by-case basis. At present the Government has decided to sell 10% out of its shareholding of 67.72% in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) through an Offer for Sale. The amount realizable from disinvestment would depend upon the market conditions, prevailing at the time of the actual Offer for Sale. In accordance with the established procedure, the administrative ministries of the concerned CPSEs are consulted at the time of disinvestment. A final decision in each case will be taken by the CCEA.

Medical Insurance

902. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Third Party Administrators and insurance companies pay less than the cost incurred by the insured patient on his treatment/operation though insured for the entire amount;

(b) if so, whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has taken cognizance of this practice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to protect the interests of the people taking out medical insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Third Party Administrators (TPA) provide a cashless service to the extent of the sum assured and permissible services opted for by the policyholder. In case the cost of medical treatment incurred by patient is more than the sum assured, the policyholder has to bear the difference.

(b) and (c) Under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Regulations on Grievances Redressal Mechanism, an aggrieved policyholder can approach the Insurance Company, the IRDA or Insurance Ombudsman for the redressal of his/her grievances.

Loan by CSIR

903. MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) CSIR is providing soft loans for R and D under various schemes; and

(b) if so, the details of various schemes and the loans advanced during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CSIR is implementing a national scheme entitled New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI). The objective of the NMITLI is to catalyze innovation centered scientific and technological developments as a vehicle to attain for Indian industry a global leadership position, in selected niche areas in

a true 'Team India' spirit, by synergising the best competencies of publicly funded R and D institutions, academia and private industry. The scheme is the largest public-private-partnership R and D effort in the country in which the Government plays a catalytic role. It is based on the premise of consciously and deliberately

identifying, selecting and supporting potential winners. Under the scheme, a provision exists for providing soft loans @ 3% interest to Indian industrial partners for undertaking specific components of the work in the identified projects. The loan advanced to industry upto March 31, 2005 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Loan advanced to Indian Industry under NMITLI

(Rs. in Lakh)

Project Name	Party Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
5 and 25 kw decentralized power packs	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	40.00	—	10.00
Latent 'M. Tuberculosis: New Targets, Drug Delivery system, bio-enhancers and therapeutics	Lupin Ltd.	—	500.00	375.00
Nano-Material catalysts and associated process technology for alkylation/acylation reaction, pre-reforming of hydro-carbons and sulphur removal (<50 ppm) from Petrol fuels	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	85.00	10.00	—
Development of versatile, portable software for bioinformatics	TCS, Hyderabad	396.000	174.00	—
	Jalaja Technologis Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	12.000	—	—
	FTIL, Secunderabad	20.000	—	—
Development of an oral herbal formulation for treatment of Psoriasis: a clinical and scientific challenge	Lupin Ltd., Mumbai	281.40	352.56	—
Development of novel biotech molecular	Bharat Biotech lysostaphin International Ltd., Hyderabad	410.00	150.62	—
Microbiological conversion of Erythromycin to clarithromycin and other novel biologically active molecules	Alembic Ltd., Vadodara	23.50	5.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
Novel Molecular diagnostics for eye diseases and low vision enhancement devices	Lensel Optics Pvt. Ltd., Pune	5.15	9.60	—
Recombinant Approach to produce alpha-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast	Avastha Gengraine Technology Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	130.5	90.60	44.90
A cost effective simple office computer (Sofcomp) platform to replace PC	Encore Software Ltd., Bangalore	200.00	120.00	—
A PC based high-end 3D visualisation platform for computational biology- "Darshee"	Strand Gennomics Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	106.40	80.00	—
Improved annotation of Plasmodium falciparum through combination of machine learning and experimental methods: Annotation and experimental validation of specific pathways	TCS, Hyderabad	—	97.00	—
Total		1703.95	1589.38	429.90

Tax Evasion by Foreign Banks

904. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain foreign banks/companies operating in the country are not showing their actual income and are thus evading large tax;

(b) if so, the actual income bank/company-wise pertaining to the Financial Year 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) the amount of direct taxes paid by them and the amount outstanding against each; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount and to ensure that these banks/companies pay their taxes regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Instances of evasion of tax by foreign banks/companies come to the notice of Income Tax Department during the course of investigation. However, the Department does not maintain a central database of such instances. For detail of the company-wise actual income and taxes paid and outstanding, individual case-records would have to be examined, involving substantial time and effort, which may not be commensurate to the purpose sought to be achieved.

(d) Legal steps for recovery of tax, including issue of notice, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc. are taken to recover the outstanding dues of the foreign banks/companies. The payment of tax by such companies is closely monitored and in suitable cases, the returns of the companies are scrutinized to ensure proper compliance with the tax laws.

Bogus Voters

905. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 2.5 crore voters out of total voters are bogus as reported in the *Times of India* dated June 2, 2005;

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

(c) whether the nationals of adjoining countries are also having Indian Voter Identity Cards; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the plans formulated to remove such bogus voters from the Voters Lists in various States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Government has come across the news item reported in the *Times of India*. However, it is not correct to say that more than 2.5 crore voters out of total voters are bogus.

(b) The said press report has been carefully examined by the Election Commission of India. The report is based on the census figures of 2001 and there is scope for inherent errors in the figures coming out of such a gigantic head-count. Any generalized analysis of elector on the basis of All India 2001 Census and projected population figures of 2004 may not truly reflect the ground situation, as ratio position of the population above the age of 18 years may vary from State to State and even from district to district. Further, the 'bogus' voter literally means 'fictitious' voter and the Election Commission in this connection is of the view that there are hardly any fictitious electors in the electoral rolls. However, the possibility of duplicate or multiple entries of names, names of dead electors in the electoral rolls, resulting in the inflated electoral rolls cannot be denied. The Election Commission has taken several

measures to remove the duplicate/multiple entries and names of dead persons from the electoral rolls. The electoral rolls are now being furnished to the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, local authorities, Non-Government Organisations, etc., apart from the recognized political parties. The names of electors of the concerned areas are being read out in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, etc. and they are now assisting the electoral registration authorities in getting the names deleted of those persons who are no longer residing in their areas or those who have died. The authorities concerned with the registration of births and deaths have also been directed to furnish lists of dead persons to the electoral registration authorities twice in a year—January and July. The Computer technology is also being used extensively and intensively to identify and weed out the duplicate/multiple entries. The electoral rolls are being revised now almost every year. During such revision, the draft rolls are displayed at a large number of designated locations very near the localities concerned enabling the residents to scrutinize those rolls and file claims and objections at those designated locations themselves. Special campaign drives are also carried out at a large number of designated locations on specified days, which are normally holidays for the general public. Apart from the other designated locations, even the post offices are now being used as designated locations and the assistance of the postal authorities is being utilized for displaying the rolls, receiving claims and objections and even for the local verification of those claims and objections.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission of India has informed that as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion into electoral roll and only persons registered as such can obtain an Elector's Photo Identity Card. However, some times during house to house enumeration or during the period of filing claims and objections, some names of ineligible persons find their way into the electoral rolls due to false information provided by the

applicants and might have procured the Elector's Photo Identity Cards. The Election Commission has no data of such cases.

[Translation]

Tsunami Relief

906. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tsunami relief still lies in Government Coffer" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated May 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the funds made available to different States of Tsunami affected States so far and utilized by these States;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments and bankers have stopped encouraging the fishermen to take loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any instructions have been issued by the Union Government to the State Governments of Tsunami affected States to utilized funds made available by it within stipulated period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and response of the State Government's thereto?

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

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

[English]

Disinvestment of NALCO

907. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the disinvestment of NALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons to disinvestment of NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The Government accorded in principle approval in January, 2005 for sale of minority shareholding in profitable central public sector undertakings subject to retaining at least 51% shares and management control. As a follow-up, the Department of Disinvestment had sent a proposal for partial sale of shares of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and requested the comments of the Ministry of Mines. This Ministry has sent its comments to the Department of Disinvestment. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Investment in India by Australian Bank

908. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian Bank has expressed its keenness to invest in India;

(b) if so, whether the Australian Bank has held an talks with the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The Commonwealth Bank of Australia has been permitted to open a representative office at Bangalore.

Bhagalpuri Silk

909. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering for developing Bhagalpur Silk industry in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Apart from the Catalytic Development Programme of the Central Silk Board envisaging all round development of silk industry and under which Central Silk Board has released Rs. 106.27 lakh, Rs. 38.30 lakh and Rs. 88.99 lakh respectively during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to the State of Bihar for use in various silk centres including Bhagalpur, the following specific projects have been running in Bhagalpur aimed at development of silk industry:—

- (i) Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre to cater to the tasar basic seed requirement;
- (ii) Raw Materials Bank for Tasar to provide raw material to poor tribals;
- (iii) Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centres for propagation of new technology; and
- (iv) Textile Testing Laboratory for providing testing services on quality improvement.

In addition, Central Silk Board (CSB) in implementing the special SGSY project for the development of tasar and eri silks in Bihar with financial assistance from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in coordination with an NGO viz. PRADAN. The project has been drawn at a total cost of Rs. 1440.583 lakhs for implementation over a period of four years between 2003-04 and 2006-07.

Import of Coal for Power Projects

910. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale import of coal is being mooted for running various power plants in the country;

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

(c) the total coal imported by each thermal power plant during the last three years; year-wise;

(d) the details of quantity and quality of coal imported during the period from various countries along-with the cost thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the imported coal is superior than that of Indian coal?

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

(a) and (b) Import of 13.45 million tonnes of coal has been planned during 2005-06 in order to sustain generation in the thermal power plants and to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal from indigenous sources and to build the stock upto reasonable level.

(c) The details of coal imported by the thermal power plants during the last three years are given in statement enclosed.

(d) The coal is being imported from South Africa, Indonesia, Australia and China. The Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of imported coal is generally higher than 5300 Kcal/Kg.

The CIF price of imported coal varies in different periods from 50 to 70 U.S. Dollars (approximately) per metric tonne depending on demand-supply position in the international market.

(e) The imported coal is superior due to its lower ash content and higher calorific value.

Statement*Details of Coal Imported by Thermal Power Plants during last three years*

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of Power Station	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Lehra Mohabbat	3	0	0
2.	Ahmedabad	764	532	465
3.	Gandhinagar	930	577	665
4.	Ukai	8	0	0
5.	Wanakbori	73	26	0
6.	Dahanu	285	528	426
7.	Trombay	857	1423	1990
8.	Bhusawal	0	0	144
9.	Nasik	0	0	393
10.	Raichur	76	0	0
11.	Budge Budge	75	283	285
12.	Titagarh	0	0	123
13.	Kota	0	0	34
14.	Suratgarh	0	0	39
15.	North Chennai	0	0	17
Total		3071	3369	4527

Rural Job Scheme

to every member of a rural family;

911. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

(b) If so, the details thereof;

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

(c) the Central assistance proposed to be given to each State to implement the same; and

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(d) the measures taken by the Union Government to ensure that the benefits of rural Job Scheme reach the poor?

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to introduce Rural Job Scheme for providing employment

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB), 2004, was introduced by this Ministry in the Lok Sabha on 21-12-2004. The Bill aims to provide for atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to rural poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Bill has not yet been passed by the Parliament. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the Central assistance to States and measures taken by the Union Government for its implementation at this stage.

[Translation]

Export of Handloom

912. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which handloom/handicraft goods have been exported during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme in view of the growing demand of Indian Handloom/Handicraft products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The major countries to which handloom goods have been exported during the last three years include USA, UK, Germany, Japan, France, Sweden and Australia.

The major countries to which handicraft items including hand knotted carpets are exported include USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Australia.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products, a scheme under the name of "Handloom Export Scheme" has been approved for

implementation in the 10th Five Year Plan. The scheme envisages provision of financial assistance to the handloom agencies such as National and State Level Handloom Corporations, Apex Cooperative Societies, Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies and Private Handloom Exporters, recommended by Handloom Export Promotion Council, for development of export worthy handloom products, publicity and international marketing thereof and setting up of value addition/quality control units. Financial assistance is also provided under the scheme to Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) etc. for organising participation of their members in international fairs/exhibitions/Buyer-Seller-Meets.

With a view to promote trade of handicrafts, export promotion scheme is being implemented having components of Product Development, Publicity and Marketing. Product Development component includes; workshops and trainings in packaging and export procedures; training of artisans/master craft persons/designers for technology development; workshops/seminars in India and abroad. The component of Publicity and Marketing includes: publicity for export promotion; participation in international fairs/exhibitions; buyer-seller meets in India and abroad and conducting market studies abroad.

[English]

Request from Gujarat

913. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently received any request from Gujarat Government for more financial support to its development projects and rehabilitation of flood affected people of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat has submitted a memorandum in which the total loss to both Public and Private properties has been reported of over Rs. 8,000 crore including Rs. 4,113 crore for long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The Government of India beside releasing first instalment of Centre's share of CRF of Rs. 92.25 crore for 2005-06 recommended by Twelfth Finance Commission has also released an amount of Rs. 500 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) on 'on account' basis for relief and rehabilitation purposes. The Inter Ministerial Central Team has visited the State between 10th to 13th July, 2005.

Research Opportunity for Indian Origin

914. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more opportunities for research to the Scientists and Technologists of Indian origin living in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the above purposes during the current five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is drawing a scheme for promoting joint project based connectivity between Scientists and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad (STIOs) and home country Indian Science and Technology personnel; and in doing so, it will help in gaining from STIOs experience, expertise and other resources at their disposal.

(b) This Scheme is not been structured discipline-wise; in fact the joint project proposal applications will be expected to be of mutual interest to the home country scientists and STIOs abroad and to be in an Science

and Technology area of national importance. The Indian scientists working at public funded academic and research institute will have to locate a suitable STIO who is willing to work in a joint project mode to be implemented in India.

(c) Since the Scheme is still at the formulation stage, no provision of funds has been made for this scheme in the current Five Year Plan.

Assistance to Bio-Technology

915. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to strengthen installation support and research capacity in the area of bio-technology;

(b) if so, the proposed flexible support extended by the Government and the progress made so far; and

(c) the fields in which excellence of bio-technology are to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology provides grant-in-aid support for research and development, and capacity building in the area of biotechnology to universities, research institutes and not-for-profit organizations across the country. In addition grant-in-aid is also provided for creation of Centers of Excellence in emerging areas. During the last 5 years more than 2000 R and D Projects have been supported; 74 universities have been supported for post-graduate biotechnology programmes, 60 universities and research institutes have been provided support for bioinformatics network centers. In addition 57 biotechnology infrastructure facilities have been established across the country for cutting edge basic research and process and product development.

(c) to promote excellence in biotechnology It is proposed to establish Centers of Excellence in the areas of:—

- Translational research in public health
- Stem cell
- Marine biotechnology
- Animal biotechnology
- Nutritional genomics and food biotechnology
- Herbal medicine
- Molecular medicine
- Bio-materials and devices and
- Bio-informatics

In addition centers would also be supported in other frontier emerging areas of Biotechnology.

Merger of Banks

916. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has come out with guidelines on mergers and amalgamations between private sector banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs);

(b) if so, the areas and the guidelines thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has examined the issue of smooth flow of bank finance to NBFCs; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it would be helpful for private sector banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on merger and amalgamation between private sector banks and with NBFCs on 11th May, 2005, which are available on RBI website www.rbi.org.in/notification. The guidelines

emphasise that while amalgamation are normally decided on business considerations such as the need for increasing the market shares, synergies in the operations of businesses, acquisition of a business unit or segment etc. it is essential that consideration like sound rationale for the amalgamation, the systemic benefits and the advantage accruing to the residual entity are evaluated in detail. The guidelines also provide that in case of amalgamation of NBFC with a banking company, the Board of Directors of the banking company should also examine the credit facilities availed by NBFC from banks/FIs.

Health Insurance

917. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for all the insurance companies to provide health insurance to all the policy holders freely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal with the Government to provide health and life insurance to their employees by all the States and Central Public Sector Undertakings, Corporate sectors etc.; and

(d) if so, the amount of premium likely to be paid for health and life insurance by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Requests on Duty Drawback Scheme

918. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from Textile exporters for review of duty drawback scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Central Government vide its order dated 9th March, 2005 had constituted a three-member Committee consisting of Shri Saumitra Chaudhuri (Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister) as Chairman, Shri S.B. Mohapatra, Secretary (Retired) and Shri T.R. Rustagi, Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise (Retired) as Members. The Committee has had consultations with Ministry of Textiles, Export Promotion Councils representing the textile trade, trade bodies representing the textile exporters and individual exporters. On the basis of recommendations of the Committee, appropriate ad valorem duty drawback rates for textiles and garments were notified on 2nd May, 2005. The revised rates came into force with effect from 5th May, 2005.

[Translation]

Hawala Transaction

919. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Hawala transactions detected during the last two years and the complete details thereof; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop Hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of cases of Hawala transactions detected during the last two years where Show Cause Notices have been issued on completion of investigation and the amount involved in these cases are as under:—

Year	No. of cases	Amount (Rs. Crores)
2003	230	71.85
2004	224	3261.36

(b) Hawala offences are civil in nature. Therefore, on completion of investigations, Show Cause Notices are issued to the offenders and penalties are levied on the persons found guilty. However, in serious cases of Hawala transactions where the amount involved is very high, the cases are referred to the Central Screening Committee to consider invoking COFEPOSA on such violators.

[English]

Training to Self Help Groups under SGSY

920. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that some State Governments have not taken adequate steps towards training and capacity building of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Swarozgaris under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has brought this fact to the knowledge of the concerned State Governments and requested them to formulate a suitable strategy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) As per the progress report of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the year 2004-05, States of Tamil Nadu, West

Bengal, Mizoram and Sikkim have reported expenditure on training and capacity building more than 10 per cent of their total allocation. Ordinarily, States are expected to utilise 10 per cent of their total allocation on training and capacity building. The guidelines of SGSY provide for training and capacity building of the Swarozgaris. Expenditure of Rs. 5000/- per trainee could be incurred for imparting basic orientation and skill development trainings. State Governments have been advised to take appropriate measures in this regard to ensure adequate training and capacity building of Swarozgaris as prescribed under the guidelines.

[Translation]

**Environment Friendly Technology in
Textile Sector**

921. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has assessed the amount likely to be spent on adoption of environment friendly technology in textile industry including handloom, handicraft and powerloom;

(b) if so, the details thereof including contribution of foreign exchange in it; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for adoption of such technology during Tenth Five-Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Textiles is promoting environmental protection in Textile Sector through its Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). under this scheme a 5% interest is reimbursed to the textile industry for procurement of various pollution control equipment like effluent treatment plants, electrostatic precipitators, bag filters, ventilation systems, wet scrubbers etc.

In addition, Govt. of India has also introduced a Textile Centre Development Scheme (TCIDS) for plugging critical infrastructure gaps to make textile

processing units globally competitive. The central assistance under the scheme, subject to maximum of Rs. 20 crore, is available to the extent of 100% funding of critical components of the projects in respect of a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) whereas other components are funded on 75 : 25 basis between centre and State agencies. Projects worth Rs. 77.15 Crore have already been sanctioned under this scheme till June 2005.

The Central Pollution Control Board under Ministry of Environment and Forests, in concurrence with the State Pollution Control Boards, is implementing various pollution control norms by taking cognizance of violations and promoting adoption of appropriate technology by the textile industry.

[English]

Amendment in Banking Regulation

922. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial banks cooperative societies are likely to act as brokers for farmers in commodity exchanges by the year-end to ensure that farmers are not losing out in case of fall in crop prices;

(b) if so, whether the national commodities and derivative exchange of the country has already given a detailed presentation to the Government to change the banking regulation for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

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

[Translation]

**Funds for Rural Development under
Total Sanitation Programme**

923. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated
funds under the Total Sanitation Programme for the
development of rural areas in the country during the
Tenth Plan period;

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

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for
spending the allocated amount under the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the amount allocated by the Centre
has been spent on the respective schemes during the
year 2004-05;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the name of the States who have not spent
the amount on the respective programmes during the said
period; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government in this
direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and
(b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has sanctioned Total
Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects in 520 districts in
the country during the 9th and 10th Plan period so far.
State-wise outlay of the sanctioned TSC projects and
funds released so far are given in the Statement
enclosed.

(c) and (d) TSC projects are sanctioned for a period
of 4-5 years and it is expected the projects would be
implemented during this period.

(e) to (h) Yes, Sir. The amount allocated by Centre
to TSC projects is being spent by the project districts.
Funds to a TSC project are released in four installments
depending upon utilization of funds and fulfillment of other
prescribed conditions. However, pace of implementation
in certain States e.g. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar,
Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana,
Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya,
Punjab and Uttaranchal is slow. Government of India is
regularly reviewing implementation of the programme and
extending necessary technical guidance to the project
authorities to enable them to expedite implementation of
TSC projects. A detailed monitoring system has also
been put in place for the purpose.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Total Projects Outlay	Approved Share			Central Release
			Centre	State	Beneficiary	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36018.31	22810.55	7689.27	5518.49	13090.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	856.14	607.51	154.33	94.3	252.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	9685.43	6232.72	2075.69	1377.02	997.86
4.	Bihar	30555.33	20094.56	6251.36	4209.41	4171.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	12974.18	8051.7	3100.44	1822.04	1921.48
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	47.14	35.5	0	11.64	3.15
7.	Goa	727.57	425.58	160.75	141.24	134.67
8.	Gujarat	27615.64	15074.26	6920.44	5620.94	4445.48
9.	Haryana	9602.05	4667.67	2438.94	2495.44	1552.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3406.16	2064.07	819.37	522.72	268.39
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6890.85	4387.38	1510.34	993.13	1243.41
12.	Jharkhand	30055.51	18921.6	6658.47	4475.44	5649.51
13.	Karnataka	32503.15	20715.38	7327.48	4460.29	4057.61
14.	Kerala	11524.62	6099.61	2724.34	2700.67	3265.59
15.	Madhya Pradesh	42755.4	27589.02	9513.24	5653.14	8839.16
16.	Maharashtra	43069.68	22162.99	10834.95	10071.74	7583.68
17.	Manipur	1039.55	505.48	270.46	263.61	151.64
18.	Meghalaya	1570.29	737.91	431.79	400.59	221.37
19.	Mizoram	279.59	175.13	58.92	45.54	71.51
20.	Nagaland	805.81	542.32	162.52	100.97	194.81
21.	Orissa	43973.42	28411.17	9342.6	6219.65	8236.2
22.	Pondicherry	248.9	158.06	0	90.84	94.84
23.	Punjab	6613.24	3577.86	1738.78	1296.6	989.03
24.	Rajasthan	35966.73	23368.23	8265.39	4333.11	4931.47
25.	Sikkim	686.63	414.74	161.03	110.86	272.81
26.	Tamil Nadu	36859.34	21166.47	8801.75	6891.12	11875.68
27.	Tripura	3964.82	2283.64	914.22	766.96	2055.79
28.	Uttar Pradesh	46709.29	28409.7	10291.56	8008.03	14410.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Uttaranchal	5226.99	3434.4	1193.8	598.79	759.51
30.	West Bengal	34695.24	16042.67	5450.1	13202.47	7613.31
Grand total		516927.00	309167.88	115262.3	92496.79	109354.46

[English]

Exemption of Jute Units from Cess

924. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to exempt the jute units of the North-Eastern States from cess on their finished products in a bid to boost their business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The details have not been finalised. At this stage, no time limit can be laid down.

Liquidation Process

925. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 5700 firms have been shut down and liquidation process of these firms takes 15 to 20 years;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Department for interest earlier liquidation as the investors suffer; and

(c) the efforts made so far by the Department for earlier disbursement of amount to the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) 6027 Companies were under liquidation as on

31-03-2004. According to a recent study, it takes an average of 10 years to complete the insolvency process in India.

(b) and (c) Part-VII of the Companies Act, 1956 deals with liquidation and winding up of companies. The Act was amended by Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 to provide for a time bound process for winding up of companies. However, on account of a legal challenge to the above enactment, the relevant provisions of the above Amendment Act are not yet notified and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) envisaged to be set up under the Act to deal with, inter-alia, matters relating to liquidation and winding up, with transfer of the relevant jurisdiction of the High Courts to them, have not yet been constituted. With speedier winding up of companies as envisaged under the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002, early settlement of valid claims would be possible.

Delimitation Commission

926. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted Delimitation Commission for the delimitation of all the Constituencies of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference made to the Commission;

(c) whether the Government has received any report from the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some Members of Parliament have submitted some suggestions to the Commission;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delimitation Commission was constituted under section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 on 12th July, 2002 for the delimitation of all Parliamentary Constituencies and the Assembly Constituencies except in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Section 4 of the said Act, *inter alia*, provides that the Delimitation Commission will be responsible for readjustment of the division of each State into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of the census figure as ascertained at the census held in the year 2001.

(c) and (d) The Delimitation Commission has published its final orders demarcating the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in respect of States of Goa, Mizoram, Kerala and Tripura and Union Territory of Pondicherry in the Gazette of India and the Official Gazette of States concerned. The Central Government has received copies of the said orders and action is being taken to lay them on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Five Members of Legislative Assembly and five Members of Parliament from each State are nominated as the Associate Members of the Delimitation Commission to assist the Commission in its work. In case the number of Members of Parliament from a State or Union Territory is less than 5, then all the Members are nominated as Associate Members for

that State or Union Territory. The Commission holds a series of meetings with the Associate Members to finalize the draft proposals. In the process, the Commission considers their suggestions relating to delimitation of a State. Apart from the suggestions of the Associate Members, the Commission receives numerous suggestions/objections from some Members of Parliament regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies as well as on the principles and procedures. All the suggestions are duly considered by the Commission while delimiting a State into territorial constituencies.

(g) The Delimitation Commission is following the procedure laid down by Parliament in the Delimitation Act, 2002.

Interest on Agriculture Loan

927. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent any specific proposal to the Union Government regarding waiving the interest on agriculture loan taken by farmers by various nationalized and scheduled commercial banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the details of the agriculture and crop loan given to farmers during 2004-05, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government keeps on receiving references from various State Governments on different issues from time to time. However, any scheme aimed at providing general waiver of interest on loans, including agriculture loans, will have an adverse impact on the depositors money and it is also against prudent banking norms.

Novertheless, Government has extended relief to the farmers affected by drought during Kharif 2002 by

conversion of short-term crop loans into medium-term loans repayable within a period of 5 years in the case of small farmers and 4 years in the case of other farmers. Besides, the interest on crop loans was also deferred and rescheduled in such a way that only 20% of the deferred interest fell due in the first year. Government agreed to bear the first installment of the rescheduled interest. Further, the Government has announced a

package to enhance the flow of credit to agriculture. The package includes a scheme for assisting farmers in distress in terms of which interest as on 31-03-2004 is clubbed with the principal amount and rescheduled for a period of 5 years (including moratorium period of two years).

(c) State-wise agriculture loans given to farmers during 2004-05 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Agriculture Loans Disbursed by Banks During 2004-05

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Coop.	RRBs	Commercial Banks	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	2.70	0.00	3745.95	3748.65
2.	Haryana	4108.04	556.29	4532.63	9198.96
3.	Punjab	5398.05	434.55	7876.30	13708.90
4.	Himachal Pradesh	122.60	40.20	451.74	614.43
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	33.81	23.93	45.21	102.95
6.	Uttar Pradesh	2140.23	2537.82	6430.89	10108.94
7.	Uttaranchal	177.48	45.30	420.86	643.64
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.14	0.00	3.70	6.84
9.	Bihar	262.60	431.72	1077.19	1771.51
10.	Chhattisgarh	388.21	130.30	279.36	797.88
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	96.52	327.46	423.97
12.	Orissa	971.26	304.69	718.50	1994.45
13.	West Bengal	762.19	203.17	2330.41	3295.77
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.90	0.74	11.94	13.58

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Assam	3.44	60.86	198.57	262.88
16.	Manipur	2.17	2.04	14.48	18.69
17.	Meghalaya	1.74	3.76	19.05	24.54
18.	Mizoram	2.82	6.47	8.28	17.57
19.	Nagaland	1.92	0.64	15.72	18.28
20.	Sikkim	0.64	0.00	3.86	4.40
21.	Tripura	1.82	9.04	30.69	41.55
22.	Goa	8.99	0.00	62.24	71.23
23.	Gujarat	2766.85	386.39	3634.74	6788.48
24.	Madhya Pradesh	1974.68	684.61	2532.88	5192.07
25.	Maharashtra	3811.91	237.58	4200.74	8250.23
26.	Rajasthan	2051.68	736.23	2358.99	5246.90
27.	Andhra Pradesh	2060.87	1950.54	8953.63	12985.04
28.	Karnataka	1334.48	1265.96	4688.86	7289.31
29.	Kerala	964.71	1027.52	2635.60	4627.83
30.	Tamil Nadu	1278.76	540.82	7346.49	9166.08
Total		30638.38	11718.17	63956.96	34048.24
31.	Other States			67.32	67.32
RIDF				214.80	214.80
Indirect Advances				370.86	370.86
Grand Total		30638.38	11718.17	64609.94	106966.49

*Provisional figures based on reporting from banks/IBA

Disbursement by Private Sector Banks amounted to Rs. 8278.32 Crore (All India) for which State-wise figures is not available.

[Translation]

**Funds to National Judicial
Service Authority**

928. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide funds to National Judicial Service Authority (NALSA);

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated to NALSA during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) the objective behind setting up of National Judicial Service Authority;

(d) whether the said Authority has achieved its objective; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the funds allocated to National Legal Services Authority during the last three financial years and the current financial year are as under:—

Financial Year		Funds Allocated (RS.)
2002-03	—	6 Crores
2003-04	—	6 Crores
2004-05	—	5.98 Crores
2005-06	—	10 Crores

(c) Article 39 A of the Constitution provides for free legal aid to the poor and the weaker sections of the society. In order to achieve this objective, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aims at establishing a nation-wide network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society so

that opportunities for securing justice may not be denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. Organizing Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of cases is also one of the objectives of NALSA.

(d) and (e) National Legal Services Authority is monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes in the country and is taking appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy, and legal awareness and is also organizing legal aid awareness camps and Lok Adalats. NALSA is also formulating policies and schemes and also guides the State Legal Services Authorities in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the said Act.

State Legal Services Authorities which are constituted throughout the country have been organizing Lok Adalats for speedy settlement of cases through the process of conciliation and mediation between the parties. It has proved to be very popular in providing for a speedier system of administration of justice. NALSA has been able to achieve its objectives to a substantial extent.

Deficit of States

929. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deficit of all the States of the country in terms of rupees and its percentage out of GDP of the country;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to make all the States debt free;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the percentage share of States in Central taxes such as income tax, service tax and excise and customs duties; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the share of States in Central taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The aggregate gross fiscal deficit of all states, including the

National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi has been estimated at Rs. 1,41,010 Crore in 2003-04 (RE). This constituted 5.1% of GDP.

(b) and (c) Consequent to the acceptance of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, Govt. of India has formulated a scheme "The States Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF)." TFC has recommended that the central loans to States contracted till 31-3-04 and outstanding on 31-3-05 may be consolidated and rescheduled for a fresh term of 20 years (resulting in repayment in 20 equal installments), and an interest rate of 7.5 per cent be charged on them. The scheme of write-off shall be available for all states from the year they have qualified for the general debt relief by enacting the fiscal responsibility legislation. The quantum of write-off of repayment will be linked to the absolute amount by which the revenue deficit is reduced in each successive year during the award period from the base level of revenue deficit compiled by TFC. In effect, if the revenue deficit is brought down to zero in 2008-09, the entire repayments during the period will be written-off.

(d) and (u) States' share in central taxes is fixed on the basis of recommendations of Finance Commissions. Based on the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission, the States share in the net proceeds of shareable central taxes has been raised from 29.5 per cent to 30.5 per cent.

[English]

Restructuring of Jute Corporation of India

930. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the financial restructuring of the Jute Corporation of India (JCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has written off the entire outstanding loan and the interest of JCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to declare a revamp package for the JCI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government accorded its approval on 27-04-2005 to write off the entire outstanding loan of Rs. 195.68 Crores and interest of Rs. 313.97 Crores on these loans (as on 31-03-2003) against the accumulated losses (Rs. 144.17 Crores), subsidy receivable (Rs. 301.88 Crores), and JCI's claim (Rs. 64.13 Crores) on NJMC, as per CGA's recommendation.

(e) and (f) The Government has also decided to provide subsidy in this year on a continuous basis from the year 2003-04 to off set the losses on account of MSP operations by JCI. The quantum of subsidy will include the difference between the purchase and sale prices of raw jute by JCI. While calculating MSP losses, the reimbursement of overhead costs to JCI would not exceed 10% of the value of the purchases under MSP in a particular financial year.

The aforesaid approval is subject to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Government and the Jute Corporation of India Ltd., Kolkata.

Forecasting of Draught and Floods

931. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meteorological Department's in the country has not been able to accurately forecast the natural calamities including drought and floods in the country over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has enquired/proposed to enquire into the matter to ascertain the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government for accurate forecasting of natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides necessary meteorological inputs to the Central Water Commission which is the nodal agency for flood forecasting. It is difficult to forecast the extent of floods in any specific area because it depends on various other factors such as; infrastructure for drainage in addition to rainfall. It is possible to predict heavy rainfall almost a week in advance but the extent and distribution of rainfall is difficult to predict. A meteorological drought is said to occur when the seasonal rainfall received over an area is less than 75 per cent of its long term average value (normally 30 years). It is not possible to forecast drought or drought like situation in a specific part of the country, well in advance. However, IMD's forecasts of monsoon rainfall can be used in a limited way for drought preparedness.

IMD has initiated several actions to improve its capabilities to monitor and predict natural calamities. These steps include improvement in observational network both remote and ground based and introduction of dynamical forecasting models.

[Translation]

Closure of Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant

932. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of power has been affected in many States due to closure of Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant;

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

(c) the quantum of power generated by this project before its closure; and

(d) the time by which the plant is likely to be made operational?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant was completely shutdown w.e.f. 25-06-2005 to 13-07-2005, initially due to Pareechu flood warning and subsequently due to high silt contents in the river Sutlej, caused on account of incessant rainfall, flood and also the after effects of flood. Due to closure of the Plant the beneficiaries of Northern Region States could not get their allocated share of power.

(c) During the year 2005-06, power generated from Nathpa Jhakri before the closure of the project, i.e. w.e.f. 1-04-2005 to 24-06-2005, was 2,093 MU.

(d) Two units of the project were put back into operation on 14-07-2005 and third unit was operated on 18-07-2005. As on 26-07-2005, four units (total six units) were in operation. The entire plant shall be put into operation after the silt content comes down to permissible limits.

[English]

Performance of Scientific Research Institute

933. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ascertain the performance of the various scientific research institutes of the Government and other quasi Government bodies; and

(b) the patents gained due to the research efforts of the Government research institutes and other quasi Government bodies during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Cotton

934. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton import into the country may slow down over a period of time on wider adoption of Bt Cotton by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country has potential to produce enough cotton to meet the demand of spinning mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) With wider adoption of Bt seeds by the farmers together with other favourable factors, the cotton production in the country is likely to increase. The country has potential to produce enough cotton to meet the demand of spinning mills. During the last 3 years the production of cotton has gone up and imports have come down as per data given below:—

Qty. : Lakh bales of 170 kg. each

Year (Cotton season)	Cotton production in India	Cotton imports by India
2002-03	136.00	17.67
2003-04	177.00	7.21
2004-05 (Anticipated)	232.00	6.00

Source : Cotton Advisory Board.

National Company Law Tribunals

935. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT);

(b) if so, whether the branches of such tribunals are proposed to be set up in various cities; and

(c) if so, the locations identified so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A list indicating the locations is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Proposed locations for National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and Benches of National Company Law Tribunal in the following Cities (States) during first/ second phase are as follows:—

First Phase

- I. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal at New Delhi.
- II. Benches of National Company Law Tribunal:—
 1. New Delhi (NCT of Delhi) [Principal Bench]
 2. Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
 3. Bangalore (Karnataka)
 4. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
 5. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
 6. Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
 7. Jaipur (Rajasthan)
 8. Kolkata (West Bengal)
 9. Mumbai (Maharashtra)

10. Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)

11. NOIDA (Delhi, Noida/NCR Region)

Second Phase

Benches of National Company Law Tribunal:—

1. Guwahati (Assam)
2. Patna (Bihar)
3. Chandigarh (U.T. Chandigarh)
4. Cochin (Kerala)
5. Cuttack (Orissa)

National Old Age Pension Scheme

936. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Below Poverty Line people who qualify for national old age pension, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken to cover all of them under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain record of the number of Below Poverty Line people who qualify for national old age pension.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development now has no scheme for providing old age pension; State Governments/ UT Administrations provide old age pension. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds as Additional Central Assistance in accordance with the allocations made by the Planning Commission to States/UTs to augment their efforts in this regard.

Priority Sector Lending

937. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India is slowly phasing

out indirect investments made by the banks to meet their priority sector targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India have issued a circular stating that fresh investments made by the banks in venture capitalists on or after July 1, 2005; investments made in Rural Electrification Corporation by 2006 and investments in NABARD bonds by 2007 will not be able to priority sector lending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that with a view to rationalizing the banks investments under priority sector lending and encouraging banks to increasingly lend directly to the farmers/other priority sector borrowers, all scheduled commercial banks [including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)] have since been advised that:—

- (i) the extant guidelines in respect of classifying the investments by banks in the bonds issued by the specified institutions as under priority sector lending may continue upto March 31st, 2005;
- (ii) the investments that may be made by the banks on or after April 1, 2005 in the bonds issued by the specified institutions (except NABARD), i.e. REC, SFCs, SIDCs, SIDBI, NSIC, NHB and HUDCO shall not be eligible for classification under priority sector lending;
- (iii) the investments, which have already been made/to be made by banks upto March 31st, 2005 in the special bonds issued by the above specified institutions (except NABARD) shall not be eligible for classification under priority sector lending with effect from April 1, 2006; and

- (iv) the investments in the special bonds issued by NABARD shall not be eligible for classification under priority sector lending with effect from April 1, 2007.

(c) and (d) On a review of the recent developments, including overall credit growth and growth of investments in venture capital vis-a-vis other sectors, RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks (including RRBs) vide their circular of July 1st, 2005 that:—

- (i) the fresh investments that may be made by banks on or after July 1, 2005 in venture capital shall not be eligible for classification under priority sector lending; and that
- (ii) the investments, which have already been made/to be made by banks upto June 30, 2005, in venture capital shall not be eligible for classification under priority sector lending with effect from April 1, 2006.

[Translation]

Development of Wool Board

938. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is pending for development of the Wool Board Office in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the office of Wool Board is being shifted from Jodhpur; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. However, there is a provision for strengthening the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur under Integrated Wool Improvement Programme (IWIP) in the 10th Plan by hiring services of consultants, experts on contractual basis to implement, monitor and evaluate the Board's programmes.

(b) and (c) No proposal for shifting the office from Jodhpur is under consideration.

[English]

Power Crisis In Bihar

939. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of grim power situation prevailing in Bihar at present;

(b) if so, whether the Central Sectors are not providing adequate power to the Bihar State resulting collapse of power distribution system;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the concrete action plan formulated to provide adequate power to Bihar from Central Sectors?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) The power supply position in Bihar during April-June, 2005 was as under:—

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Energy Requirement	1941	Peak Demand	1050
Energy Availability	1601	Peak Met	965
Shortage	340	Shortage	85
Shortage (%)	17.5	Shortage (%)	8.1

The total allocation of power to the state of Bihar from Central Generating Stations in the Eastern Region and Chukha Hydroelectric Project is, 1060 MW. This constitutes about 100% of total peak demand in Bihar. The main reasons for the prevailing shortage of power in the state of Bihar are poor performance of State owned power stations. The supply and distribution of electricity in a state is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Power Utility. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by way of generation capacity addition and establishment of bulk transmission system in the Central Sector by the Central Public Sector Undertakings.

[Translation]

Corruption in PMGSY

940. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints

of corruption and irregularities in the implementation of this Yojana during the Tenth Plan Period;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of affected locations, State-wise;

(e) whether any specific complaints have been made by some People Representatives also during the said period;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken/to be taken by the Government on all the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development reviews the implementation of PMGSY in each of the States on a regular basis through the monthly progress reports received from the States. The progress is also reviewed in the Regional Review Meetings with the States. The details of the Regional Review Meetings held so far are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (g) Rural Roads being a State subject, the State Government is primarily responsible for ensuring the proper implementation of the PMGSY. However, no specific complaints of corruption/irregularities in the implementation of PMGSY have been received in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Statement

Regional Review Meetings on PMGSY

Sl. No.	Date	Venue	States Participated
1	2	3	4
1.	14th September, 02	Pune	Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh
2.	21st September, 02	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4
3.	28th September, 02	Shillong	West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, North East States
4.	2nd-6th May, 03	New Delhi	Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan
5.	8th-9th May, 03	New Delhi	Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh
6.	12th-13th May, 03	Bangalore	Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
7.	22nd-23rd May, 03	Kolkata	North East States
8.	29th-30th May, 03	Bhubaneswar	Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar
9.	5th-6th June, 03	Ahmedabad	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa
10.	10th-12th November, 03	New Delhi	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh
11.	17th-19th November, 03	Thiruvananthapuram	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
12.	24th-26th November, 03	Kolkata	North East States
13.	28th-30th November, 03	New Delhi	Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh
14.	27th April, 2004	Shillong	Meghalaya
15.	1st May, 2004	Guwahati	Assam
16.	18th May, 2004	Ranchi	Jharkhand
17.	10th-11th September, 04	Ranchi	West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar
18.	16th-17th September, 04	Pune	Maharashtra and Karnataka
19.	23rd-24th September, 04	Gangtok	North East States (except Assam)
20.	6th-7th October, 04	Jaipur	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Madhya Pradesh
21.	12th-13th October, 04	Hyderabad	Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu
22.	26th-27th October, 04	Shimla	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh
23.	1st November, 04	Delhi	Assam
24.	8th-9th February, 05	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh
25.	12th March, 05	Pune	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4
26.	22nd April, 05	Bangalore	Karnataka
27.	26th April, 05	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
28.	10th June, 05	Delhi	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
29.	13th June, 05	Delhi	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana
30.	16th June, 05	Delhi	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir
31.	17th June, 05	Delhi	Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan
32.	20th June, 05	Delhi	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa
33.	22nd June, 05	Delhi	West Bengal, Assam, Orissa
34.	24th-25th June, 05	Kolkata	Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur

Exodus of Rural Population

941. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether exodus of rural population is going on fast towards cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the fast increasing exodus of rural population to urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rural to Urban migration is a characteristic of a developing economy. The Ministry of Rural Development has not conducted any survey about the exodus of rural population towards cities. However, available estimates of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) reveal that during the period 1983-2000 the percentage of male migrants to total population remained constant at about 7% for rural areas.

(c) The reasons of the exodus of the rural population is on account of various socio economic factors including better employment opportunities and living standard.

(d) the Ministry of Rural Development through the State Governments implements three major schemes namely the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide wage and self employment to the members of rural families living below the poverty line in all the rural areas of the country except Chandigarh and Delhi. These schemes have been designed to provide employment to the rural poor in their villages or nearby villages so that migration of such people from rural to urban areas could be reduced.

[English]

Repayment of Loan

942. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Karnataka Government has extended to July 31, 2005 the deadline

for farmers to repay loans taken from co-operative banks to be eligible for waiver of interest and penal interest;

(b) if so, whether the farmers are demanding that the deadline be extended till March 31, 2006 as the farmers are unable to repay their loans;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government impress upon Karnataka Government for extending the deadline for farmers to repay their loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Performance of PSBs

943. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked Public Sector Banks to enter into MoU with Government to reach certain targets of performance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Banks have been advised to submit a Statement of Intent on Annual Goals for the financial year 2005-06 which includes quantitative and qualitative targets on various performance parameters viz. Capital Risk Adequacy Ratio (CRAR), Earning per share, Growth in business, Priority Sector Lending, NPAs, Profitability, Improvement in risk management practices, Use of technology, Special efforts in reaching out to the under-privileged etc.

Multiple Credit Cards

944. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gradual increase among the credit card holder to default by having multiple cards in different banks;

(b) if so, whether there is lack of cooperation among banks in sharing information about the credit card holders;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to make it obligatory on the part of banks and mandatory on the part of credit card holders to share information; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

[Translation]

Self Employment to Poor Youth

945. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Government to provide self employment to ten lakh youth belonging to the poorest of the poor families;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of youth likely to be benefited in each State of the country;

(c) the State-wise total expenditure likely to be incurred on the said programme and the time limit fixed for its implementation; and

(d) the name of the implementing agency of the said programme and the resource of providing funds for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development had set up an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to formulate a Sub-Scheme under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for skill development of rural youth. Based on 'the recommendations of the IMG, the Ministry of Rural Development decided to launch a pilot programme for skill development under SGSY for the unemployed youth belonging to the families below the poverty line (BPL) in rural areas. In pilot phase (2005-2007), it is proposed to cover at least 1000-2000 rural youth per year in 100 selected districts. These pilot projects would be funded as Special Projects under SGSY. The maximum permissible duration for the implementation of a skill development project should not exceed 15 months. The Ministry has so far sanctioned two Special Projects in the financial year 2004-05 to provide skill development to rural youth belonging to below poverty line families. These projects aim to provide demand-based skill development to poor rural youth so as to increase their employability leading to their sustainable employment. The details are as follows:—

(I) Special Project under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) based on Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS) model of Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF): This project was sanctioned with a total cost of Rs. 14 crore which is to be shared between Centre and Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF) in the ratio of 75:25. The objective of the projects is to identify and make available the potential livelihood options for 35,000 below poverty line (BPL) youth in the age group of 18-35 years and train them in skills according to the market requirements. The project will be implemented in 7 States namely, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Jharkhand covering 5000 below poverty line (BPL) youth in each State.

(II) Special Project titled "Towards a Sustainable Employment Led Growth: Skill Training of Rural Poor through NGOs" by CAPART: This project was sanctioned with a total cost of Rs. 1201.21 lakh, which will be fully

funded by the Ministry of Rural Development. The objective of the project is to develop skills among unemployed rural poor to enable them to take up productive self-employment as well as organized employment based on market demand and local resources. Need and opportunity based skill-building programmes would be organized through large-scale participation of NGOs. Project period is 15 months. The project would be implemented in 22 States covering 50 districts. CAPART with the support of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) and NGOs would implement the project. A total of **one-lakh beneficiaries** are proposed to be covered under the projects.

[English]

RRB Staff Promotion Rule

946. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has submitted a proposal for amendment of regional Rural Bank Staff Promotion Rule in consultation with sponsor banks to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether Reservation Policy for SC/ST in promotion is being followed in RRBs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is in the process of reviewing the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1998 in consultation with sponsor banks and Reserve Bank of India, keeping in view the changes/developments in the banking industry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Reservation Policy for SC/ST in promotion is being followed in RRB as per Rule 12 of Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1998.

Survey on Supply of Drinking Water to Rural Habitations

947. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever made any survey in rural habitations of West Bengal to find out their access to safe drinking water;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that in ground reality less than 50% of rural habitations got access to safe drinking water as against the Government's claim of 99.58%; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the shortfall and the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the States/Union Territories, including West Bengal, were requested in 2003 to conduct a fresh habitation survey. The results of the survey furnished by States/UTs are under validation by Indian Institute of Public Administration.

(c) and (d) Drinking water supply is a State subject. State Governments plan, sanction and implement drinking water supply projects for providing drinking water facilities to all rural habitations. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing financial support and technical assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per the coverage status reported by the State Government, all rural habitations of West Bengal included in the Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 have been covered with schemes to supply stipulated norms of 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd). However, coverage status is a dynamic one. Fully Covered habitations slip back to Partially Covered or Not Covered status due to various factors, viz., sources going dry due to lowering of ground water table, sources becoming quality affected, systems outliving their lives, systems

working below rated capacity due to poor operation and maintenance, increase in population etc. Under Bharat Nirman, it is envisaged to cover all the uncovered as well as slipped back habitations in a period of four years starting from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Closure of Handloom Corporation

948. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has closed down the Handloom Corporation in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees/staff affected by this closure; and

(d) the alternative arrangement made for their suitable rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) As reported by the Government of Orissa, the Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation was wound up in the year, 2005 based on the Cabinet decision. It has further been informed by the State Government that a winding up petition has been filed accordingly before Hon'ble High Court on 24th June, 2005. The decision of the winding up the Corporation was taken up by the State Government due to heavy losses of Rs. 16.10 Crore in the Corporation and as no chance of revival was found feasible.

Out of 533 number of employees, 513 have been given Voluntary Retirement benefit as applicable under the provision by the Government as a matter of their rehabilitation.

IDBI

949. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has any plan to enter in the insurance sector; and

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

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

(b) The Board of IDBI Ltd. has in principle approved IDBI's entry into insurance in consonance with the vision of IDBI Ltd. of becoming the most valued financial conglomerate.

Allocation of Funds for Wasteland Development

950. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced an allocation of Rs. 70,000 crores for developing wasteland in the country during the recent held meeting of NDC in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to assist States like

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and others which have huge tracts of wasteland in the county?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) No announcement regarding allocation of Rs. 70,000 crores for developing wastelands has been made by the Government during the 51st meeting of National Development Council held on 27/28th June, 2005. However, in his presentation to the Council, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission had stated that Rs. 70,000 crores would be required to treat the remaining treatable wastelands. He further stated that additional resources would need to be directed to this area in future.

(c) State-wise total Central assistance provided so far and area taken up for treatment under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for treatment of wastelands, drought proofing and checking desertification from 1-4-1995 to 31-3-2005 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Release of Funds under IWDP, DPAP and DDP Scheme During the Period
1995-96 to 2004-2005 (As on 31-3-2005)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	IWDP		DPAP		DDP		Total	
		Project Area (in lakh ha.)	Total Releases (Rs. in crores)	Project Area (in lakh ha.)	Total Releases (Rs. in crores)	Project Area (in lakh ha.)	Total Releases (Rs. in crores)	Project Area (in lakh ha.)	Total Releases (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.88	130.71	17.70	3476.07	3.86	76.24	26.44	3683.03
2.	Bihar	0.99	9.44	1.82	25.68			2.81	35.12
3.	Chhattisgarh	1.83	41.38	4.43	61.03			6.25	102.41
4.	Goa	0.10	0.83					0.10	0.83
5.	Gujarat	3.66	70.88	9.30	156.95	11.36	260.14	24.31	487.98
6.	Haryana	0.88	16.46			4.45	105.12	5.33	121.58
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.03	68.26	1.59	23.94	2.29	47.19	6.91	139.39
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.81	17.90	2.03	23.64	3.09	72.33	5.93	113.87
9.	Jharkhand	0.78	7.09	6.10	44.00			6.87	51.09
10.	Karnataka	3.29	89.22	9.20	156.53	5.82	97.69	18.31	343.44
11.	Kerala	0.45	9.91					0.45	9.91
12.	Maharashtra	3.08	50.54	14.05	163.38			17.13	213.92
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.68	129.66	13.12	291.22			17.80	420.88

14. Orissa	2.96	67.31	4.88	58.24	7.84	125.55
15. Punjab	0.30	3.84			0.30	3.84
16. Rajasthan	3.22	74.70	4.36	89.34	26.52	642.11
17. Tamil Nadu	2.78	72.22	6.12	116.15	8.90	188.37
18. Uttar Pradesh	5.41	121.83	6.93	129.33	12.34	251.16
19. Uttaranchal	1.64	26.33	3.16	27.75	4.80	54.08
20. West Bengal	0.29	2.84	2.00	17.74	2.29	20.59
Total	45.05	1023.86	106.77	1730.99	57.38	1300.82
Others				11.17		11.17
1. Arunachal Pradesh	1.68	17.09			1.68	17.09
2. Assam	5.49	87.72			5.49	87.72
3. Manipur	1.89	27.47			1.89	27.47
4. Meghalaya	0.77	9.22			0.77	9.22
5. Mizoram	2.34	36.76			2.34	36.76
6. Nagaland	3.16	84.21			3.16	84.21
7. Sikkim	1.12	18.30			1.12	18.30
8. Tripura	0.47	5.78			0.47	5.78
Total of NE	16.92	286.57			16.92	286.57
Grand Total	61.97	1310.43	106.77	1742.16	57.38	1300.82
					226.11	4353.41

Policy on Bio-Fuel

951. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate its policy on green fuel (bio-fuel);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Visveswaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur has submitted its report for final approval from the Union Government on commercial viability in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The Union Government is actively pursuing the policy of promoting bio-fuel as a source of renewable energy. In this context, a number of R and D and demonstration projects on different aspects of bio-fuels have been taken up by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES). At the instance of PMO, MNES has also undertaken a policy analytical study on different aspects of bio-fuels as a substitute to petroleum based fuels and for reducing environmental pollution. More recently, the Planning Commission has brought out a Report on Development of Bio-Fuel and the Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry to operationalize the recommendations of the Report.

(c) to (e) This Ministry has not received any report from the Visveswaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur on commercial viability of bio-fuels.

Constitution of State Finance Commission

952. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Finance Commission has been constituted in all the Indian States/UTs envisaged in the constitution;

(b) if so, the number of States/UTs have constituted SFCs since 1994, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the recommendation of SFCs were accepted by the States/UTs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government is planning to help the States and UTs in constituting the State Finance Commissions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

Vacant Posts of Chairmen in Public Sector Banks

953. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of chairmen lying vacant in various public sector banks as on date, bank-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) At present only one post of Chairman and Managing Director is lying vacant in Punjab and Sind Bank which could not be filled up because of the stay granted by the Delhi High Court vide its Order dated 26th February, 2005.

[Translation]

Foreign Companies in India

954. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies operating in India since 1990, state-wise;

(b) the number of foreign companies registered since 2001; and

(c) the profit earned by the Government from these foreign companies during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) A State-wise list of the number of foreign companies operating in India since 1990 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) 764 foreign companies have been registered since 2001 and upto June, 2005.

(c) The Government receives revenue by way of fees/additional fees for filing of various documents as per provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The details of fees/additional fees received from foreign companies during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:—

(In Rupees)

2002-03	—	2,77,44,080
2003-04	—	2,63,17,225
2004-05	—	3,41,54,075

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Foreign Companies
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	03
4.	Delhi	643

1	2	3
5.	Goa	02
6.	Gujarat	14
7.	Haryana	37
8.	Himachal Pradesh	01
9.	Karnataka	129
10.	Kerala	06
11.	Madhya Pradesh	01
12.	Maharashtra	387
13.	Orissa	05
14.	Punjab	02
15.	Rajasthan	03
16.	Tamil Nadu	92
17.	Uttar Pradesh	08
18.	West Bengal	31
Total		1391

**Incomplete Constructions under
Indira Awas Yojana**

955. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of lakhs of houses of the beneficiaries under Indira Aawas Yojana in certain States including Bihar are incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such incomplete houses as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to complete the construction of such houses immediately;

(d) if so, by when the construction of these houses is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The houses taken up for construction at the fag end of the year are bound to be completed in the next financial year. State-wise details of incomplete houses under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) including the State of Bihar at the end of the last financial year i.e. 2004-2005 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) As per the IAY Guidelines, the houses taken up for construction in the previous year have to be completed first in the next financial year. Only after completion of the incomplete houses of the previous year, new construction during the next financial year can be taken up.

Statement

State-wise number of houses under construction under the IAY for the year 2004-05

(In nos.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	(2004-2005) As on 31-3-2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7965
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	247
3.	Assam	26014
4.	Bihar	195091
5.	Chhattisgarh	3187
6.	Goa	1889
7.	Gujarat	11311
8.	Haryana	651

1	2	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	794
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8200
11.	Jharkhand	49684
12.	Karnataka	23798
13.	Kerala	19334
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21810
15.	Maharashtra	40994
16.	Manipur	1433
17.	Meghalaya	1631
18.	Mizoram	479
19.	Nagaland	319
20.	Orissa	32720
21.	Punjab	657
22.	Rajasthan	3699
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	784
25.	Tripura	549
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13879
27.	Uttaranchal	2414
28.	West Bengal	23929
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	449
31.	Daman and Diu	9
32.	Lakshadweep	143
33.	Pondicherry	782
Total		494845

*[English]***Guidelines on Oilfield Reserves**

956. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation for framing guidelines for announcing Gas/Oilfield reserves so as to check speculations and protect investors from being misled;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The detailed guidelines/norms for reserve assessment and reporting requirements are being framed in consultation with various stakeholders.

*[Translation]***Siltation in Hydro Power Projects**

957. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several hydro power plants are not generating power as per their installed capacity or have closed down due to heavy rains and siltation;

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

(c) whether the Government has assessed the loss of power generation due to the current floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the country?

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

(a) to (d) During the year 2005-06, for the period April, 2005 to 24th July, 2005, all India generation from hydroelectric stations in the country was 29,511 MU (105.3% of the target) against the programme of 28,108 MU i.e. 1,493 MU more than the schedule.

However, certain hydro power projects like Nathpa Jhakri (1500 MW) and Baspa (300 MW) were closed down for few days during June and July, 2005 on account of high silt content in the river water and apprehensions of flash floods.

Salal, Chamara-II, Rangit and Baira Siul Hydro-electric Projects were also closed down for few hours to carry out silt flushing operations.

The details of the projects closed down due to heavy rains and high silt and the resultant loss of power generation are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) To ensure uninterrupted power supply in the country, the following steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government:—

- (i) Setting up of National Grid for inter-state/inter-regional power transfer.
- (ii) Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- (iii) Timely completion of ongoing/sanctioned projects.
- (iv) Setting up of higher targets for capacity addition during 10th and 11th Plan.
- (v) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems.
- (vi) Encourage demand side management including energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.
- (vii) Increase in Central Plan outlay for power development in the 10th Plan as compared to the 9th Plan.

- (viii) Renovation and Modernization works to improve the Plant Load Factor of the old/ongoing power stations.

Statement

The details of loss of power generation in hydro-electric projects on account of heavy rains and high silt due to recent floods

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Assessed Generation loss (Million Units)
1.	Nathpa Jhakri Hydro-electric Project (1500 MW) *	819.46
2.	Baspa (300 MW) #	41.90
3.	Salal-I and II (690 MW) #	30.53
4.	Chamera-II #	24.78
5.	Rangit-IV #	0.75
6.	Baira Siul #	1.34
Total		918.76

* From 25th June to 21st July, 2005.

From 1st April, 2005 to 20th July, 2005.

[English]

Reforms in Power Sector

958. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKISHNA:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce drastic power reforms by unbundling the electricity boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cut free supply of electricity of certain categories of people;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other measures proposed to be taken to increase power generation and ensure a competitive and healthy environment?

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

(a) and (b) Section 172 (a) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Government may, by notification, authorize the State Electricity Board (SEB) to continue to function as the State Transmission Utility or a licensee for such further period beyond the period of one year of the provisions of the Act coming into force, as may be mutually decided by the Central Government and the State Government.

A number of State Governments had restructured their SEBs under their State reforms Acts before the enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003. Nine States are yet to reorganize their SEBs. These States have, from time to time, sent proposals to the Central Government for extension of time for the reorganization of their respective SEBs. Besides this Assam and Madhya Pradesh has also requested for continuation of their SEBs only for trading purpose. The Central Government has agreed to extension of time considering the request of the concerned State Governments.

(c) to (e) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the tariff for retail sale of electricity is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. According to Section 65 of the Act the State Government may require the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and in that case the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensees the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy. Thus, the matter of providing subsidy in tariff to a class of consumers is exclusively in the domain of the State Government.

(f) Public sector investment in power generation has been stepped up. the National Electricity Policy states that power being most crucial infrastructure public sector investments will have to be stepped up both at the level of Central Government and State Governments. Considering the magnitude of the expansion of the sector required the sizeable part of the investments will also need to be brought in from the private sector.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, constitution of Regulatory Commissions and establishment of Appellate Tribunal. The Act has reduced entry barriers in different segments of power supply industry.

Generation has been delicensed. The Act provides for non-discriminatory open access in transmission from the very outset. Captive plants including group captives have been freely permitted.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees. It is expected to encourage competition in generation.

Raising of Cash Component In National Food for Work Programme

959. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from certain State Governments for increasing the cash component of the National Food for Work Programme from 50 per cent to 75 per cent.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for demanding increase in the cash component; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) No such request from the State Governments have so far been received by this Ministry.

[Translation]

Tax on Petrol

960. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected as tax from Petroleum sector during the financial year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the difference between selling price and production cost per litre of petrol and diesel during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) the reasons for increasingly burdening the consumers over the last few years;

(d) the impact of such price rise on the prices of other essential commodities;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon;

(f) whether separate tax is charged on crude oil;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of Central and State Government taxes on petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Revenue collection from customs and excise duties (including cess on crude oil) from petroleum sector for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as under:—

	Rs. in crore		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (provisional)
Customs duties	9166	10582	13250
Excise duties	35961	40151	43145
Total	45127	50733	56395

Customs Duty:

Basic Customs Duty	Additional Customs Duty (CVD)	National Calamity Contingent Duty of Customs	Education Cess on imported goods
5%	Nil	Rs. 50 PMT	2% of aggregate of duties of customs

Excise Duty:

Excise Duty	Cess under Oil Industries Development Act	National Calamity Contingent Duty	Education Cess on excisable goods
Nil	Rs. 1800 PMT*	Rs. 50 PMT	2% of aggregate of duties of excise

* Concessional rate @ Rs. 900 per tonne and Nil on crude oil produced in Oil fields under Production sharing Contracts and exploration block offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy.

(b) Production cost per litre of petrol and diesel is reported to be not identifiable separately with any degree of reasonable accuracy in view of the difficulty in allocating the 'joint costs', which account for more than 90% of the total cost of the finished petroleum products. In view of this, the difference between selling price and production cost of petrol and diesel could not be indicated.

(c) India is highly dependent on crude oil imports. Increase in international crude oil prices, thus, decisively impacts domestic prices of petroleum products.

(d) Prices of essential commodities depend on a number of factors, including cost of fuel.

(e) In this year's budget, the Government has effected changes in customs and excise duty structures and rates so as to moderate the impact of increase in oil prices in the international market on domestic prices.

(f) and (g) Present customs and excise duty (including cess) structure and rates on crude oil is as under:—

(h) Details of excise duty rates on petrol and diesel are as under:—

Product	Basic excise duty	Additional excise duty	Special Additional Excise Duty	Education Cess on excisable goods
Petrol	8%+Rs. 5.00/ltr.	Rs. 2.00/ltr.	Rs. 6.00/ltr.	2% of aggregate duties of excise
Diesel	8%+Rs. 1.25/ltr.	Rs. 2.00/ltr.	—	2% of aggregate duties of excise

Sales Tax/VAT is levied by State Governments and the rates are determined by the respective State Governments.

[English]

NABARD Activities

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

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestions and expert opinions from certain quarters to extend and increase the activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in the East and North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Suggestions are being received by the Government from various quarters from time to time to increase the activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in the East and North Eastern States. NABARD has accorded high level of priority for development of Eastern and North Eastern Regions and has taken steps and given, inter-alia, following special concessions for North Eastern Region:—

- refinance for investment credit at concessional rate of interest i.e. 6% irrespective of the size of the loan;
- 100% refinance to all financing agencies for most of the purposes under investment credit;

- relaxation in eligibility criteria for both i.e. Investment credit and production credit;
- capital investment subsidy scheme for rural godowns wherein subsidy has been fixed at 33.33% with a higher ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh;
- capital investment subsidy scheme for cold storages and onion godowns under which subsidy has been fixed at 33.33% with a higher ceiling of Rs. 60 lakh; and
- Up-gradation of 7 sub-offices as regional offices by NABARD and opening of 5 new District Development Manager's offices, etc.

Further, the following details show an upward trend in refinance disbursed by NABARD during the last three years in the Eastern and North Eastern Region:—

(Rs. in lakh)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Orissa	26975	30839	32264
Bihar	8205	9671	17645
Jharkhand	3908	4551	4802
West Bengal	41495	61323	47412
Arunachal Pradesh	690	711	987

1	2	3	4
Assam	6937	7354	13303
Manipur	519	219	933
Meghalaya	917	932	1192
Mizoram	1585	1685	3637
Nagaland	218	127	160
Tripura	1096	1234	1657
Sikkim	375	0	930

[Translation]

Blacklisting of NGOs

962. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has Blacklisted any NGOs;

(b) if so, the details in respect of such NGOs during each of the last three years;

(c) whether these NGOs have been penalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any provision for recovery of the financial assistance provided so far to these NGOs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The details of NGOs blacklisted as well as action initiated against them during the last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of NGOs during last 3 years	Name of Scheme	Action Initiated
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Business School, New Delhi	Census of Handicrafts Artisans	A FIR in the Economic Office wing, Crime Branch, Delhi Police has been filed under Section 406/420/468/471/IPC. Recovery proceeding has been initiated against the organisation through Deputy Commissioner and Collector, West Delhi, for recovery of Rs. 16,61,750/- released as grant-in-aid under Provision of GFR-149(4)(VI)-Note 4 under advice from Ministry of Law. The organisation has been asked to refund the grant of Rs. 1,39,500/- with penal interest @ 6% per annum.
	M/s. Business School, New Delhi	Workshed	
2.	M/s. Helping Poor Association, Chennai	Workshed	The organisation has been asked to refund the grant of Rs. 11,76,000/- with penal interest @ 6% per annum. The matter is sub-judice.
3.	M/s. Kasargod HC ICS, Kerala	Craft Development Centre/ Common Facility Centre	The organisation has been asked to refund the grant of Rs. 1,68,750/- with penal interest @ 6% per annum.

1	2	3	4
4.	M/s. Helping Poor Association, Chennai	Craft Development Centre/ Common Facility Centre	The organisation has been asked to refund the grant of Rs. 6,64,500/- with penal interest @ 6% per annum. The matter is sub-judice.
5.	M/s. UPNASA, Lucknow	Workshed	The organisation has been asked to refund the grant of Rs. 10,50,000/- with penal interest @ 6% per annum. The matter is sub-judice.

**Loans to Self Help Groups
under SGSY**

963. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self Help Groups formed so far under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) meant for poverty eradication and creation of employment in rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of groups categorized as first and second grade along with the number of groups to which loans/grants have been provided during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of groups in the first rank grading yet to receive aforesaid loans/grants along with the number

of groups among the said beneficiaries who have started making production, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) A statement showing, State-wise, number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana since its inception i.e. April, 1999 and upto June, 2005, numbers of SHGs passed grades I and II and SHGs taken up economic activities during 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the statement enclosed. SHGs having passed grade-II are considered for government subsidy and bank credit for taking up economic activities. SHGs after passing grade-I are provided revolving fund from government subsidy and cash credit facility from banks.

Statement

No. of SHGs Formed, Passed Grade-I, Grade-II and taken up Economic Activities since inception (1-4-99) upto June'05 and during 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	No. of SHGs Formed				No. of SHGs Passed Grade-I			
		Since Inception Upto June'05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Since Inception Upto June'05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	434312	48116	59314	60488	395133	49661	40764	33535
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	259	21	17	67	114	34	3	26
3.	Assam	103684	36905	24187	20232	50940	9787	17454	18108
4.	Bihar	78375	12184	19818	15765	30069	4134	8957	9946
5.	Chhattisgarh	46512	8882	1642	2094	17210	2346	1954	2061
6.	Goa	478	76	190	138	254	9	57	130
7.	Gujarat	84010	18170	2422	1916	21233	4027	5715	2760
8.	Haryana	7933	1530	1484	985	5398	1310	1158	1223
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4853	1065	693	372	4134	940	661	536
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6469	925	413	611	3277	1184	457	428
11.	Jharkhand	20666	4787	4482	3368	9731	1803	3112	2024
12.	Karnataka	33784	5481	5368	3940	18061	3544	4051	4138
13.	Kerala	49698	7032	7046	4030	35787	5980	7368	5865
14.	Madhya Pradesh	238783	75710	30497	10330	76825	17721	17555	13083
15.	Maharashtra	105781	10757	31792	18307	61160	7896	12104	15318

16. Manipur	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
17. Meghalaya	3026	360	944	680	1564	200	485	474		
18. Mizoram	1195	270	181	233	553	103	121	154		
19. Nagaland	1368	103	247	171	506	21	157	146		
20. Orissa	133744	26465	19000	26393	61407	10416	11111	24251		
21. Punjab	3121	445	438	730	1794	122	186	420		
22. Rajasthan	22579	2166	876	1783	10551	2587	1311	2694		
23. Sikkim	685	129	91	179	411	79	72	103		
24. Tamil Nadu	171691	20168	63645	25193	109538	13015	25113	19522		
25. Tripura	16016	2391	8843	2985	5087	469	1304	2817		
26. Uttar Pradesh	316685	87549	85282	24181	141064	31068	28182	32260		
27. Uttaranchal	18932	5429	2832	1960	10341	3238	2555	2194		
28. West Bengal	118764	21528	20233	34958	68559	17689	12945	23317		
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	231		31		131	7	29	24		
30. Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0		
32. Lakshadweep	4	1		1	2	1	1	0		
33. Pondicherry	993	228	116	83	895	243	45	184		
Total	2024643	398873	392136	262173	1141729	189634	204987	217741		

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	No. of SHGs Passed Grade II				No. of SHGs taken up Economic activities			
		Since Inception Upto June'05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Since Inception Upto June'05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	263907	49628	30611	23401	33807	4011	4875	5652
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	6	2	31	191	42	11	51
3.	Assam	23661	4598	6829	8429	15251	3078	3703	4933
4.	Bihar	13500	2623	2693	4533	17038	1762	2052	2486
5.	Chhattisgarh	5145	1953	524	1053	3218	518	488	945
6.	Goa	70	13	4	49	133	13	6	49
7.	Gujarat	5581	1270	1876	908	3641	717	607	733
8.	Haryana	3213	606	884	1050	2961	495	776	1018
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3185	507	543	719	3180	343	718	717
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	824	376	127	150	2718	719	338	222
11.	Jharkhand	2569	348	679	752	6119	556	1625	1179
12.	Karnataka	14203	2103	3082	4266	12783	2016	2784	3358
13.	Kerala	12459	1475	3151	3174	5881	930	1415	1503
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25162	5302	6677	5559	21574	3104	4161	4466
15.	Maharashtra	29265	5324	5128	7437	18068	3225	4266	5603
16.	Manipur	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

17. Meghalaya	624	109	172	109	526	110	136	74
18. Mizoram	621	74	108	149	1133	270	221	200
19. Nagaland	507	23	208	137	1018	90	236	123
20. Orissa	21539	2578	4266	9212	13530	1454	3514	5058
21. Punjab	1096	164	160	163	1151	250	205	221
22. Rajasthan	2714	643	595	1139	2058	293	544	1000
23. Sikkim	140	3	22	94	167	3	22	94
24. Tamil Nadu	32571	5040	5932	6496	23964	3510	3826	4824
25. Tripura	1166	95	180	821	3918	217	1256	1771
26. Uttar Pradesh	44833	7965	12245	16539	37292	5908	10549	16923
27. Uttaranchal	4556	1057	1425	1416	3530	653	1078	1320
28. West Bengal	13278	2004	2532	7182	6580	958	1177	1861
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65	6	10	0	104	15	10	1
30. Daman and Diu	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
33. Pondicherry	266	127	8	77	228	56	38	99
Total	526762	96020	90673	105045	241663	35317	50717	66484

NR—Not Reported

*[English]***Repayment of Loan to IREDA**

964. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the recovery of loans advanced by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) during the last three years;

(b) whether the loans advanced by IREDA are not repaid regularly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the outstanding amount as on date; and

(e) the efforts made to recover the loans as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The cumulative loan recovery percentage for the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 is 55.49, 60.87 and 54.32 respectively.

(b) and (c) Repayment of loans has been affected in some cases primarily on account of projects becoming unremunerative due to reasons natural or otherwise thereby limiting repayment capability.

(d) The outstanding dues as on 31-3-2005 are Rs. 577.21 crore.

(e) IREDA has taken a series of steps against defaulters for recovery of loans such as sending recall notices, filing cases before Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) and the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), taking action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SRFAESI), 2002 etc.

Warning of Tsunami

965. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into an agreement with Norway to work jointly in the risk assessment and early warning of Tsunamis and land slides in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana**

966. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a programme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" with an aim to provide electricity to every home within five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has drawn any scheme to tap the available sources of alternative energy to meet the set targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of villages likely to be covered for electrification in each State during 2005-06;

(f) the allocation made for the same;

(g) the steps Government proposes to take to achieve the aim; and

(h) the role of NTPC, NHPC and Power Grid Corporation under this programme?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" has been introduced in April, 2005 for providing access to electricity to all Rural Households.

Under this scheme 90% capital subsidy would be provided for projects for creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB), Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) and Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System. The scheme inter alia provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under this scheme prior commitment of the States would be taken before sanction of the projects for deployment of franchisees for management of rural distribution through franchisees who could be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Users Association, Cooperatives or individual entrepreneurs, the Panchayat institutions would be associated.

Based on the consumer mix and the prevailing consumer tariff and likely load, the Bulk Supply Tariff (BST) for the franchisee will be determined after ensuring commercial viability of the franchisee. Wherever feasible, bidding may be attempted for determining the BST. While administering the scheme, prior commitments will be taken from the State Government regarding:—

- (i) Determination of bulk supply tariff for franchisees in a manner that ensures their commercial viability.
- (ii) Provision of requisite revenue subsidy by the State Government to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act.

(c) and (d) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, MNES is formulating the Scheme for electrification of 25,000 remote village through non-conventional energy sources.

(e) Presently under the scheme, 127 projects for electrification of 54642 unelectrified villages and 2783303 households have been sanctioned for the states of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh involving total outlay of Rs. 4904.33 crore. The implementing agencies of the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have indicated their plan for electrification of 9312 villages and 287616 households during 2005-06 as indicated in Annexure-I.

(f) An amount of Rs. 1100 crore has been allocated for Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for 2005-06. However, the Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance to enhance it to Rs. 2500 crore.

(g) Government will create infrastructure for rural electrification by providing 90% capital subsidy for projects for creation of:—

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

The implementing agency is Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.

(h) The services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of rural electrification Projects as per their willingness and requirement. With a view to augment the implementation capacities for the programme, REC has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with NTPC, POWERGRID, NHPC and DVC to make available CPSUs' project management expertise and capabilities to states wishing to use their services. This is being operationalised through a suitable Tripartite Agreement. The project implementation work for 41 sanctioned projects in 40 districts have been allocated to Central Power Sector Utilities (CPSUs) by the states of West Bengal (5), Uttar Pradesh (8) and Bihar (28). For effective implementation of the projects, REC has also designed the framework for implementation assigning role/responsibilities of State Government, state utilities/implementing agency and involving formulation of technical specifications, procurement and bidding conditions, guidelines for project formulation adopted by the implementing states.

[English]

Calorie Intake by Rural Population

967. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large rural population in several States of the country are taking food containing less than 1800 calories, which is the bare minimum specified by FAO for sustaining life;

(b) if so, the details of such States; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government to ensure that rural population in country are not malnourished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) State-wise percentage of persons taking food containing less than 1800 kcal. is given in the statement.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the wage employment programmes of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programme in rural areas to provide additional wage employment and also food security, which in turn reduce the malnutrition of BPL family members.

Statement

*Percentage of Persons taking less than 1800 kcal.
In Rural Areas for major States during 1999-2000*

Sl. No.	State	% age of persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.4
2.	Assam	44.9
3.	Bihar	16.3
4.	Gujarat	24.9
5.	Haryana	10.2
6.	Karnataka	35.3
7.	Kerala	34.0
8.	Madhya Pradesh	33.8
9.	Maharashtra	29.0
10.	Orissa	26.4
11.	Punjab	12.7
12.	Rajasthan	6.9
13.	Tamil Nadu	47.2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	9.5
15.	West Bengal	19.8

Source: NSS Report No. 471 (55/1.0/9)-55th Round Nutritional Intake in India, 1999-2000 (July 1999-June 2000.)

**Joint Venture for Insurance Business by
Allahabad Bank**

968. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Allahabad Bank has signed a joint venture for its insurance business;

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

(c) the initiatives taken for growth strategy by Allahabad Bank so far; and

(d) the time by which the new initiatives are likely to be available to customers of Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Apart from focusing on core business activities, Allahabad Bank is now also eyeing on augmenting fee based income through distribution of third party products like insurance and mutual fund in tie up with leading market players viz. LIC, NICL, ECGC and UTI MF. Also maximum thrust is now being given to put the bank on higher technological track through computerization of its branches, installation of ATMs, Core banking solution. Bank has also taken up aggressive plans for financing of agriculture and SME sector through its widespread network, launched Kisan Shakti Yojana for Kisan Credit Holders and has set up a farmer's Training Institute at Rai Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. These initiatives are already on offer to the customers of the bank.

Boost to Research Activities

969. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to take assistance from foreign countries including Canada in the field of Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard;

(d) the anticipated time by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) the terms and conditions of the agreement between the countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. However, there are collaborative arrangements in the area of Science and Technology with various countries including Canada.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Reforms in Power Sector

970. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been set up by the Government to suggest reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No Committee or Task Force has been recently constituted by the Central Government for suggesting reforms in the power sector.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above do not arise.

Credit to Farm Sector by NABARD

971. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has increased the credit to farm sector in various States;

(b) if so, the amount of agricultural credit disbursed by NABARD to different States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the percentage of increase made and target set for current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not disburse agriculture credit directly,

it only refines credit disbursed by banks. The details of refinance disbursed by NABARD under investment credit during the last three years are given at the statement enclosed. NABARD also sanctioned total ST(SAO) credit limits aggregating Rs. 10218.97 crore to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the year 2004-05 as against Rs. 8688.32 crore during 2003-04, registering a growth of 18%.

(c) No target is fixed for investment credit. Only a State-wise tentative allocation is made which is flexible and can be enhanced. The allocation for 2005-06 is fixed at Rs. 8925 crore. No target has also been fixed with regard to short-term credit limits, which are dependent on the credit limit sought by SCBs and the funds available with NABARD.

Statement

Refinance Disbursement Made by NABARD During the last Three Years

State/UT	2002-2003				2003-2004				2004-05		(Rs. crore)
	FS	RNFS	Total	FS	RNFS	Total	FS	RNFS	FS	RNFS	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Chandigarh	6.11	0.14	6.25	7.42	0.00	7.42	3.95	0.00	3.95	0.00	3.95
Delhi	1.58	5.21	6.79	0.00	8.23	8.23	0.13	8.55	8.68		8.68
Haryana	378.12	100.01	478.13	441.14	66.99	508.13	504.83	88.70	593.52		593.52
Himachal Pradesh	57.56	118.36	175.93	50.84	161.37	212.21	56.63	100.49	157.12		157.12
Jammu and Kashmir	11.85	36.94	48.79	5.57	1.53	7.10	10.09	17.06	27.15		27.15
Punjab	461.86	111.45	573.31	543.08	133.09	676.18	743.07	298.75	1041.82		1041.82
Rajasthan	282.31	48.04	330.36	268.28	93.42	361.71	281.65	134.07	415.72		415.72
Arunachal Pradesh	1.55	5.35	6.90	1.70	5.41	7.11	1.22	8.66	9.87		9.87
Assam	7.79	61.58	69.37	8.87	64.67	73.54	15.12	117.91	133.03		133.03
Manipur	2.57	2.61	5.19	0.38	1.80	2.19	2.38	6.95	9.33		9.33
Meghalaya	1.03	8.14	9.17	0.08	9.24	9.32	3.42	8.50	11.92		11.92
Mizoram	0.39	15.47	15.85	0.47	16.38	16.85	1.34	35.04	36.37		36.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nagaland	0.33	1.84	2.18	0.15	1.13	1.27	0.26	1.34	1.60
Tripura	1.58	9.37	10.96	1.47	10.87	12.34	0.74	15.84	16.57
Sikkim	0.22	3.53	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	8.65	9.30
Bihar	45.05	37.05	82.10	69.40	27.30	96.71	124.83	51.62	176.45
Jharkhand	12.76	26.32	39.08	20.02	25.50	45.51	30.32	17.70	48.02
Orissa	80.52	189.23	269.75	82.17	226.22	308.39	103.89	218.76	322.64
West Bengal	136.03	278.92	414.95	274.30	338.93	613.23	184.48	289.64	474.12
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.43	3.62	4.05	0.46	4.99	5.45	2.15	2.80	4.95
Madhya Pradesh	354.92	54.72	409.65	315.12	55.23	370.35	441.62	82.88	524.50
Chhattisgarh	53.41	11.07	64.49	53.53	6.93	60.45	61.20	18.57	79.77
Uttar Pradesh	940.84	234.80	1175.64	956.90	264.89	1221.78	1234.69	238.88	1473.57
Uttaranchal	32.00	2.61	34.61	19.97	0.32	20.29	12.90	4.56	17.46
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	326.55	36.01	362.56	287.16	37.38	324.54	230.12	74.47	304.59
Goa, Daman and Diu	2.07	17.13	19.20	0.13	12.58	12.71	0.67	6.60	7.27
Maharashtra	488.21	101.39	589.60	226.56	231.13	457.69	266.38	209.50	475.88

Andhra Pradesh	550.68	210.67	761.34	498.37	108.93	607.30	708.79	186.14	894.93
Karnataka	323.07	129.78	452.85	317.40	156.01	473.41	320.27	135.18	455.45
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	118.94	188.76	307.70	114.46	227.59	342.05	104.31	343.71	448.02
Pondicherry	3.19	2.14	5.33	7.76	0.95	8.71	2.83	1.84	4.67
Tamil Nadu	442.28	240.58	682.86	522.88	210.72	733.10	301.97	87.24	389.21
Total	5125.89	2292.88	7418.77	5095.57	2509.72	7605.29	5756.88	2820.59	8577.46

F.S.—Farm Sector

RNFS—Refinance to Non-Farm Sector.

IT Default of Top Companies

972. SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has slapped penalty on IT dues of Rs. 10,000 crores on firms as reported in the Business Standard, dated 21 April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of amounts, company-wise; and

(c) the details of appeals filed and payment of dues since made, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Income Tax Department, does impose penalty in appropriate cases under various provisions of the Income Tax Act. However, the data in this regard is not centrally maintained. For information relating to such cases, each individual case-record will be required to be examined and the same would involve substantial time and effort, which may not be commensurate to the purpose sought to be achieved.

Inflation

973. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflation rate in the country during the year 2004-05 has been higher as compared to that of during the last three years;

(b) if so, the month-wise inflation rate during each of the last five years;

(c) whether steep increase has been registered in the prices of daily food items and fuels during the year 2004-05;

(d) if so, the extent of increase registered in the prices of said commodities with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring down the inflation rate and to check the price rise of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Annual average and month-wise inflation rate in terms of WPI since 2000-01 are indicated in the Table 1.

Table 1. Month-wise and Yearly average inflation rates in terms of WPI (Per cent)

Year/Month	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April	6.5	5.4	1.5	6.7	4.5	5.9
May	6.3	5.6	1.6	6.5	5.0	5.5(P)
June	6.6	5.3	2.4	5.3	6.7	4.2(P)
July	6.5	5.2	2.8	4.7	7.6	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
August	6.1	5.4	3.3	3.9	8.5	
September	6.5	4.5	3.5	4.9	7.9	
October	7.5	2.9	3.1	5.1	7.3	
November	7.6	2.6	3.4	5.4	7.5	
December	8.5	2.1	3.3	5.7	6.8	
January	8.7	1.5	4.2	6.5	5.5	
February	8.3	1.4	5.3	6.1	5.0	
March	6.4	1.8	6.0	4.8	5.4	
Average of Year	7.1	3.6	3.4	5.5	6.5	—

P—Provisional

(c) and (d) 52 week average rate of Inflation (%) of essential food items and fuels during the year 2004-05 as compared to the previous year are indicated in the table 2. In fact, there has been negative inflation (deflation) in the case of rice, gram, onion, mustard oil, groundnut oil, moong, urad, chillies and kerosene. Inflation in the case of potatoes, tea, sugar, salt and gur, coconut oil and cooking coal has been higher than

10%. In respect of potatoes, tea, salt and gur this was due the fact that their prices had fallen in the previous year and only recovered to their normal levels in 2004-05. While the inflation appears to be high, the absolute prices of these products were moderate. The higher inflation in respect of Sugar was due to the fall in production of Sugar because of the drought in major sugar producing states in 2004-05.

Table 2. 52 week average Inflation of Essential items of daily use

Essential Items	Weight %	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Rice	2.45	1.7	-0.4
Wheat	1.38	3.2	1.5
Gram	0.22	-4.8	-3.8
Arhar	0.13	9.8	3.6
Potatoes	0.26	-41.4	52.9
Onions	0.09	30.5	-19.4

1	2	3	4
Tea	0.16	-8.0	20.7
Sugar	3.62	0.7	19.2
Mustard Oil	0.49	31.6	-8.7
Groundnut Oil	0.17	8.8	-4.1
Salt	0.02	-2.1	16.1
Vanaspati	0.80	12.5	2.6
Jowar	0.22	-0.1	6.8
Rajra	0.11	-6.1	2.5
Moong	0.11	-5.9	-4.3
Masur	0.04	9.0	0.5
Urad	0.10	-9.3	-0.5
Milk	4.37	2.5	4.4
Fish-Inland	0.50	-11.5	6.1
Mutton	0.44	3.9	6.6
Chillies (Dry)	0.19	16.1	-23.4
Atta	0.21	13.7	0.5
Gur	0.06	-4.9	41.9
Coconut Oil	0.17	28.4	14.6
Coking coal	0.24	6.6	23.1
Kerosene	0.69	-0.1	-0.4

(e) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Contributory Pension Scheme

974. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been considering introduction of a contributory Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme evolved; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to promote such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Government has already implemented a new restructured defined contribution pension scheme, New Pension System (NPS) for all new Central Government recruits (excluding Armed Forces, in the first stage) with effect from 1-1-2004. The NPS will also be available, on a voluntary basis to all persons including self-employed professionals and others in the unorganized sector. In case of Central Government employees, the monthly contribution is 10% of the Salary and Dearness Allowance, which is matched by the Government. There will be no contribution from the Government in respect of individuals who are not Government employees. Main features of the scheme includes, inter-alia, a non-withdrawable tier-I account; a voluntary tier-II withdrawable account; normal exit at the age of 60 years for tier-I and a mandatory requirement to invest 40% of pension wealth on exit to purchase an annuity.

Allocation to Andhra Pradesh

975. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12th Finance Commission has not made any allocation to Andhra Pradesh on education and health sectors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any representation to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

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

(b) The Commission has recommended equalisation grants for education and health to those States whose

normative per capita expenditure was less than their group average.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The State Government has requested to extend grants-in-aid for improving education and health sector in Andhra Pradesh.

Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission and as a policy does not reopen the recommendations of the Commission.

Autonomous Bodies under Financial Discipline

976. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken some initiatives to take the autonomous bodies under financial discipline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total annual fund being made available to these autonomous bodies;

(d) whether his Ministry has written to all the Ministries to take the autonomous bodies under financial discipline;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any financial irregularities were found in any of the autonomous bodies during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken to ensure that the funds provided to these bodies are spend judiciously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) General Financial Rules, 2005 which have come into force from 1-7-2005 contain provisions for financial discipline of autonomous bodies.

(d) and (e) Ministries/Departments have been instructed not to sanction fresh grants-in-aid unless utilization certificates for the earlier grants are received.

(c), (f) and (g) The requisite information is not maintained centrally.

Centre of CSIR

977. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new centres for Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in the country specially in Tamil Nadu;

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

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

(d) the funds allocated by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir, there is no proposal to set up new centres of CSIR anywhere in the country.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Road Map for States' Borrowing

978. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is evolving a road map in the management of the borrowing programme of the State Governments from the market instead of obtaining loans from the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Consequent to the acceptance of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, Government of India has decided to dis-intermediate itself from the borrowing programme on behalf of states. From the current financial year the assistance from Govt. of India to State Governments to finance their annual plan will be in the form of grants only. State Governments will have to borrow directly from the market to finance the loan portion of Central Assistance. Government of India would intervene only for fiscally weak States that are unable to raise funds from the market.

Funds for Projects under CAPART

979. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1446 replied on March 11, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected and implemented?

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

(c) The reply to the Question involves collection of enormous data from Regional Offices and compilation of the same in CAPART Headquarters. The process is almost complete but authenticity of the information so collected is being rechecked to ensure accuracy.

(d) The information is likely to be ready by August, 2005.

Tsunami Warning System

980. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conference was held at Phuket in Thailand to set up a multi nodal system for early warnings against Tsunami in the Indian Ocean region and South East Asia;

(b) if so, the representatives of the Government of India participated in this conference; and

(c) the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A conference on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning arrangements was held at Phuket, Thailand in January 2005, by Thai Government and representatives of Government of India participated in it.

(c) The Phuket Ministerial Declaration on the way forward for the Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning arrangements for Indian Ocean was adopted.

Development of Textile Industry

981. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed in all the States, especially in Karnataka for development of textile industry;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various Centrally sponsored schemes in

all the States, especially in Karnataka during the last three years;

(c) whether the disbursed funds for various schemes and projects have been utilized by the State Govt. including Karnataka Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) In the textile sector, except for Wool, Silk and Handloom, there is no state-wise budget allocation or direct financial assistance by Ministry of Textiles to the State Governments.

(b) The state-wise Release and utilization of funds in respect of wool, silk and handloom schemes are at statement-I, statement-II and statement-III enclosed respectively.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The main reasons for non-utilization of funds sector-wise are as follows:—

(i) **Wool sector**—Migratory nature of the sheep flocks in drought condition, non-availability of good and proper quality of stud rams, lack of budgetary support by State Governments for sheep and wool development schemes;

(ii) **Silk sector**—The states tentatively finalise the proposals and seek funds towards the end of the financial year, tender procedure delays disbursement of subsidies/assistance to farmers, non-availability of matching share from State Governments, and non-availability of credit to meet beneficiary share; and

(iii) **Handloom sector**—Financial constraints by most of the States, and procedural delays.

Statement-I

State-wise Release of funds last three years (2001-02 to 2003-04)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Schemes/ Projects/Programmes	Name of Implementing Agency	Year				Total Funds allocated	(Rs. in lakhs)
				2001-02	2002-03	2003-04			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Gujarat	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd., Gandhinagar.		64.84	34.50		99.34	
		Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	—do—			133.50		133.50	
2.	Rajasthan	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Director, Animal Husbandry Department Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur.	24.21	42.76			66.97	
		Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar.		0.72			0.72	
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Integrated Wool Improvement Programme	H.P. State Wool Procurement and Marketing Federation Ltd., Shimla.	50.24	42.14	50.69		143.07	
		Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	—do—			125.05		125.05	
		Drier Plant	—do—						
		Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Animal Husbandry Department, Shimla.	4.83	0.35	7.85		7.85	
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	U.P. Poultry and Livestock Specialities Ltd., Lucknow.	30.16	16.08	25.50		71.74	
		Machine Shearing-cum-Training Project	—do—	0.72	0.54			1.26	

5. Maharashtra	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Punyashloka Ahilyadevi Maharashtra Mendhi Va Sheli Vikas Maharashtra Ltd., Pune.	10.80	9.68	20.48
	Pashmina Development [UNDP (CCF01)]	Wool Research Association, Thane.		65.00	65.00
6. Haryana	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Haryana State Livestock Dev. Board, Chandigarh.	64.80		137.89
7. Karnataka	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Karnataka Sheep and Sheep Product Development Board, Bangalore.	17.41	8.51	25.92
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme	—do—		0.47	13.41
	Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project	—do—	2.93	2.34	5.27
8. Andhra Pradesh	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Director, Animal Husbandry Deptt., Hyderabad	58.54	34.19	92.73
9. Jammu and Kashmir	Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Board, Jammu/LAHDC, Leh	30.90	59.85	112.06
	Sheep and Wool Improvement Programme (PM)	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Srinagar.		52.80	382.12
	Development Speciality Fibre (Pashmina)	Secy., Animal Husbandry Deptt., Jammu		60.75	60.75
	Pashmina Development [UNDP (CCF-1)]	Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (L.A.H.D.C.), Leh.		357.50	357.50
	Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Board, Jammu/LAHDC, Leh/Animal Husbandry.	1.80	4.88	6.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Board, Jammu.	0.71			0.71
		Mini Wool Scouring Plant	Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (L.A.H.D.C.), Leh.	10.50			10.50
10.	Uttaranchal	Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (IWIP)	CEO, Uttaranchal Sheep and Wool Dev. Board, Dehradun.		37.75	38.37	76.12
		Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh		7.80	1.42	9.22
		Development Speciality Fibre (Angora Dev.)	Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh			6.55	6.55

2001-02--9th Plan Scheme.

2002-03—9th Plan Scheme was continued to implement in first year of 10th Plan as 10th Plan scheme could not be approved.
2003-04—10th Plan Scheme.

Statement-II

State-wise details of amount spent/released and status of Utilisation of funds by different States under Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) (from 2002-03 to 2004-05)

Sl. No.	State	(Rs. in lakhs)														
		2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (Provisional)			Total fund Released		Total UC Recd.		% of UC Received	
		Fund Released	UC Received	Pending	Fund Released	UC Received	Pending	Fund Released	UC Received	Pending						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
1.	Karnataka	1506.05	1103.18	402.87	764.24	340.85	123.39	859.60	329.87	529.73	3129.89	2073.90	1055.99	0.6%		
2.	Tamil Nadu	62.32	59.99	2.33	152.33	145.71	6.62	191.14	2.29	188.85	405.79	207.99	197.80	51%		
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	280.14	251.50	6.64	313.61	229.04	84.57	282.84	42.20	220.64	836.59	522.74	313.85	62%		
4.	Andhra Pradesh	1505.86	1456.79	49.07	878.68	877.68	1	1155.72	664.22	491.15	3540.26	2998.69	541.57	85%		
5.	West Bengal	65.41	57.42	7.99	48.47	41.67	6.80	112.63	1.19	111.44	226.51	100.28	128.23	44%		
6.	Maharashtra	92.22	77.70	14.52	104.47	83.28	21.19	50.80	1.68	49.12	247.49	162.66	84.83	66%		
7.	Madhya Pradesh	52.59	39.97	12.62	74.92	66.95	7.97	79.05	14.25	64.80	206.56	121.17	85.39	59%		
8.	Orissa	50.62	27.27	23.35	82.29	55.29	27	24.32	0.32	24	157.23	82.88	74.35	53%		
9.	Bihar	106.27	106.27	0.00	38.30	38.30	0.00	86.69	35.54	51.15	231.26	180.11	51.15	78%		
10.	Uttar Pradesh	22.86	22.86	0.00	52.91	40.40	12.51	92.05	12.05	80.00	167.82	75.31	92.51	45%		
11.	Kerala	38.49	21.89	16.60	82.30	54.69	27.61	106.32	20.29	86.03	227.11	96.67	130.24	43%		
12.	Gujarat	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
13.	Punjab	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.39	0.39	0.00	—
14.	Haryana	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1.45	1.45	0.00	349.62	211.79	137.83	308.41	1.10	307.31	659.48	214.34	445.14	33%
16.	Rajasthan	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
17.	Chhattisgarh	12.13	12.13	0.00	125.23	87.21	38.02	156.35	10.82	145.53	293.71	110.16	183.55	38%
18.	Jharkhand	103.35	103.35	0.00	83.77	83.77	0.00			0.00	187.12	187.12	0.00	100%
19.	Uttaranchal	213.41	213.41	0.00	112.29	112.29	0.00	117.43	5.20	112.23	443.13	330.90	112.23	75%
20.	Sikkim	15.18	15.16	0.00	16.45	16.45	0.00	43.27		43.27	74.88	31.61	43.27	42%
21.	Assam	119.03	21.07	97.96	315.28	19.15	296.13	442.21	33.65	408.56	876.52	73.87	802.65	8%
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	0.00	2.62	48.79	42.21	6.58	88.63	3.60	85.03	140.04	45.81	94.23	33%
23.	Manipur	0.05	0.05	0.00	24.00	0.28	23.72	11.74		71.74	95.79	0.33	95.46	0%
24.	Meghalaya	33.11	0.48	32.63	87.39		87.39	162.62	0.42	162.20	283.12	0.90	262.22	0%
25.	Mizoram	84.49	75.80	8.69	106.97	32.40	74.57	141.71	3.15	138.56	333.17	111.35	221.82	33%
26.	Nagaland	2.49	2.04	0.45	32.31	10.81	13.50	106.45	31.64	74.81	141.25	52.49	88.76	37%
27.	Tripura	36.56	30.36	6.20	20.01	23.91	4.10	185.73		185.73	250.30	54.27	196.03	22%
Total		4386.68	3700.14	686.54	3922.63	2922.13	1000.50	4846.10	1213.87	3632.23	13155.41	7836.14	5319.27	60%

\$ Includes Rs. 50.00 lakh released towards Eri Raw Material Bank of CSB

UC=Utilization Certificate

Statement-III**Deen Dayal Hathkarhga Protsahan Yojana**

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Projects covered during the last 3 years	Amount released during the last 3 years	UC received during the last 3 years
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	115	1477.95625	1350.03625
2.	Bihar	11	12.62000	0.00000
3.	Chhattisgarh	59	76.54250	20.63250
4.	Delhi	00	0.00000	0.00000
5.	Gujarat	00	0.00000	0.00000
6.	Haryana	00	0.00000	0.00000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	88	157.85190	17.90190
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	00	0.00000	0.00000
9.	Jharkhand	00	0.00000	0.00000
10.	Karnataka	52	39.92250	13.04250
11.	Kerala	295	389.35000	0.00000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8	7.48000	0.00000
13.	Maharashtra	00	0.00000	0.00000
14.	Orissa	00	0.00000	0.00000
15.	Punjab	00	0.00000	0.00000
16.	Rajasthan	2	4.77000	0.00000
17.	Tamil Nadu	924	1727.99375	314.61325
18.	Uttar Pradesh	434	1247.06250	248.59250
19.	Uttaranchal	22	62.99900	32.36900
20.	West Bengal	94	154.51475	46.75475
Total : (A)		2104	5359.06315	2043.94265

1	2	3	4	5
N.E. States				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	12.83000	0.00000
2.	Assam	202	1091.85402	9.73402
3.	Manipur	392	1000.66198	537.14198
4.	Meghalaya	00	0.00000	0.00000
5.	Mizoram	00	0.00000	0.00000
6.	Nagaland	308	902.39000	268.25000
7.	Tripura	16	29.50000	29.50000
8.	Sikkim	00	0.00000	0.00000
Total (B)		920	3037.23600	844.62600
Grand Total (A+B)		3024	8396.29915	2888.56865

VAT

982. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to create a separate account under the head "Special Grant-in-Aid" to compensate States for any revenue loss after implementing VAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have reported fall in their revenue collection after implementation of VAT; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 5000 crore has been made under Major Head 3601-Grant-in-aid to States, under Demand No. 42 of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, in the Budget Estimate 2005-06, for providing Central

Compensation to the States, for revenue loss (if any), on account of introduction of VAT.

(c) and (d) As per the information furnished by the State Governments for the first quarter of the current financial year 2005-06, only the State of Bihar has incurred revenue loss, in absolute terms, compared to corresponding period of last year.

[Translation]

Black Money

983. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the laws/schemes related to search and seizure of black money;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Expert Group consisting of two Directors General of Income Tax (Investigations) and one Chief Commissioner of Income Tax to recommend special schemes to unearth black money, has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Expert Group has recommended certain measures/schemes to encourage disclosure of black money.

[English]

VAT

984. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the empowered committee of State Finance Ministers on VAT met on 9 July, 2005 to look into the VAT related issues and problems faced by States in implementing the VAT;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the committee has also taken any decision in the wake of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh projecting losses under the new regime;

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

(e) the final decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance

Ministers was held on 9th July, 2005, to discuss various VAT related issues. Gist of the decisions taken in the said meeting is as below:—

- (i) The Empowered Committee endorsed the revised instructions of the Government of India on compensation and advised the States to start filing their compensation claims accordingly.
- (ii) States may give exemption to sales from CSD canteens and claim compensation from Government of India depending on the clarification/confirmation from Department of Revenue.
- (iii) It was decided that there is a need to launch a publicity campaign to motivate consumers and traders to take and issue cash memo after every transaction. There is also need for a continuing campaign in non-VAT States.
- (iv) The impact of VAT on prices needs to be studied carefully and in detail.
- (v) The States may initiate selective and responsible enforcement. The punitive action need not be harsher than the earlier ones.
- (vi) Henceforth, the States should not deviate from approved rate of VAT or from uniform floor rates of sales tax.

(c) to (e) No specific decision was taken by the Empowered Committee in the wake of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh projecting losses under the new regime.

Global Development Network

985. SHRI RAJINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to set up Global Development Network to address the problem of national and rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development have not decided to set up Global Development Network.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

National Food for Work Programme

986. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started National Food for Work Programme;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof and the agencies involved therein indicating the details of the work entrusted to each of them;

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment and the extent to which poor people are likely to be benefited under this Programme, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the total amount allocated for the said Programme during the year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the National Food for Work Programme has been launched w.e.f. November 2004 in the identified 150 most backward Districts of the country. The objective of the programme is to provide additional supplementary wage employment to the rural poor. The nodal officer at the district level is, the District Collector. The executing agency may be any line Department, PRIs, reputed NGOs, SHGs, other agencies of Central or State Government as may be decided by the Collector.

(c) and (d) The present level of allocation under the NFFWP and the SGRY in the identified 150 most backward Districts based on the Ministry's assessment would ensure 100 days of employment to one person from each BPL rural household which comes to about one crore persons. However, keeping in view the objective of the NFFWP of providing additional supplementary wage employment, the performance is monitored in terms of mandays generated. As such, status indicating State-wise mandays generated during 2004-05 and 2005-06, (till June 2005) is at statement-I enclosed whereas the allocation and release of resource during 2005-06 is at statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	No. of Distts. Identified	Mandays Generated (in Lakhs)	
			2004-05 (Provisional)*	2005-06 (Upto June 05)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	39.51	88.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2.49	NR
3.	Assam	5	0.00	96.86
4.	Bihar	15	54.96	37.94

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	130.85	15.94
6.	Gujarat	6	3.82	NR
7.	Haryana	1	NR	NR
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1.74	NR
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	NR	NR
10.	Jharkhand	14	13.19	NR
11.	Karnataka	3	4.11	19.73
12.	Kerala	1	0.21	NR
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	114.07	143.95
14.	Maharashtra	11	NR	NR
15.	Manipur	1	5.21	NR
16.	Meghalaya	1	1.24	NR
17.	Mizoram	1	NR	NR
18.	Nagaland	1	NR	NR
19.	Orissa	18	260.27	NR
20.	Punjab	1	NR	NR
21.	Rajasthan	5	33.14	8.77
22.	Sikkim	1	1.06	0.35
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	28.62	NR
24.	Tripura	1	15.30	15.30
25.	Uttaranchal	2	0.50	0.42
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	29.99	28.48
27.	West Bengal	6	43.42	58.36
Total		150	783.68	514.99

NR : Not Reported.

*From November 2004 to March 2005.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State	No.of Distts. Identified	2004-05				2005-06				Releases (Upto 26-07-2005)
			Allocation		Releases		Allocation		Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Foodgrains (In MTs)	
			Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Foodgrains (In MTs)	Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Foodgrains (In MTs)	Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Foodgrains (In MTs)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	12214.72	125413	12214.72	125413	27199.63	301948	13599.82	150976	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	190.80	0	190.80	0	425.26	4724	0.00	0	
3.	Assam	5	16645.79	108984	16645.79	108984	37100.61	412219	0.00	0	
4.	Bihar	15	26411.54	272432	26456.54	272432	58812.89	655916	8753.81	75404	
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	10410.19	109045	10410.19	109045	23181.35	262540	10421.85	118297	
6.	Gujarat	6	3994.69	41042	3994.69	41042	8895.33	98814	0.00	0	
7.	Haryana	1	281.85	2894	281.85	2894	627.62	6968	0.00	0	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	303.91	3121	303.91	3121	676.75	7514	338.38	3758	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	494.26	5074	494.26	5074	1100.60	12216	298.29	3311	
10.	Jharkhand	14	22595.70	232004	22595.70	232004	50315.90	558580	0.00	0	
11.	Karnataka	3	2925.38	30038	2925.38	30038	6514.20	72320	0.00	0	
12.	Kerala	1	547.14	5618	547.14	5618	1218.36	13526	0.00	0	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	15808.32	162310	15808.32	162310	35201.76	390782	12319.07	136757	
14.	Maharashtra	11	15495.26	158998	15495.26	158998	34504.70	382807	981.55	10899	

15. Manipur	1	399.22	2614	399.22	2614	889.78	9887	444.89	4991
16. Meghalaya	1	543.85	3562	543.85	3562	1212.16	13473	0.00	0
17. Mizoram	1	95.52	626	95.52	626	212.89	2368	0.00	0
18. Nagaland	1	455.72	2984	455.72	2984	1015.71	11286	0.00	0
19. Orissa	18	22283.67	228863	22283.67	228863	49621.06	551018	22129.04	245742
20. Punjab	1	716.32	7356	716.32	7356	1595.09	17711	0.00	0
21. Rajasthan	5	3532.69	36269	3532.69	36269	7866.58	87322	3933.31	43661
22. Sikkim	1	315.73	2068	315.73	2068	703.70	7822	0.00	0
23. Tamil Nadu	4	4851.58	49815	4851.58	49815	10803.45	119936	0.00	0
24. Tripura	1	1543.37	10105	1543.37	10105	3439.89	38221	0.00	0
25. Uttaranchal	2	1014.86	10418	1014.86	10418	2259.88	25083	0.00	0
26. Uttar Pradesh	15	26378.11	270779	26378.11	270779	58738.53	651936	0.00	0
27. West Bengal	6	11449.81	117568	11449.81	117568	25496.32	283063	2934.28	32576
Total	150	201900.00	2000000	201945.00	2000000	449630.00	5000000	76154.29	826372

*[English]***Awareness of Tsunami**

987. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a nation-wise programme to create awareness of various aspects of Tsunami to school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan initiated by the Government to set up a Tsunami Warning System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tsunami has already been included as a part of education in Disaster Management in social sciences curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at the secondary stage. For classes VIII, IX, X a publication 'Towards a safer India' has been brought out. A chapter on Tsunami and basic skills for management of the disaster have been introduced for class X.

(c) It has been proposed to set up a Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning system with the following components;—

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locates in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.

- The establishment of a center for collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

Economy in Government Expenditure

988. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrears of wealth tax, income tax, central excise duty and NPAs have increased over the years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase recorded separately in each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons thereof together with steps taken to bring down the arrears;

(d) whether it is a fact that many of the projects have either been scrapped or not taken in hand because of paucity of funds; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to bring economy in Government expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of arrears of income tax (including corporate tax), central excise duty, wealth tax and NPAs with the percentage of increase/decrease recorded separately in each of the last three years are given below:—

Income Tax (Including Corporate tax)*

Year	Total amount of Income Tax arrears (Rs. in crores) (approx)	% increase/ decrease over last year
2002-2003	72290	(-)0.52
2003-2004	87886	21.57
2004-2005	100379	14.22

*Separate figures for outstanding income tax and corporate tax are not maintained.

Central Excise

Year	Total amount of Central Excise arrears (Rs. in crores) (approx)	% increase/ decrease over last year
2002-2003	11502	0.90%
2003-2004	12613	9.66%
2004-2005	12195	3.31%

Wealth Tax

Year	Total amount of Wealth Tax arrears (Rs. in crores) (approx)	% increase over last year
2001-2002	732	39.42
2002-2003	1057	44.39
2003-2004	794	(-)33.12
*2004-2005	289 (Provisional)	

*Figures available upto December, 2004 only.

Non-Performing Assets

Non-Performing Assets of scheduled commercial banks have come down in the last three years. the details are given below:—

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Gross	Net
2002	70861 (10.4)	35554 (5.5)
2003	68714 (8.8)	32764 (4.4)
2004	64786 (7.2)	24617 (2.9)

*Figures in brackets are percentage of gross/net NPAs to gross/net advances.

(c) Realisation and generation of arrears is an ongoing process. The Government has constituted Task Forces to develop and implement multi-pronged strategy for effecting substantial recovery from arrears of direct and indirect taxes. Further, so far as the direct taxes are concerned, steps taken include making it statutorily obligatory for the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals to decide such appeals, where stay has been granted, within 180 days of the date on which the stay order was passed; restricting the powers of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) to set-aside a case or refer it back to the Assessing Officer for fresh orders; issuing comprehensive instruction for recovery of tax demand to the field units; raising the monetary ceilings in respect of various I-T authorities for exercising the powers to write-off irrecoverable arrears; setting up of Special Units for recovery of outstanding tax dues, etc.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, a special multi-pronged drive has been launched to recover the arrears. Further steps being taken include speedy action for recovery of realizable arrears of duty, monitoring cases before different Courts/Tribunals, moving petitions before Courts and other appellate authorities for early hearing and disposal of pending cases and expeditious disposal of cases pending with Commissioner (Appeals).

(d) As per Information furnished by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division), 8 projects which have been dropped, inter alia, due to paucity of funds are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that alongwith other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time. The Ministry of Finance issued guidelines on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity on 24th September, 2004. These measures, inter-alia, include all profit making PSEs to declare the minimum dividend of 20% on equity or post

tax profits; prohibiting any deviations of expenditure from the prescribed budgetary ceilings; a mandatory 10% cut in the budgetary allocations for non-plan non-salary expenditure as well as the expenditure on petrol/oil/lubricants and travel; revision of non-tax receipts so as to ensure recovery of the cost of services; ban on the creation of posts; reduction in the number of sanctioned posts; restrictions on purchase of new vehicles; restrictions on foreign travel and on

entertainment/hospitality expenses; review by the administrative Ministries/Departments of release of funds to those Autonomous Institutions having substantial balances unutilised with them and kept in deposit with the Banks and reduction in a graded manner of release of deficit grants to those Autonomous Institutions which have potential of raising funds. Ministries/Departments have been requested to ensure strict compliance of these austerity instructions.

Statement

Projects Scrapped/not taken up due to paucity of funds

Sl. No.	Projects	Capacity	Original Date of Approval	Date of Commissioning	Anticipated date of Commissioning	Approved Cost (Rs. Crore)		Anticipated Cost (Rs. Crore)		Cumulative Expenditure (Rs. Crore)	Remarks
						Original	Latest				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Coal											
1.	Karma OC Maharashtra	0.80 MTY	12/1990	3/1996		47.4	47.40	1.64			To start after land acquisition problem solved and funds are made available.
2.	Parez East, UG, Hazaribagh	0.30 MTY	9/1992	3/1999		29.34	29.34	1.10			
3.	Tarmi, OC, Bokaro Jharkhand	0.50 MTY	5/1991	3/1995		29.55	29.55	0.23			
4.	Hindeger OC Hazaribagh	0.78 MTY	3/1991	3/1995		41.48		0.23			
5.	Viswakarma OC Dhanbad	0.7 MTY	8/1997	3/2001	3/2002	44.74	44.74	0.84			Land and funds problems
6.	Rajmahal, OC, Gonda	1.5 MTY	9/1996	3/2002		46.86	46.86	0.00			Less off-take by NTPC and shortage of funds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Kalidaspur, UG, Bankura, WB	0.54 MTY	11/1986 11/1995	3/1993 3/1998	3/2004	47.96 74.05	37.97		Included in the Rajmahal optimisation project which is under formulation.
8.	Modernisation of Rajabagan Dock West Bengal	SB 27000 T SI No. 106/YR	7/1988 12/1992	2/1993 9/1995	6/2002	66.09	71.34	3.91	Foreclosed due to funds constraints. Funds could not be tied up with Neitherland Government.

Agreement on Power Sector

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

- (a) whether an agreement has been signed between European Union and India on Energy;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India by signing this agreement?

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

(a) to (c) An India-EU Energy Panel has been constituted as a follow-up to a decision taken at the 5th India-EU Summit at the Hague in November, 2004. The inaugural meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel took place in Brussels on June 29, 2005. The energy Panel adopted the Terms of References, exchanged views on respective energy demand projects, current and future supply situation and possible strategies for development of secure and sustainable energy supply.

The Energy Panel took the decision to set up Working Groups in the following areas which were identified as being beneficial:—

- Coal and clean coal conversion technologies.
- Energy efficiency and renewable energies.
- Fusion energy including India's participation in ITER.

Pending Proposals under PMGSY

990. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are pending for environmental and forestry clearance;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Rural Development has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

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

(e) the other steps taken towards early clearance of pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise number of cases pending for forest clearance are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Number of cases pending
1.	Chhattisgarh	53
2.	Goa	4
3.	Gujarat	56
4.	Himachal Pradesh	448
5.	Karnataka	4
6.	Madhya Pradesh	67
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Orissa	6
9.	Sikkim	16
10.	Tamil Nadu	2
11.	Uttaranchal	30
12.	West Bengal	2
Total		692

(c) to (e) Rural Roads is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Government/District Panchayat to ensure that lands are available for taking up the proposed road works, including obtaining forest clearance, wherever required, from the concerned Forest Authority. Ministry of Environment and Forests, at the

time of formulation of PMGSY as a 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme', had stated that in case of involvement of forest land for construction of roads, clearance is needed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is statutory. The Ministry had further stated that they have delegated powers to their six Regional Offices and in case all information is complete, clearance can be obtained within a period of six weeks. All State Governments have, accordingly, been advised by this Ministry on 23rd June, 2003, to process such cases well in time and send reports so that the matter can be taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in case of very substantial delay.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

991. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton/man-made Fiber Textiles Mills in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to modernize these mills;

(c) if so, the steps taken to upgrade/modernize these mills; and

(d) the fund earmarked to develop the existing mills during the last three years, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The number of cotton/man-made Fiber Textiles Mills (non-SSI) in the country as on 30-06-05 was 1783.

(b) and (d) In order to provide impetus to the modernization of textile and jute industry, Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which is in operation since 01-04-1999 to 31-03-2007. A brief of this Scheme is enclosed as statement.

(d) Under this Scheme, fund is provided in the shape of loan at the reduced interest rate in respect of those mills which need modernisation and approach

nodal agencies/co-opted institutions with a project which is in conformity with this Scheme. Loans under the Scheme are provided by the nodal agencies/co-opted institutions as per their financial norms. The Government funding, however, is limited to providing capital subsidy or reimbursement of 5% interest charged by the financial institutions/banks. Accordingly, the funds provided by the Government during the last three years under this Scheme is as follows:—

Year	Amount (In Rs. Crores)
2002-03	202.59
2003-04	249.07
2004-05	283.60

Statement

Scheme for the Technology Upgradation of Textile Mills

In order to provide impetus to the modernization of textile and jute industry, Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which is in operation since 01-04-1999 to 31-03-2007. 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. In addition to this the following incentives are also provided under this Scheme:—

- Coverage of exchange rate erosion not exceeding 5% points per annum in respect of foreign currency loans instead of 5% interest support;
- For small scale textile and jute industrial units, an option to avail of either 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) or the existing 5% interest reimbursement;

(iii) For small scale powerloom units, an additional option of credit linked 20% capital subsidy for powerloom and weaving preparatory machinery, upto a cost of Rs. 100 lakh, with the facility to obtain credit from an enlarged credit network that includes all cooperative banks and other genuine non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(iv) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector w.e.f. 20-04-05, a credit linked capital subsidy @ 10% in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

Objective of the Scheme:

The main objective of the scheme is to make available funds for the Indian textile industry for technology upgradation of existing units as well as to set up new units with state of the art technology so that its viability and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets may enhance.

Scope of the Scheme:

The following segments of the textile and jute industry are covered under the Scheme:—

(a) Textile industry covering:—

- (i) Silk reeling and twisting
- (ii) Wool scouring and combing
- (iii) Synthetic filament yarn texturing, crimping and twisting
- (iv) Spinning
- (v) Viscose Filament Yarn (VFY)
- (vi) Weaving, knitting including non-wovens, fabric embroidery and technical textiles
- (vii) Garment/made-up manufacturing
- (viii) Processing of fibres, yarns, fabrics, garments and made-ups

(b) Jute Industry:—

Nodal Agencies:

The nodal agencies under the scheme for different segments are as follows:—

Segment	Nodal Agency
Textile Industry (Excluding SSI Sector)	IDBI
SSI Textile Sectors	SIDBI
Jute Industry	IFCI

Type of textile machinery eligible:

Generally, only new machinery which has been listed under the scheme, will be permitted. However, in certain categories, which are also listed, import of second hand machinery with a minimum residual life of 10 years by the eligible applicant unit will be permitted subject to maximum expired life (vintage) of 10 years as reckoned from the year of manufacture. Eligibility of any other textile machinery equal to or higher than the benchmarked technology not listed under the scheme or developed in the course of the operation of TUFs will be, suo motu, or, on reference, specifically determined by the Government.

General eligibility conditions:

Any textile unit, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of funds under the Scheme. However, the following types of units are eligible under the scheme:—

- (i) Existing unit with or without expansion and new units.
- (ii) Existing units can modernise and/or expand with the state-of-the-art technology.
- (iii) New units must set up their entire facilities only with the appropriate eligible technology.

- (iv) An unit can undertake one or more activities in an integrated manner as specified in the scheme.

Functioning of the Scheme:

Loans under the scheme are extended by the nodal agencies/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme and financial norms of the Financial Institutions concerned. The Government funding is limited to reimbursement of 5% interest charged by the financial institutions/banks (IDBI, SIDBI, IFCI) on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Monitoring and Review of the Scheme:

For monitoring and review, an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) has been constituted. This committee normally meets on a quarterly basis. A Technical Advisory and Monitoring Committee (TAMC) under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner has also been constituted to interpret, or clarify any technical issues raised by any of the nodal agencies regarding the eligibility of any unit or machinery under the scheme. The TAMC generally meets every month. TAMC also provides technical advise to the IMSC and also monitors the progress on a regular basis.

Outlay for Rural Electrification

992. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation during 2005-06;
- (b) whether outlay for the current year has been reduced as compared to the preceding year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether some States particularly Gujarat is likely to be affected adversely due to this reduction; and

- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

- (a) An amount of Rs. 1100 crore has been allocated for Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for 2005-06. However the Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance to enhance it to Rs. 2500 crore.

- (b) No, Sir. During 2004-05, under Kutir Jyoti Programme Rs. 200 crore were released and under the scheme of "Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh villages and One Crore Households" another Rs. 200 crore were released, totalling the amount released under rural electrification to Rs. 400 crore.

- (c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

- (d) and (e) No Sir, the question do not arise.

Funds allocation for Annapurna Scheme

993. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated for implementation of Annapurna Scheme so far, State-wise;
- (b) whether requests have been received from certain States to enhance the funds as well as foodgrains under the scheme;
- (c) if so, whether the States have also requested the Union Government to meet the transport charges for lifting and distribution of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government to both the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The details of the State-wise funds allocated for implementation of Annapurna Scheme during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in the statement enclosed. After the transfer of National Social Assistance

Programme (NSAP) and Annapurna Scheme to the State Plan with effect from 2002-03, scheme-wise allocation is not made by this Ministry. The total allocation for the transferred schemes is decided by the Planning Commission. The funds are being released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States in accordance with the allocation made by the Planning Commission to States to augment their efforts in this regard. The ACA is a combined allocation for the implementation of NSAP and Annapurna Scheme. The States have requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes. The Ministry of Rural Development has no budget provision for the transferred Schemes.

(b) State Government of Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh have requested the Department of Food and Public Distribution for enhancement of their respective allocation of foodgrains under the scheme.

(c) No such request has been received from any of the State Governments.

(d) The Department of Food and Public Distribution has reported that the State Government of Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh have requested to enhance their annual allocation from 12,635.16 MT to 24,758.16 MT, 6593.00 MT to 24,000.00 MT and 11,184.00 MT to 24000.00 MT respectively. The letter received from the Department of Food and Public Distribution in this regard has been forwarded to the Planning Commission as the total combined allocation for the transferred schemes is done by the Planning Commission. Also an amendment in the Guidelines Regarding Transferred Schemes Captioned National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Annapurna Scheme to the States/UTs has been proposed to the Planning Commission.

Statement

State-wise Allocation under Annapurna Scheme during 2000-01 and 2001-02

(Rs. inLakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation 2000-01	Allocation 2000-01
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	624.43	979.59
2.	Bihar	1116.20	1167.65
3.	Chhattisgarh**	0.00	223.51
4.	Goa	6.03	6.31
5.	Gujarat	296.94	0.00
6.	Haryana	115.64	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	51.05	53.41
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	68.47	71.63
9.	Jharkhand	368.08	385.05

10. Karnataka	455.86	0.00
11. Kerala	301.36	315.25
12. Madhya Pradesh	802.64	0.00
13. Maharashtra	897.51	838.88
14. Orissa	434.15	454.16
15. Punjab	83.48	0.00
16. Rajasthan	318.24	665.57
17. Tamil Nadu	576.59	603.17
18. Uttar Pradesh	1681.92	2212.40
19. Uttaranchal**	0.00	89.03
20. West Bengal	641.04	670.59
Sub-Total	8839.64	8836.20

North Eastern States

21. Arunachal Pradesh	39.90	39.90
22. Assam	577.63	577.63
23. Manipur	71.99	71.99
24. Meghalaya	77.62	77.62
25. Mizoram	21.68	21.68
26. Nagaland	56.38	56.38
27. Sikkim	20.82	20.82
28. Tripura	124.46	124.46
Sub-Total	990.48	990.48
Grand Total	9830.12	9826.68

** Funds for Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal were released to Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively before the creation of these new States. Allocation for new States have not been received.

UCO Bank

994. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Kolkata based UCO Bank is planning to select one out of the five short-listed Global Consultants for restructuring the organisation;

(b) whether the consultant is to carry out a SWOT analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and identify CSF (critical success factors);

(c) whether the study will assess the present status of the banking industry and UCO bank position in the existing set up;

(d) whether Government is allowing a Global Consultant to interfere in the Indian Banking financial affairs on the plea of restructuring; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

995. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer reply given to unstarred question No. 1471 replied on 11-3-2005 and to state:

(a) whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

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

Foreign Banks

996. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign banks found guilty of transfer pricing irregularities and have been probed by Transfer Pricing Directorate so far; and

(b) the action taken against the erring foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) 20 cases.

(b) In 19 cases aggregate adjustments have been made to the transfer price amounting to Rs. 119.79 crores. In one case penalty proceedings have been initiated for imposition of penalties under Section 271AA of the Income-tax Act for failure to keep and maintain information and documents in respect of international transaction and under Section 271BA for failure to furnish report from an accountant.

[English]

Micro Power Project

997. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the feasibility of implementing micro-electric power projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any in depth study in this regard;

(c) whether any State Government has implemented this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) It is feasible to implement micro-electric power projects using both conventional and non-conventional sources of energy. The Electricity Act, 2003 has put in place a highly liberal framework for generation. There is no requirement of licensing for generation.

Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is providing various incentives to set up micro-electric power projects using renewable sources of energy such as biomass, solar, wind, small hydro etc. These projects are being implemented by various State Governments, State Agencies, Local Bodies, NGOs etc.

Besides, Ministry of Science and Technology is also encouraging promotion of micro hydel projects (upto 100 KW) based on indigenously developed cross flow turbines.

**BPL People Benefited under
Indira Aawas Yojana**

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

wise number of rural poor people living below poverty line in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu who have been benefited under Indira Aawas Yojana during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): State-wise details of number of BPL households benefited (houses constructed) and district-wise number of houses constructed for the BPL households in Tamil Nadu under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) for the last three years and current year are given at statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

*District-wise number of BPL households benefited (House constructed) under the
Indira Aawas Yojana during last three years and current year*

TAMIL NADU

Unit in Nos.

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts	Number of BPL Households benefited (Houses constructed) during the year			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Coimbatore	2978	2753	2804	0
2.	Cuddalore	4552	2854	3798	0
3.	Dharmapuri	1924	1087	1278	99
4.	Dindigul	3425	2732	2822	0
5.	Erode	3927	3818	1206	0
6.	Kancheepuram	2558	3223	4715	78
7.	Kanniyakumari	3027	2828	195	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Karur	484	458	1744	22
9.	Krishnagiri #	0	0	1448	0
10.	Madurai	2162	1715	2153	0
11.	Nagapattinam	1615	1294	2511	0
12.	Namakkal	879	818	1261	0
13.	Nilgiris	1825	1628	422	0
14.	Perambalur	1210	764	1702	50
15.	Pudukkottai	2603	2649	1718	0
16.	Ramanathapuram	4479	3907	946	0
17.	Salem	2174	1982	2906	0
18.	Sivagangai	2351	2396	785	53
19.	Tanjavur	3443	3133	2230	352
20.	Theni	476	383	460	3
21.	Tiruchirapalli	1119	908	1776	0
22.	Tirunelveli	1608	1544	1220	0
23.	Tiruvallur	1674	1637	3778	0
24.	Tiruvannamalai	2327	2560	1249	0
25.	Tiruvannamalai	1248	1267	2180	0
26.	Tuticorin	2508	2532	1107	0
27.	Vellore	2613	2542	2942	17
28.	Villupuram	2160	2479	6041	0
29.	Virudunagar	1039	1178	1290	0
Total		62988	57069	58687	674

Newly created district during 2004-05.

Statement-II

State-wise number of BPL households benefited (House constructed) under the Indira Aawas Yojana during last three years and current year

Unit in Nos.

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Year-wise number of houses constructed/Upgraded			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	126837	105295	126039	17634
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3423	6646	4162	0
3.	Assam	65587	78752	129495	12775
4.	Bihar	172524	183792	252026	26866
5.	Chhattisgarh	16255	18302	20134	1795
6.	Goa	269	233	428	169
7.	Gujarat	27053	31189	33654	3718
8.	Haryana	9840	9175	8845	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3413	3841	4749	52
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5749	8412	7252	0
11.	Jharkhand	40482	60290	66081	0
12.	Karnataka	42452	49833	50707	2823
13.	Kerala	32107	39825	39831	6910
14.	Madhya Pradesh	63691	65768	75365	5372
15.	Maharashtra	85970	103135	105449	7635
16.	Manipur	2571	1666	5820	0
17.	Meghalaya	3305	6465	4665	0
18.	Mizoram	1305	2202	2052	0
19.	Nagaland	6698	5966	5099	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	444669	154205	89891	2415
21.	Punjab	5651	6050	4460	475
22.	Rajasthan	37592	41888	31070	1300
23.	Sikkim	1149	2041	1584	137
24.	Tamil Nadu	62988	57069	58687	674
25.	Tripura	10321	15003	12132	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	177190	190950	199096	5923
27.	Uttaranchal	11799	21666	26376	2460
28.	West Bengal	86709	90601	150515	10220
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	532	671	60	0
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	54	14	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	48	7	9	3
32.	Lakshadweep	5	14	16	0
33.	Pondicherry	403	264	88	0
Total		1548641	1361230	1515837	109356

[Translation]

Service Tax in Maharashtra

999. SHRI BAPUHARI CHAURE:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for collection of service tax in Maharashtra during the year 2004-05;

(b) actual amount recovered under service tax Head in Maharashtra by the end of January 2005;

(c) the steps taken to cover all the service providers under the service tax net;

(d) whether the Government is of the view that the service tax is likely to continue as a major source of income; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Budget Estimate and the revised Estimate of service tax collection for the whole country for the financial year 2004-05 was Rs. 14150 crore. Targets of service tax collection are not fixed state-wise.

(b) As per reports received from the field formations, Rs. 3236 crore was collected as service tax from the state of Maharashtra upto January 2005 (April, 2004 to January, 2005).

(c) A number of steps have been taken to cover all the potential service providers and includes the following:—

- (i) Street to street surveys were conducted to identify new assesseees for service tax.
- (ii) To encourage registration of service tax providers, an amnesty scheme was launched on 1st October, 2004 under which those service providers, who had not obtained service tax registration and applied for fresh registration, were exempted from imposition of penalty.
- (iii) A project plan was circulated to all the field formations, encompassing the updated internet sites of 71 services which are under the tax net. The field formations were directed to identify and locate the unregistered service providers from these internet sites and to register them.

(iv) Wide publicity was given through media.

(d) and (e) Collection of service tax for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 14,134 crore (provisional) and the Budget Estimate fixed for the financial year 2005-06 is Rs. 17,500 crore.

Irregularities In Construction of Rural Roads

1000. MOHD. SHAHID:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has raised certain objections to the amount spent on the construction of rural roads as reported in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated June 6, 2005;

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

(c) the irregularities noticed therein;

(d) the total amount spent on it by the Government so far;

(e) whether the amount spent on the above scheme is more than the amount sanctioned;

(f) is so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government proposes to withhold the amount allocated for the said scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the amount to be spent on the development of rural roads each year has been fixed; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Finance has not communicated any objections to the Ministry of Rural Development about the expenditure on construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has released an amount of Rs. 12954.69 crore upto 15-07-2005 for implementation of PMGSY.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The expenditure on rural roads under the PMGSY each year is governed by the budget allocation for the Scheme.

(i) The budget allocations for PMGSY during the years 2000-01 to 2005-06, year-wise, are given below:—

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. crore)
2000-01	2500
2001-02	2500
2002-03	2500
2003-04	2325
2004-05	2148+320 (for ADB/WB)
2005-06	3809.5+425.5 (for ADB/WB)

[English]

Revision of Companies Act, 1956

1001. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee headed by Dr. J.J. Irani to revise the Companies Act, 1956 has submitted its recommendations to the government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the schedule laid down for the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee headed by Dr. J.J. Irani has submitted its recommendations to the Government on 31st May 2005.

(b) and (c) The report submitted by Dr. J.J. Irani covered a wide range of issues including registration of companies, management and board governance, investor protection, access to capital, accounts and audit, mergers and acquisitions, investigation, offences and penalties and restructuring and liquidation etc. The report of the Committee is on the website of the Ministry www.dca.nic.in. The recommendations are under examination. Proposals for amendment/revision of the Companies Act, 1956 would be brought up for enactment at the appropriate time.

India Shining Media Campaign

1002. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance had incurred an unauthorised expenditure of Rs. 63.23 crore for the 'India Shining' media campaign as brought out by C and AG in its report;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to conduct an enquiry against the erring officials for incurring such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Cotton

1003. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present exports are cotton dominated although there was a higher demand for polyester products;

(b) whether Industry urged Government to give priority to synthetic textiles sector to put the growth of

the synthetic yarns and fibres sector on a high priority as the textile industry is gearing up to meet fresh challenges in the post Multi Fibre arrangement regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase its share in world textiles and garment exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The exports of cotton based textile items (cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and readymade garments) were US \$ 7769.7 million whereas the exports of such man-made textile items were US \$ 2557.6 million in 2004-05. This has been due to the reason that India enjoys intrinsic advantages in cotton due to strong raw material base of home grown cotton.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Suggestions have been received from the industry for reduction in fiscal duties on synthetic fibres/yarns, making available raw materials at international prices, increased enhanced benefits under Export Promotion Schemes, etc.

(d) In order to capitalize the opportunities to meet the increasing global trend for consumption of man-made and blended textile items, the Government has taken a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry. Some of the important initiatives taken are:—

(i) The excise duty structure of textile industry has been rationalized. The excise duty on polyester filament yarn/partially oriented yarn/polyester texturised yarn has been reduced in the Budget 2005-06 from 24% to 16%. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

(ii) The import of a large number of capital goods of synthetic fibre/yarn industry has been

allowed under concessional customs duty of 5%.

(iii) The Government has de-reserved the ready-made garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iv) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(v) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(vi) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

(vii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(viii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(ix) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(x) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

**Simplifying the Procedure of Releasing
Money of the Deceased Depositors**

1004. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the banks have not promptly released the balance amounts from the deceased depositors accounts to survivors names in either 'survivor or nominee' clause;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI has issued any instructions to banks to simplify the procedures regarding the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the compliance of the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Committee on Procedure and Performance Audit on Public Services (CPPAPS) constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed that the tortuous procedures, particularly those applicable to the family of a deceased depositor, caused considerable distress to such family members. In the light of the recommendations of the CPPAPS, RBI have issued instructions on 09th June, 2005 to banks for compliance which include access to

balance in deposit accounts, premature termination of term deposit accounts, treatment of flows in the name of deceased depositor, access to the safe deposit lockers/safe custody articles, time limit for settlement of claims, customer guidance and publicity etc.

Public Investment in Rural Infrastructure

1005. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the object of boosting public investment in rural infrastructure as envisaged under the Common Minimum Programme has been fulfilled; and

(b) the amount invested in different areas of rural infrastructure during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) For Rural Infrastructure development, the programme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development include the programmes of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), a Rural Housing Programme under the name of Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) and Rural Water Supply Programme. The budget allocation under PMGSY has increased from Rs. 2468 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 4235 crores in 2005-06, under IAY from Rs. 2460.67 crores to Rs. 2775.00 crores and under Rural Drinking Water Supply from Rs. 1921.10 crores to Rs. 4050.00 crores.

(b) The amount released during reach of the last three years under the above programmes has been as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Programme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
PMGSY	2469.00	2288.26	2235.72
IAY	1628.52	1871.07	2883.10
Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme	2110.00	2585.00	2900.00

Promotion of Rural Business Hubs

1006. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Government Industry Council for promoting rural business hubs in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the areas identified therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to be made operational indicating monitoring agency appointed therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

**Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking
Water Mission**

1007. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works initiated under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in the country during the last two years and current year; and

(b) the amount provided and the number of villages benefitted under these schemes during the said period. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission aims at

ensuring sustained availability of adequate quantity of safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities in the rural areas of the country. In the rural drinking water sector, the Mission administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to render financial assistance to the States for the various activities viz.

- to cover not covered and partially covered habitations and rural schools
- to take up operation and maintenance of the existing rural water supply schemes
- to tackle water quality problems, and to establish water testing laboratories
- to take up projects on sustainability
- to take up Research and Development projects
- to take up Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Human Resource Development (HRD) activities and to set up Management Information System (MIS) for planning, monitoring and implementation of various activities in the sector.

In the rural sanitation sector, the Mission administers a Centrally sponsored scheme namely Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and renders financial assistance to the States by sanctioning Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects. Funds are also provided for HRD and IEC in the sanitation sector.

(b) The State-wise details of the funds released under ARWSP during the last two years and in the current year as on 25-7-2005 and the habitations benefitted are given in statement-I enclosed. TSC projects are sanctioned at the district level covering the entire rural area of the district. The State-wise details of the funds released under CRSP and the TSC projects sanctioned during last two years and in the current year as on 25-7-05 are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Amount released under various components* of ARWSP (Rs. in Crore)			Number of habitations benefited (as reported by States/UT's)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (as on 25-7-05)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (as on 25-7-05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	314.84	371.97	126.24	69732	69732	69732
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.76	69.47	50.04	3997	4045	4140
3.	Assam	105.62	140.31	84.37	70179	70250	70317
4.	Bihar	36.05	96.67	85.86	105340	105340	105340
5.	Chhattisgarh	31.78	26.90	29.90	50379	50379	50379
6.	Goa	0.13	0.00	0.15	392	392	395
7.	Gujarat	145.68	113.27	69.96	30240	30268	30269
8.	Haryana	34.83	29.64	20.41	6745	6745	6745
9.	Himachal Pradesh	64.86	66.03	59.80	44793	45367	45367
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	150.59	150.22	118.97	10199	10407	10524
11.	Jharkhand	25.01	31.66	3.68	99991	100096	100096
12.	Karnataka	183.50	198.94	100.31	56682	56682	56682
13.	Kerala	70.14	62.80	31.86	9535	9763	9763
14.	Madhya Pradesh	112.17	120.27	85.17	109489	109489	109489
15.	Maharashtra	230.02	292.62	165.38	85405	85538	85603
16.	Manipur	17.02	21.03	1.63	2791	2791	2791
17.	Meghalaya	22.14	30.35	1.86	8452	8623	8624
18.	Mizoram	14.75	20.02	14.18	807	807	807
19.	Nagaland	18.08	20.48	14.56	1453	1484	1484
20.	Orissa	84.53	103.22	70.68	114099	114099	114099

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	26.73	35.33	21.72	12260	12522	12646
22.	Rajasthan	297.46	370.66	252.12	88986	90972	91646
23.	Sikkim	6.31	8.32	5.99	1679	1679	1679
24.	Tamil Nadu	134.92	161.59	68.78	66631	66631	66631
25.	Tripura	27.04	23.96	17.54	7412	7412	7412
26.	Uttar Pradesh	135.10	169.92	16.21	243508	243508	243508
27.	Uttaranchal	27.63	38.94	32.41	30933	30951	30944
28.	West Bengal	109.46	101.66	77.18	79036	79036	79036
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.11	20.37	0.13	504	504	504
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.35	0.52	0.08	486	497	497
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	32	32	32
32.	Delhi	0.01	0.00	0.06	219	219	219
33.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.00	0.00	10	10	10
34.	Pondicherry	0.12	1.00	0.06	227	267	267
35.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	18	18	18
Total		2463.75	2898.14	1626.48	1412641	1416555	1417695

* Normal, DDP, PM's programme, Sector reform/swajaldhara, calamity relief.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State	Amount released under CRSP (Rs. in crores)			TSC projects sanctioned (No. of districts benefited)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (as on 25-7-05)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (as on 25-7-05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46.60	33.62	4.01	4	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	1.00	0.00	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1.99	2.55	0.00	3	1	4
4.	Bihar	0.00	1.20	0.00	0	0	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	11.00	4.16	2	1	1
6.	Goa		1.35	0.00	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0.00	36.90	1.89	0	20	0
8.	Haryana	0.62	8.11	0.00	12	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.50	0.86	0	0	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.76	10.45	0.00	10	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	2.95	19.47	20.78	0	16	0
12.	Karnataka	0.00	4.62	30.60	0	15	9
13.	Kerala	8.64	8.06	1.07	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	46.40	22.43	5.34	30	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	7.25	34.93	3.65	13	0	0
16.	Manipur	1.04	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2.21	0.00	0.00	2	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0.12	0.60	0.00	1	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.63	0.00	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	3.44	45.82	7.34	0	15	0
21.	Punjab	0.00	7.00	0.00	9	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	1.19	7.01	22.27	0	20	0
23.	Sikkim	0.38	0.74	0.00	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	27.71	29.72	36.52	6	1	9
25.	Tripura	8.19	3.69	0.00	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31.20	34.75	15.05	29	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Uttaranchal	0.13	5.03	0.57	7	0	0
28.	West Bengal	11.81	15.67	23.97	3	0	4
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
30.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.47	0.00	0	0	0
Total		202.63	347.32	178.08	132	89	33

[English]

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

1008. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has devised new route for foreign investors in power trading business and recommended 100 per cent FDI in power trading through automatic approval route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the power sector of the country?

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

(a) to (c) It has been recommended to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that the Sectoral Policy on FDI be further liberalized by including FDI upto 100% in trading of electricity as a distinct activity on automatic approval route subject to compliance of the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the regulations of the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Reliance Group

1009. MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI is conducting any enquiry into the irregularities found in Reliance Group of Industries;

(b) if so, the status of such enquiry as on date;

(c) the time by which this enquiry is likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

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

[English]

Poverty Alleviation Programme

1010. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme with the constructive cooperation of the business houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include Skill Development Employment Generation and setting up of rural industries and participation of the private sector in the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the incentives/assistance proposed to be provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations for implementing Poverty Alleviation Schemes/Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal to formulate a Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme with the constructive cooperation of the business houses. However, the Ministry is promoting public private partnership in Rural Development and is exploring ways to develop viable and sustainable livelihood generation models with the help of reputed players in the private sector.

(e) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development, provides incentives/assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations for implementing Poverty Alleviation Schemes/Programmes.

[Translation]

Vacancies of Public Prosecutors

1011. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of public prosecutors in various High Courts in the country particularly in Delhi;

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

(c) whether any step has been taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage of public prosecutors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to

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

[English]

Setting up of Power Projects

1012. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up an action plan to set up some power projects during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of power projects proposed to be set up during the Plan period; and

(c) the additional capacity likely to be added to the central sector power projects?

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

(a) to (c) As per assessment made by Central Electricity Authority, 1,00,000 MW was required to be added in Tenth and Eleventh Plans. A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW has been set for the Tenth Plan and over 60,000 MW is envisaged for addition during Eleventh Plan.

Identification of power projects for development and commissioning in subsequent Plan periods, sector-wise, is an ongoing exercise.

Empowerment of Rural Women

1013. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of various steps/measures taken by the Government for upliftment and empowerment of rural women in the country during the Tenth Plan Period alongwith fund allocation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of rural development

and poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas of the country. While framing the guidelines of various programmes of the Ministry, special components for women have been provided in order to ensure their socio-economic development. The Ministry is implementing a wage employment programme of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) under which it has been stipulated that 30% of employment opportunities should be reserved for women. The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self-employment programme to organize the rural poor into self-help groups to enable them to set up sustainable self-employment. Under this programme, the 50% of the groups formed in each block are to be exclusively for women which will account for at least 40% of the total Swarozgar. Under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), assistance is provided for construction of houses for Below Poverty Line people in the rural areas. Under the guidelines of this programme, it has been stipulated that houses are to be allotted in the name of women members of the household, or alternatively, in the joint names of husband and wife. Similarly under Rural Sanitation Programme, it has been provided that 10% of the allocated funds can be utilized for construction and maintenance of public latrines for women and under Rural Water Supply also due representation in village level committees is given to the rural women.

[Translation]

Akshay Urja for Rural Electrification

1014. MOHD. SHAHID:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to provide electricity to 25 thousand villages in the country by 2009 under the 'Akshay Urja' as reported in Dainik Jagran dated June 17, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Union Government on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A Programme for electrification with non-conventional energy sources, of unelectrified remote census villages where grid extension is likely to be either unfeasible or not cost effective is being implemented by the Ministry. The initial lists provided by various States indicate that the number of such villages in the country could be around 25000. A target for electrification of 5000 such remote villages has been set for the 10th Plan. The Ministry has so far provided support for electrification of 3064 villages of which 1944 have been completed while work is in various stages of completion in the balance 1120 villages. The remaining are expected to be taken up during the 11th Plan.

(b) and (c) Under its Remote Village Electrification Programme, the Ministry provides a one-time Central Financial Assistance of upto 90% of the benchmark project costs to the state implementing agencies. The Programme is currently being implemented primarily by the State Nodal Agencies for renewable energy in various States. For the 10th Plan, the Ministry has been allocated an amount of Rs. 735 crores for the Programme. The requirement of funds for the 11th Plan has not been finalized yet and is likely to depend upon the mix of various non-conventional energy technologies actually deployed in the villages.

[English]

National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

1015. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to launch a National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to ensure 100 days of employment to each member of a rural family;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is different from the present schemes;

(c) the funds proposed to be earmarked therefor;

(d) the number of districts and families likely to be covered thereunder, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken for its effective implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB), 2004, was introduced in the Parliament on 21-12-2004. The Bill aims to provide for atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to rural poor households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

(b) The NREG Bill, 2004 provides legal guarantee for atleast 100 days of employment in a financial year to eligible rural poor households for the first time.

(c) to (e) The Bill has not yet been passed by the Parliament. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the financial allocations, coverage and steps for its implementation at this stage.

Credit Policy

1016. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the credit policy for the year 2005-06;

(b) whether the bank rate has started showing increasing trend resulting in increased rates of interest; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to check the interest rates particularly in Agriculture and Priority sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Salient features of the Annual Policy Statement for the year 2005-06 as announced by the Reserve Bank of India on April 28, 2005 are as follows:—

(i) Bank rate kept unchanged at 6.0 per cent;

(ii) Repo Rate continued to be linked to the reverse repo rate;

(iii) Cash reserve ratio kept unchanged at 5.0 per cent; and

(iv) No change in interest rate regulations.

Details of development and regulatory policies are available on the RBI website at www.rbi.org.in.

(b) and (c) In the first quarter review of the Annual Policy for the year 2005-06 announced on 26th July, 2005 by the Reserve Bank of India, the overall policy stance including the interest rates have been kept unchanged.

[Translation]

Expenditure of Scientific Research

1017. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on scientific research has increased in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of proposals forwarded by the State Governments seeking financial aid for various projects during the last year; and

(d) the projects approved by the Union Government and fund sanctioned for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plan allocation for scientific departments has increased from Rs. 12022.17 crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25243.00 crores in 10th plan. According to available official statistics, expenditure on scientific research has increased from Rs. 12901 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 15090 crores 1999-00 to Rs. 17660 crores in 2000-01 and the estimated figure for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 24226 crores. This includes the research and development expenditure of Central and State Governments R and D institutions,

in-house R and D units of industries and Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) recognized by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

(c) and (d) A number of schemes are implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments for funding sponsored Research and Development projects to institutions and universities located in various states. The number of R and D projects funded during the year 2002-2003 in various states is 2718 with an approved cost of Rs. 448.69 crores. A statement covering state-wise number of R and D projects and their approved cost for the year is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Support to Extramural R and D Projects

State	No. of Projects	Approved Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Projects	Total Cost of Projects (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Projects	Total Cost of Projects (Rs. in Lakhs)
Year	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	49.87	4	158.43	2	42.72
Andhra Pradesh	134	1722.36	167	4892.64	175	2793.81
Arunachal Pradesh	9	159.71	7	98.67	13	101.99
Assam	42	549.89	38	573.72	62	773.66
Bihar	15	139.48	10	87.56	9	237.73
Chandigarh	64	828.57	75	1808.50	70	930.19
Chhattisgarh*	1	15.96	8	79.33	8	84.72
Delhi	223	4227.12	290	6763.73	251	3982.89
Goa	9	96.56	4	47.00	9	138.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	50	561.21	63	667.47	73	898.39
Haryana	32	211.89	36	431.08	44	436.02
Himachal Pradesh	18	185.39	34	617.99	19	426.60
Jammu and Kashmir	13	229.14	24	293.66	16	246.86
Jharkhand*	35	475.83	38	932.71	33	1632.97
Karnataka	176	3257.03	222	3921.25	278	7573.53
Kerala	73	1067.50	84	1697.28	101	1865.79
Madhya Pradesh	51	689.44	41	905.64	44	412.98
Maharashtra	203	3420.00	236	4367.55	266	5785.16
Manipur	8	141.94	4	71.15	6	69.17
Meghalaya	7	79.09	6	78.01	9	199.01
Mizoram	2	32.63	4	42.65	2	27.03
Nagaland	2	18.39	4	60.98	3	45.15
Orissa	34	312.87	39	382.56	38	392.75
Pondicherry	9	121.86	12	119.01	21	178.80
Punjab	46	403.98	26	326.87	58	720.47
Rajasthan	35	512.60	47	700.41	53	503.77
Sikkim	1	32.20	3	44.42	2	25.66
Tamil Nadu	209	3207.73	225	5373.67	298	3359.15
Tripura			3	27.28	4	49.91
Uttar Pradesh	226	2745.10	242	3273.47	294	3836.16
Uttaranchal*	45	297.37	73	1179.69	118	1950.88
West Bengal	234	2878.29	235	4471.61	339	5146.31
Total	2009	28671.00	2304	44495.99	2718	44869.00

*[English]***National Power Policy**

1018. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Power Ministry has laid down a set of rules which are crucial for the implementation of the Electricity Act;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry was required to come out with some guidelines by June, 2005;

(c) whether Electricity Act made it mandatory for Government to come up with such clarifications within two years from the date of the Act coming into force; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these rules have been able to improve power position in the country?

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

(a) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, which has come into force from 10th June, 2003, Central Government has notified various rules, guidelines, orders as well as the National Electricity Policy in the form of gazette notifications/resolutions.

(b) and (c) Section 183 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, is reproduced below:—

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act."

10th June, 2003 being the appointed date for commencement of the Act, any order under section 183 could be issued on or before 9th June, 2005.

(d) Various rules, orders etc. issued under the provisions of the Act are required for carrying out the provisions of the Act so that the objective of the legislation can be achieved.

Package for Punjab and Sindh Bank

1019. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give a relief package to loss making Punjab and Sindh Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As part of turn-around strategy, the Government has decided to provide a capital of Rs. 500 crore as part of a restructuring package to the Punjab and Sindh Bank.

*[Translation]***Funds for Modernisation of Courts**

1020. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated by the Government for the modernisation and structural expansion of Lower Courts, High Courts/Supreme Court in the country during the last Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether this amount is sufficient;

(c) if not, whether the Government intends to increase this amount during the current Five Year Plan; and

(d) If so, the details of the amount allocated by the Government during the current Five Year Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The allocation is made within the overall availability of funds which is always below the projection. The allocation of Department of Justice has been increased to Rs. 700 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan (02/03 to 06/07) from Rs. 384.63 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the various Plan schemes.

(d) Statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Amount was allocated/released by the Department of Justice for the modernisation and structural expansion of Lower Courts, High Courts in the country during the last Five Year Plan (9th Five Year Plan), year-wise:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocation/ released
1.	1997-98	64.00
2.	1998-99	66.00
3.	1999-2000	73.00
4.	2000-2001	84.95
5.	2001-2002	96.00
Total		384.63

Statement-II

The details of the amount allocated by the Department of Justice during the current Five Year Plan (10th Five Year Plan), year-wise:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated
1	2	3
1.	2002-2003	120.00

1	2	3
2.	2003-2004	105.00
3.	2004-2005	110.00
4.	2005-2006	220.00
5.	2006-2007	145.00
Total		700.00

[English]

Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

1021. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts identified in Tamil Nadu for Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and the funds released under it to each district during the last three years;

(b) whether the Karur district of Tamil Nadu has been identified and is getting financial help through this programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) in 24 districts of Tamil Nadu. Names of the districts and funds released to each district in the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There are three ongoing IWDP projects sanctioned to Karur district of Tamil Nadu. Names of the blocks, year of sanction, total area covered, total cost and funds released under these projects so far, are as below:—

Project No.	Block	Year of sanction	Area covered (in Ha.)	Total cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds released till date (Rs. in lakhs)
I.	Kadavur	1999-2000	11606	464.24	458.770
II.	Thogamalai	2001-2002	6016	360.96	196.880
III.	Krishnarayanpuram	2005-2006	5000	300.00	41.250
Total			22,622	1125.20	696.900

Statement

Names of the Districts under IWDP in Tamil Nadu and Funds Released to each District During the Last Three Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts	Total Amount Released from 1-4-2002 to 25-7-2005
1	2	3
1.	Coimbatore	409.760
2.	Cuddalore	206.680
3.	Dharmapuri	605.413
4.	Dindigul	674.367
5.	Erode	294.121
6.	Kanchipuram	122.570
7.	Karur	440.720
8.	Krishnagiri	82.500
9.	Madurai	165.495
10.	Namakkal	299.637
11.	Perambalur	284.282
12.	Pudukottai	376.257

1	2	3
13.	Ramanathapuram	259.940
14.	Salem	274.067
15.	Sivagangai	203.600
16.	Theni	214.162
17.	Thirunelveli	333.498
18.	Thiruvallur	246.629
19.	Thoothkudi	162.418
20.	Tiruchirapalli	437.659
21.	Tiruvannamalai	123.750
22.	Vellore	291.566
23.	Villupuram	117.250
24.	Virudhunagar	155.813
Total		6782.154

[Translation]

Merger of Associate Banks of SBI

1022. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the associate banks of the State Bank of India;

(b) whether the Government has drawn any scheme for merger of these associate banks with State Bank of India (SBI);

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

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to reduce the number of banks particularly in rural areas;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of employees and also to expand the banking facilities in rural, hilly and remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of associate banks of State Bank of India are given below:—

- (i) State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur
- (ii) State Bank of Hyderabad
- (iii) State Bank of Indore
- (iv) State Bank of Mysore
- (v) State Bank of Patiala
- (vi) State Bank of Saurashtra
- (vii) State Bank of Travancore

(b), (c) and (f) Any such proposal for merger of a bank with another bank has to come from the management of the banks concerned with Govt. playing a supportive role as the common shareholder. No

directive on consolidation has been issued by Govt. or RBI. The Boards of Banks have to take a decision in this regard based on the synergy levels of merging/consolidating entities. While supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks is adequately protected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Recent official visit of Prime Minister to the United States of America

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am honoured to present to this House a statement on my recent visit to the United States. President Bush invited me to pay an official visit and my wife and I were received by President Bush and the First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush with great warmth and with full ceremonial honours. My talks with the President covered a wide range of bilateral and global issues. The Vice-President and senior Cabinet Members of the US Administration such as Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Defence Secretary Mr. Rumsfeld and Treasury Secretary Mr. Snow also called on me during my stay. I had the honour to be invited to address the Joint Session of the US Congress. I believe that the visit was a success in furthering our foreign policy interests and in terms of its substantive outcome. Sir, it was evident that the United States wished to signal that we are embarking on a transformation of our ties so as to realise their inherent potential.

A copy of the Joint Statement issued during my visit is being placed on the Table of the House. Sir, the purpose of my Visit was to sensitise the US Government about the full extent of the changes that have taken

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place in India since 1991. These changes have given us a stronger capability to work with the United States on more equal terms as we address common concerns and challenges. I also sought to emphasise that the Indian economy is stronger than it has even been and we hope to participate in and benefit from the economic processes of globalisation. We are determined to be a competitive destination for investment, including foreign investment and the US business community could contribute to development in India through greater investment and trade. We are uniquely placed to enter into such mutually beneficial interaction drawing on the strength of our knowledge sector. Hence, another important goal was to underline to the United States that the emergence of India as a centre of knowledge-based industries and services would provide a good base for long-term collaboration between our economies. The expansion of the Indian economy and acceleration of our growth rate is crucial not just for our own people but would be beneficial to global economic progress and stability.

My discussions in Washington with President Bush and members of his Administration were productive and helped advance these national goals. Both sides agreed that our relationship was based on shared values and shared interests that included the strengthening of democratic capacities where desired and without coercion, and in combating terrorism without selectivity or segmentation. The conclusion of the United Nations Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism proposed by India, at an early date, was deemed a priority by both countries. On the economic side, we welcomed the launching of a CEOs Forum that has brought together the best business minds of both countries. We discussed the urgent need for modernization of India's infrastructure and our quest for greater investments in this sector, in view of its centrality for the continued growth of the Indian economy. Recognizing the importance of the rural economy, we also agreed on an agricultural initiative aimed at facilitating a new generation of research and agricultural practices to build on the green revolution.

Sir, appreciating the importance of technology to India's economic and social development we also

discussed measures that would ensure more liberal and predictable access to US high technology. We will endeavour to build closer ties in frontier areas such as space exploration, satellite navigation and launch, and related commercial activities that would greatly benefit our space industry, which is now recognized as a global leader. A Science and Technology Framework Agreement has been agreed during my visit that provides for expanded joint research and training. Underlining the intent of working at a new level of cooperation, the United States announced the removal of five Indian organizations from its Entity List—three from the space sector and two from atomic energy—and indicated further review in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India's quest for energy security as an essential component of our vision for our development was a significant theme of my talks. I elaborated the imperative need for India to have unhindered access to all sources of energy, including nuclear energy, if we are to maintain and accelerate our rate of economic growth. I am pleased to state that the US understood our position in regard to our securing adequate and affordable energy supplies, from all sources. This approach, I underlined, would enable us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This would have concomitant advantages for all in terms of reduced pressure on oil prices and environmental sustainability. It was in this context that we affirmed the importance of cooperation in the civilian nuclear energy sector.

Accordingly, a central element of my interaction with President Bush was the resumption of bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation between India and the United States, which had been frozen for decades. President Bush and I agreed that we would work towards promoting nuclear energy as a means for India to achieve energy security. The US side undertook to adjust its laws and policies domestically and to work with its friends and allies to adjust relevant international regimes. Full civilian nuclear energy cooperation would include, but not limit itself, to the expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for the Tarapur Plant. The US will also encourage other partners to consider similar requests favourably. We also obtained consideration of our desire to participate as full partners in the International Thermo Nuclear Research Project and the Generation IV International Forum. These

programmes in frontier areas of science and technology have considerable potential for our country's, and indeed global, energy security in the future. The US agreed to consult other participants with a view towards India's inclusion. This is a testimony not only to the enormous international stature and respect achieved by our nuclear scientists but also a recognition of their attainments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our nuclear programme is, in many ways, unique. It encompasses the complete range of activities that characterize an advanced nuclear power including generation of electricity, advanced research and development and our strategic programme. Our scientists have mastered the complete nuclear fuel cycle. The manner of the development of our programme which has been envisaged is predicated on our modest uranium resources and vast reserves of thorium. While the energy potential available in these resources is immense, we remain committed to the three-stage nuclear power programme, consisting of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in the first stage, fast breeder reactors in the second stage and thorium reactors in the third stage. These would need sequential implementation in an integrated manner. Our scientists have done excellent work and we are progressing well on this programme as per the original vision outlined by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Homi Bhabha. We will build on this precious heritage.

Sir, energy is a crucial input to propel our economic growth. We have assessed our long-term energy resources and it is clear that nuclear power has to play an increasing role in our electricity generation plans. While our indigenous nuclear power programme based on domestic resources and national technological capabilities would continue to grow, there is clearly an urgent necessity for us to enhance nuclear power production rapidly. Our desire is to attain energy security to enable us to leapfrog stages of economic development obtained at the least possible cost. For this purpose, it would be very useful if we can access nuclear fuel as well as nuclear reactors from the international market. Presently, this is not possible because of the nuclear technology restrictive regimes that operate around us. What we have now agreed with the United States should open up the possibility of our being able to access nuclear fuel and nuclear power reactors and other

technologies from outside to supplement our domestic efforts. There is also considerable concern with regard to global climate change arising out of CO₂ emissions. Thus, we need to pursue clean energy technologies. Nuclear power is very important in this context as well.

Sir, the Joint Statement recognizes that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such States which have advanced nuclear technology. As a result, we expect that the resumption of India's nuclear trade and commerce with the US, and globally, is an achievable goal, involving the dismantling of the technology denial regimes which have hitherto targeted India.

Predicated on our obtaining the same benefits and advantages as other nuclear powers, is the understanding that we shall undertake the same responsibilities and obligations as such countries, including the United States. Concomitantly, we expect the same rights and benefits. Thus we have ensured the principle of non-discrimination. I would like to make it very clear that our commitments would be conditional upon, and reciprocal to, the US fulfilling its side of this understanding. The Joint Statement refers to our identifying, and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities in a phased manner and taking a decision to place voluntarily civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. India will never accept discrimination. There is nothing in this Joint Statement that amounts to limiting or inhibiting our strategic nuclear weapons programme over which we will retain unrestricted, complete and autonomous control. Sir, I repeat this sentence.

Reciprocity is key to the implementation of all the steps enumerated in the Joint Statement. We expect a close co-relation between the actions to be taken by the United States and by India. Indian actions will be contingent at every stage on actions taken by the other side. Should we not be satisfied that our interests are fully secured, we shall not feel pressed to move ahead in a pre-determined manner.

Hence, phased action, in terms of identification and separation of civilian nuclear facilities based solely on our own duly calibrated national decisions will be taken at appropriate points in time, consistent with our national

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security interests. Before voluntarily placing our civilian facilities under IAEA safeguards, we will ensure that all restrictions on India have been lifted. Our autonomy of decision-making will not be circumscribed in any manner whatsoever.

I wish to emphasise to this House that the basis for this understanding was a clear recognition that India is a responsible nuclear power with an impeccable record on nuclear non-proliferation. Our strategic policies and assets are a source of national security and will continue to be so, and will remain outside the scope of our discussions with any external interlocutors, I should like to take this opportunity to assure hon. Members that the Government will not allow any fissile material shortages or any other material limitations on our strategic programmes in order to meet current or future requirements. The defence and security interests of our country are our highest priority and we will continue to remain so.

Our policies and actions have earned us global recognition and widespread esteem, which I am sure, the House recognises and welcomes. This allows us not only to make a credible case for an end to three decades of technology denial but also to find a central and growing place in international organisations.

Sir, I used the occasion of my visit to the US to spell out the basis on which India has made a compelling case for the expansion of the UN Security Council, and for our admission as a Permanent Member. The US has a different position on this matter and has not found it possible to endorse India's position. It is my hope, however, that over time the US will recognise the validity of what we say. In fact, the Joint Statement itself reflects growing US recognition of this position. It states "international institutions must fully reflect changes in the global scenario that have taken place since 1945." The US President also reiterated that international institutions are going to have to adapt to reflect India's central and growing role. In this regard, global initiatives that we have initiated with the United States, will include disaster, relief, HIV/AIDS and strengthening democratic capacities in societies that seek such assistance testify to the greater recognition of our strengths and capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sincerely believe that my visit to the United States has led to greater understanding and appreciation of our concerns and interests. It has contributed to significant initiatives that have important economic and developmental implications for India. I have made a strong case on behalf of the Indian people that our voice be heard when decisions that affect us are made in global councils. I am confident that this House would welcome these developments.

Sir, I would like to conclude by stating that we can feel justly proud that our achievements are being recognised globally. This is a tribute to our scientists, our engineers, our teachers, our workers, our farmers, our entrepreneurs and our professionals. We are now a nation of over one billion people. We are the world's fourth-largest economy, with the second highest rate of growth today. The manner in which we have achieved this progress within the framework of a democratic dispensation is the subject of admiration and respect. Increasingly, India is seen as a benchmark for the rest of the world. I therefore believe our strength lies in the essential correctness of the path we have chosen, and in the creativity and enterprise of our people. This has enabled India to stand tall in the comity of nations.

Sir, I realise that there would be criticism in some quarters regarding aspects of the Joint Statement. Constructive criticism is part of the Parliamentary tradition, and I welcome it. This adds clarity to our debates and vibrancy to the institution of our democracy. I can however assure this august House, and through it, our nation, that my visit to the United States was undertaken solely with the purpose of enhancing relations with one of the world's pre-eminent powers, so as to widen our development options. It was my endeavour to expand our access to energy supplies to fuel our growth, while protecting our strategic interests. I believe our effort to undo some of the long-standing restrictive nuclear regimes will enable us to secure access to the significantly greater quantities of energy that we will need to spur massive economic growth in our industrialization programme. Once secured, cheap and affordable energy will enable India to leapfrog its current pace of economic growth, to secure the future for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us gathered together in this august House recognize that inspired by our freedom struggle, we have inherited a proud and patriotic tradition. Our commitment to work for universal nuclear disarmament so passionately espoused by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the long run will remain our core concern. At the same time, Sir, I can assure the House that we have never made, nor will we ever make, any compromises insofar as our fundamental and strategic needs are concerned. Our inheritance gives us confidence, our experience gives us courage, and our belief gives us conviction to assert today that our nation stands on the threshold of an even better future. I, therefore, venture to think that my visit to the United States has opened up new opportunities and possibilities for promoting our energy security and pathways to accelerated social and economic development. We must all work together as a united nation to realize these opportunities to make India a major powerhouse of the evolving global economy.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2384/05]

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I hope it will be converted into a discussion....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notices. On Monday itself, we will have a discussion on the Prime Minister's Statement. I believe, the Prime Minister will be available. Therefore, hon. Members may give notices. I will allow a discussion on Monday itself.

12.26 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Business of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in the Leaders' Meeting held on 24th July, 2005, it was agreed that the matters of urgent public importance to be raised after the Question Hour

may be taken up in a phased manner. In the first phase, about five matters of extremely urgent national and international importance would ordinarily be taken up after the Question Hour. In the second phase, remaining matters of public importance for the day including constituency matter may be taken up after 6 p.m. The above decision is made effective from Monday, the 1st August, 2005.

I seek the co-operation of all the hon. Members in this matter so that we may have optimum utilisation of the time facilitating wider coverage of issues sought to be raised by the hon. Members.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice has been received, but the zero-hour has not commenced yet.

[English]

Hon. Members, I have also to announce that the hon. Home Minister will give a reply to the discussion regarding Natural Calamities at 2.45 p.m. He has gone on an important official assignment and I have permitted him to do so. I have already informed the hon. Leaders in the morning meeting.

Also the hon. Railway Minister will make a statement on the railway accident at 4.30 p.m. after he comes back.

Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12.27 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following

[Shri P.M. Sayeed]

papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2364/05]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2365/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty Third Annual Report pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from the 1st January, 2003 to the 31st December, 2003, under section 62 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2366/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 282 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalise the Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana (Special Agriculture Produce Scheme) announced under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 320 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 321 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (iv) G.S.R. 467 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (v) G.S.R. 331 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (vi) G.S.R. 419 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify specific areas in District Surat in the State of Gujarat as Special Economic Zone for apparel.
- (vii) S.O. 577 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (viii) S.O. 578 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (ix) S.O. 725 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (x) S.O. 726 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised

rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.

- (xi) S.O. 887 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (xii) S.O. 888 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2367/05]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) S.O. 775 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 455 (E) dated the 30th March, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 780 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 456 (E) dated the 30th March, 2005.
- (iii) The Income-tax (14th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 855 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The Income-tax (15th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 856 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) The Income-tax (17th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 896 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vi) The Income-tax (18th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 903 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vii) The Income-tax (19th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 928 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (viii) The Scheme for Furnishing of Paper Returns of Tax Deducted at Source, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 929 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ix) The Scheme for Furnishing of Paper Returns of Tax Collected at Source, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 930 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (x) The Income-tax (20th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 932 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (xi) The Income-tax (12th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 755 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (xii) The Income-tax (13th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 756 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

- (xiii) The Income-tax (16th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 863 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) S.O. 703 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Punjab Infrastructure Development Board, (PIDB), Chandigarh" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. 704 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "The Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. 705 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. 706 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. 707 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Indian Institute for Public Administration, New Delhi" under section

10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.

- (xix) S.O. 708 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. 1083 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. 1084 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. 1085 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Vivekananda Kendra Pratishthan, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. 1086 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Math, Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009, subject to certain conditions.

- (xxiv) S.O. 1087 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O. 1143 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2005 regarding exemption to the "National Foundation of India, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1144 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway, Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1145 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Shri Ram Chander Mission, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O. 1350 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, Periyar, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O. 1768 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Adhi Prasakthi Charitable, Medical Educational and Cultural Trust, Melmaruvathur, Tamil Nadu" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxx) S.O. 1770 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Tibetan Homes Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. 1772 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2005 regarding exemption to the "National Federation of the Blind, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1773 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Population Foundation of India, B-28, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 2042 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Periyar Self Respect Propaganda Institution, Periyar, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 2043 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Indian Parliamentary Group, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2368/05]

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 332 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ii) The CENVAT Credit (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 298 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) The CENVAT Credit (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 311 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The CENVAT Credit (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 371 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 293 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to continue the rates of additional duty of excise (Goods of Special Importance) as they existed prior to 13th May, 2005.
- (vi) G.S.R. 294 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to continue the rates of National Calamity Contingent Duty as they existed prior to 13th May, 2005.
- (vii) G.S.R. 295 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the three Notifications mentioned therein.

(viii) G.S.R. 296 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all goods produced and used within factory of their production in the manufacture of final product on which additional duty of excise is leviable thereon.

(ix) G.S.R. 297 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two Notifications mentioned therein.

(x) G.S.R. 316 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking rescind Notification No. 9/2005-CE, dated the 1st March, 2005.

(xi) G.S.R. 317 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/2003-CE, dated the 10th June, 2003.

(xii) G.S.R. 325 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 50/2003-CE, dated the 10th June, 2003.

(xiii) G.S.R. 346 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2369/05]

(4) A copy of the Banking cash Transaction Tax Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 737 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 111 of the Finance Act, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2370/05]

- (5) A copy of the Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. HO:HRM:97:C:27/108H/81 in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2371/05]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 2005 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2372/05]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 318 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all goods produced or manufactured in a special economic zone and cleared for sale in the domestic tariff area from the whole of the additional duty of customs leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions.

- (ii) G.S.R. 326 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 104/2002-Cus., dated the 9th October, 2002.

- (iii) G.S.R. 327 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 95/2002-Cus., dated the 12th September, 2002.

- (iv) G.S.R. 341 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2005 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the levy of final and anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite, originating in or exported from Taiwan but continuing the levy of Sodium Nitrite, originating in or exported from European Union.

- (v) G.S.R. 350 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 53/2002-Cus., dated the 21st May, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 372 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports into India of acrylonitrile butadiene rubber in the bale form, originating in or exported from European Union (excluding Germany), Brazil and Mexico.

- (vii) G.S.R. 392 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of Notification No. 115/2000-Cus., dated the 31st August, 2000.

- (viii) G.S.R. 411 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the levy of final and anti-dumping duty on Analgin, originating in or exported from Taiwan but continuing the levy on Analgin, originating in or exported from China PR.

- (ix) G.S.R. 420 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of anti-dumping duty on Sodium Cyanide originating in, or exported, from the United States of America, Czech Republic, the European Union and Korea RP.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2373/05]

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

- (8) A copy of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation General (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. DICGC/37/06.02.04/05-06 in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2374/05]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:—

- (i) The Coinage of the Hundred Rupees and Two Rupees coined to commemorate '150 Years of Telecommunications' Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 841 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2004.
- (ii) The Coinage of Ferritic Stainless Steel Coins of Rupees Two Rupees One and Fifty Paise coined with the theme "UNITY IN DIVERSITY" Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 422 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2375/05]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873:—

- (i) The Post Office Savings Account (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 286 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005.
- (ii) The Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 287 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005.
- (iii) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 288 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2376/05]

- (11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959:—

- (i) The National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 289 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005.
- (ii) The Kisan Vikas Patra (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 290 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2377/05]

- (12) A copy of the Public Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 291 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005, under section 12 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2378/05]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 19 and 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2379/05]

- (14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 358 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on commercial or industrial construction service provided to any person by a commercial concern in relation to construction of port or other port.

- (ii) G.S.R. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on site formation and clearance, excavation and earthmoving and demolition and such other similar activities provided to any person by any other person in the course of construction of roads, airports, railways, transport terminals, bridges, tunnels, dams, ports or other ports.
- (iii) G.S.R. 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service provided to any persons by any other person in relation to construction of complex from so much of the service tax leviable thereon.
- (iv) G.S.R. 361 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (v) G.S.R. 362 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the four Notifications mentioned therein
- (vi) G.S.R. 363 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service of production or processing of goods for, or on behalf of, the client, undertaken in the course of manufacture of, cut and polished diamonds and gem stones or plain and studded jewellery of gold and other precious metals.

- (vii) G.S.R. 364 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service specified in the Notification provided by a non-resident person outside India and consumed outside India, subject to certain conditions.

- (viii) The Service Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 365 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ix) G.S.R. 366 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2004-Service Tax dated 31st December, 2004.

- (x) G.S.R. 367 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable service provided to an individual by a service provider, where the said taxable services are received and consumed outside India.

- (xi) G.S.R. 368 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the person or class of persons mentioned therein to make an application for registration.

- (xii) The Service Tax (Registration of Special Category of Persons) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 369 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (xiii) The Export of Services (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 370 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2380/05]

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

- (15) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 302 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2005-Service Tax, dated 19th April, 2005, issued under Rule 5 of the Export of Services Rules, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2381/05]

- (16) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 357 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint the 16th June, 2005, as the date on which the provisions of clauses (a) and (b) of section 88 of the Finance Act, 2005 to come into force, issued under the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2382/05]

12.28 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Seventh and Eighth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present seventh and eighth reports (Hindi and English versions) of the committee on Petitions.

12.29 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Statement

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and

English Versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the Action Taken on Eighteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Functioning of Self Help Groups for Economic Empowerment of Women'.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2383/05]

12.30 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(I) Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:—

- (i) Tenth Report of the Committee on the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
- (ii) Eleventh Report of the Committee on the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

(II) Evidence

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following:—

- (i) Evidence tendered before the Committee on the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
- (ii) Evidence tendered before the Committee on the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2384/05]

12.31 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in First Report and Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Finance**
- (ii) **Fourth Progress Report on Action Taken on the recommendations of the JPC on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements:—

- (i) Regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Finance relating to Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure and Disinvestment and the Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Finance relating to Department of Revenue: and

[Laid on the Table and also placed in Library.
See No. LT 2385/05]

- (ii) Regarding Fourth Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I am presenting today before this august House the Fourth Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto. The Third Progress Report was presented before the Parliament on 10th December, 2004. As per JPC's recommendation contained in para 3.31, the Fourth Progress Report was to be laid within six months i.e. upto 10th June, 2005. Since the Parliament was not in session, the report is being laid now.

I am grateful to the JPC for going into the causes of the scam, analysing the same and for submitting a detailed report. ATR and the three Progress Report, action on 204 recommendations out of a total of 276. In the fourth Progress Report, action on further 23 recommendations has been completed, thus reducing the number of recommendations pending for completion of action to 49.

The aim of the Government is to ensure that all those who perpetrated the scam or were accomplices to the misdeeds are punished. It is our resolve that sufficient remedial measures are taken so that such events do not recur. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) clearly mentions our determination to ensure that the strictest possible action is taken against market manipulators and those who try to deliberately engineer market panic.

In this connection, I also seek the cooperation of this august House to ensure that necessary legislative changes as recommended by the JPC are carried out quickly. I would like to assure that effective action against those guilty for the scam will be taken and we will present progress reports at regular intervals until the House is fully satisfied.

[Laid on the Table and also placed in Library.
See No. LT 2386/05]

12.32 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 1st of August, 2005 will consist of:—

1. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval of the President's Rule in the State of Bihar beyond 6th of September, 2005.

[Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad]

2. General discussion on Bihar Budget, 2005-06.
3. Discussion and voting on Demands for Grants on Account (Bihar) for 2005-06.
4. discussion and Voting on:—
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06
 - (b) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2002-03
 - (c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-06
 - (d) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2002-03
5. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of Railway Convention Committee (2004) contained in their Second Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2005-06 and other ancillary matters'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, please do not do that. Only hon. Ministers can approach Official Gallery. Please do not do that.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, the following items of may kindly be included in the next week's agenda in public interest:—

- (1) The funds being allocated for rural development works in my parliamentary constituency Mehsana are not being utilized fully. Thus, only 15% of the total funds allocated for the review of rural development and for rural development works in spent in the development of villages. A discussion may be held on the reasons therefor.
- (2) Thousands of employees are taking salary without doing work in the NTC mills lying closed all over the country while the Government of

India has to bear the expenses. Work related to the re-opening of the closed NTC mills and their modernization.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The train going towards Chhattisgarh from Chirpuri to Bilaspur may be extended till Raipur Durg so that the people living in the surrounding areas of Manendra Chirpiri Korba region get the facility of travelling to and from the capital Raipur.
- (2) Problems are being faced in the landing of big aircrafts in Bilaspur as it has short air strip. Therefore, there is need for construction of a new air-strip in Bilaspur which is the second important city in the Chhattisgarh after the capital Raipur. Permission may be granted for this work.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) From the incidents of Honda Scooter Cycle and Scooters India Limited, Gurgaon, it is observed that the company denied rights on the workers to form union. The management also removed four workers and suspended 25 others on the plea of formation of Union. Since the company is a foreign multinational, whether the Cabinet had allowed relaxation of labour laws while according Cabinet approval for investment in India.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the type of putting question.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: (2) The Railway Board has extended 'special package' of assistance to one of the subsidiaries of BBUNL and M/s. Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) based at Bihar to resume production whereas Railway Board has not extended the same 'special package of assistance' to other subsidiaries of BBUNL in Burnpur and Howrah Works of BSCL.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) A large part of our population is living below poverty line. But very few people are getting the benefits of the schemes that are being run by the government to raise their standard of living. Lakhs of people living below poverty line have not been covered under the surveys conducted up till now. There is a need to conduct a comprehensive survey and take due action to include them in this list.
- (2) The problem of unemployment in the country is becoming grave day by day. The programmes implemented by the government to deal with unemployment are insufficient in comparison to the number of the unemployed in the country. Employment in the government sector is being reduced continuously. Hence necessary steps should be taken to find a solution for this problem.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The economic and social condition of the Machua/Kashyap community in India is very poor. Therefore, they may be granted the status of a Scheduled Caste.
- (2) The gender ratio in certain states of the country is badly skewed. Special efforts may be undertaken to correct this and special measures be taken to ensure security of girls in the social context.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda in public interest:—

- (1) Action may be taken to open a factory with the assistance of the World Bank to produce gypsum which would help to convert the barren land in Amreli district, Gujarat into arable land.

- (2) Action may be taken to open new post offices and reopen the closed down post offices in Amreli district, Gujarat.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (1) Need to lift restrictions like quarantine examination and Import-Export code on the import of sheep and goats to permit the local veterinarians to examine the animals in order to conserve the traditional occupation of border district of Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal under the Indo-Tibet (China) Trade Treaty and to grant full exemption on the import of raw silk.
- (2) Need to augment the traditional trade between India and Tibet (China) and to keep trading open from 01 June to 31 October every year on a permanent basis as per earlier practice.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (1) There is a need to start new trains from New Delhi/Hazrat Nizamuddin to Ratlam, Ujjain and Indore. Therefore, new trains may be started from New Delhi/Hazrat Nizamuddin to Kota-Nagda, Ujjain-Indore, from Mathura to Ujjain, from Kota-Nagda to Ratlam. Stoppage of passenger trains and passenger reservation facilities at Mahidpur Road, Nagda and Khach Road stations may be restored.
- (2) Funds may be made available for rural development and for effective implementation of Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana in rural areas in Madhya Pradesh and funds may be sanctioned from Central Road Fund for proposals regarding construction of roads.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda in public interest:—

- (1) The railway station in Surat, which has a population of 30 lakhs, was declared a model railway station during the NDA regime. Despite

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

that work has not been started at this station inspite of the fact that the work has been completed at a number of stations identified as model station in other cities. Therefore, work under the Model Railway Station Scheme should be started at Surat railway station and work of expansion of yard and platform of the Udhna railway station near Surat may be undertaken.

- (2) In view of the fact that Surat has a population of 30 lakhs and that the density of traffic is increasing day-by-day, survey may be done and work on metro rail service in Surat may be initiated.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) To declare 'Teesta Barrage Project' as a national project and to provide adequate fund for completion in time to cater to the needs of people of North Bengal to have water for irrigation, Hydel Power and facilities of water supply.
- (2) To introduce and pass the amended version of 'Domestic Violence against Women' Bill in this session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will take up Calling Attention. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday, a bomb exploded in the Delhi bound Shramjivi train leaving 17 dead and more than 250 seriously injured.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Railways will make a statement in this regard at 4.30 p.m. today.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Everyday, there are train accidents and the life of the passengers is not safe. Looking at these conditions, the Railway Minister should resign on moral grounds....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please. Hon. Members know very well that these matters are taken up after the Calling Attention. I have already announced that in the evening at 4.30 p.m., the hon. Railway Minister will make a Statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, it is not being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. Why are you bothering? I will allow you after the Calling Attention. Mr. Yogiji, I have told you that I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I will give you the opportunity to speak but at a proper time. You are a Sadhu, therefore, you should follow some discipline.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The statement will be made at 4.30 p.m. But the resignation can be demanded anytime.

MR. SPEAKER: Your point will have more weight if you will demand it then. Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is being said here. I must confess that I am not being able to understand. All of you are very cooperative hon. Members. You please allow this House to run. According

*Not recorded.

to rules, I have already gone to Calling Attention, and there are opportunities to raise those issues when I come to what is known as 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. I will not allow.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? There is no notice. I do not know what are you saying. I cannot even follow what you are saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House. Nothing will happen. I will not permit this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not have any idea about what issue you are raising.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being allowed; it is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not even know what you are saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. I would adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Take your seat, please. Do not become so impatient. You should go out and speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kirpal Yadav, go to your seat and sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything to be done, there is a procedure and there is a method. It is not that any hon. Member could get up at any time and say anything he or she likes. I have not the slightest idea what is happening in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We have given notices.

MR. SPEAKER: There are hundreds of notices that have been given.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is my right to call any hon. Member at any particular time. You cannot take away my right. I have already said that Calling Attention would be taken up now. There are procedures in this House which I would try to follow if you co-operate. Otherwise, I would adjourn the House and go away.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North-East): Discussion should be held here. Fifteen years have lapsed. This is the proper time for raising this issue and today, Advaniji is also here....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, this is not the way to ask for a debate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. There are various methods to raise issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. There are various methods to raise issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You would be in trouble.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SALIM: Sir, Advaniji is already in trouble!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, you should sympathise with him!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is why we want to raise this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2. p.m.

12.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Inflammatory speeches are being made to upset the

communal harmony in the country today. Charges against seven leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition have been framed in a special court in Raebareilly. Efforts are being made to upset the communal atmosphere, in the whole country after framing of the charges.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I agree with you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take item no. 13, alling Attention—Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Md. Salim, I cannot allow.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Salimji your point has been taken. Please, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yadavji, I have also told him. Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Salimji, nothing is being recorded. You are also using unparliamentary language.

...(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yadavji, Please, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kripalji. Please, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Swainji, you are a very senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. I think, we have taken enough time on this. Now, we are going to start discussion on a very sensitive matter of disinvestment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, this is also a sensitive matter and we have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please first listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Swain, nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have listened to you. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Yadavji, nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever you people are speaking, is not being recorded. You sit down, please. I think it's more than enough. It is a very sensitive matter,

*Not recorded.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

which is to be taken up next in the form of a Calling Attention to be raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Members on that side are demanding resignation of Advaniji while Members on this side are demanding resignation of Lalu Prasadji but nothing in going to change by their resignation. ...(Interruptions) I would like to urge that hon. Mr. Speaker was in the Chair when the issue of bomb explosion in train was raised in the House. But, now when the proceeding of the House has commenced, please, allow discussion on bomb explosion first. ...(Interruptions) This is a ruling by the hon. Mr. Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the issue of bomb explosion in dangerous whether it taken place in Ayodhya or Akshardham or elsewhere....(Interruptions). They are politicking...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Sumanji please, sit down. I have to make an announcement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14.45 hours.

14.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In the morning, it was announced by the hon. Speaker that at 2.45 p.m. today, hon. Home Minister will make a statement.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I am on a point of order. The arrangement of Business of the House is clearly given in Chapter II of Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha, Edition 2004. In the List of Business for the day that is circulated, Calling Attention is at Item No. 13. The hon. Home Minister is not making a statement. He is replying to the debate. His reply is listed after the Calling Attention. Without disposing of the Calling Attention, how can you allow the hon. Home Minister? Of course, I respect him and I am inclined to listen to him. But, according to the Rule Book, you cannot allow the reply to take place without disposing the Calling Attention that is listed. This is what the Rule Book says. Hon. Minister's reply is listed in today's List of Business much after the Calling Attention. So, you cannot allow that now, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will take the opinion of the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Can the House decide on it?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dasguptaji, hon. Minister wants to say something. May be your issue will be solved.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I have no objection if the Calling Attention Motion is taken up now. I can be given opportunity to reply to the debate later. It may not be possible today because we have the Private Member's Business at 3:30 p.m. Maybe in the next sitting I be given the opportunity....(Interruptions) I am not insisting

that I should be heard today. Let the Calling Attention Motion be taken up now. I will reply on Monday or any other time as directed.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what happened to the question we had raised....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): That issue should be decided....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have taken too much liberty.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, nothing is recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The matter is under discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I am unable to hear what you are saying. What can I do?

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything. There is too much noise.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please listen to me. Please sit-down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Md. Salim, you have taken enough time.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, you are going beyond the limit. When I am on my legs, you cannot speak. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you should listen to me. All of you have taken a lot of time of the House. You all are responsible Members. We want to take up the sensitive issue like disinvestment. I want that you should give time to Gurudas Dasguptaji to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our issue is also very important. It is a matter of the country....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 3.30 p.m.

14.56 hrs.

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

*Not recorded.

15.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty one minutes
past Fifteen of the Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Mr. Speaker had given a ruling regarding holding a discussion on bomb explosion in train but dispute that no discussion is being held which is quite sad....(Interruptions) I would like to submit that we have given a formal notice that 18 persons have been killed and the Railways did not initiate any follow-up action. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav deserves to be thanked that he himself visited the site and handed over the cheques to the family members of the deceased. His party office bearers are taking care of the treatment of those injured but the Railways have turned a deaf ear therefore, first discussion on this issue should be held then any other discussion could be held....(Interruptions)

This is a serious incident. What could be a more serious incident than that as many as 22 live bombs have been found in a train originating from Gaya and one of the bomb exploded. If all the bombs had exploded then what would have been the situation? I therefore, request you to kindly allow a discussion on this issue in the light of hon. Speaker's ruling....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

[Translation]

You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, Please sit down.

[Translation]

Hon. Railway Minister will give a statement at 4.30 p.m. on the issue of bomb blast which occurred yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: When would you listen to me? Will it be a one sided affair? First, you please listen to me?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No discussion will take place on that issue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is time for private member's business....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You need not speak when I am here to give reply.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is private member's business time. We were raising an issue during the zero hour that honourable leader of the opposition should resign....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): First, he should resign....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Private Members' Business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 18, Shri Madhusudan Takkala Reddy.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to move....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Sh. Prabhunath Singhji, you are a senior Member of the House, you can understand. I stated that Railway Minister will make a statement after 4.30 p.m. Thereafter, you can give the notice and discussion could be held thereon.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: O.K. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have already submitted a notice yet discussion is not being held on it, therefore, we are boycotting the proceedings of the House for the day.

[English]

15.36 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Prabhunath Singh left the House)

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you take the example of these CPM people. They are nowhere in the House. They deliberately wanted to raise that matter. It is because they did not want that there should be any discussion on the BHEL. They did not want that there should be any debate on disinvestment in BHEL. That is why, they were unnecessarily supporting these RJD people. That should be recorded....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. Mr. Swain, you also take your seat.

[English]

Without my permission, nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, on this important issue, nobody from the Communist parties is present here in this House....(Interruptions)

15.37 hrs.

**MOTION RE: ELEVENTH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item No. 18, Shri Madhusudan Reddy:

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to move:

*Not recorded.

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th July, 2005."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th July, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

15.38 hrs.

**MOTION RE: THIRTEENTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Item No. 15. Shri Bijoy Handique.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 28th July, 2005."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 28th July, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up Private Members' Legislative Business.

15.39 hrs.

(i) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2004*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri R. Sambasiva Rao—not present.

Shri Kashiram Rana.

15.39½ hrs.

(ii) PRIVATE SCHOOLS (REGULATION) BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.40 hrs.

(iii) VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (REGULATION) BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for recognition and regulation of voluntary organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for recognition and regulation of voluntary organisations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

(iv) NATIONAL PARKS BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.41 hrs.

(v) BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT
BOARD BILL, 2005**[English]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.41½ hrs.

(vi) STATES REORGANISATION
COMMISSION BILL, 2005**[English]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a State Reorganisation Commission for recommending reorganisation of the States of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a State Reorganisation Commission for recommending reorganisation of the States of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.42 hrs.

(vii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new article 24A)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.42½ hrs.

(viii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Amendment of article 19)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.43 hrs.

(ix) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new article 31)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.43½ hrs.

(x) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new article 16 A)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

(xi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new article 21B)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

15.44½ hrs.

(xii) FOREST CONSERVATION
AMENDMENT BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new section 3 C)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA' (Almorah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item no. 32, Shri Suresh Kurup—Not present.

Item no. 33, Shrimati Krishna Tirath—Not present.

15.45 hrs.

(xiii) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1956.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.45½ hrs.

(xiv) AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WELFARE
BILL, 2005*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and condition of service and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and condition of service and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

(xv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Amendment of article 200, etc.)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.46½ hrs.

(xvi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Insertion of new article 16A)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

(xvii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005*

(Amendment of article 371)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 29-7-2005.

15.48 hrs.

(xviii) AIRLINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
BILL, 2005**[English]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of an Airlines Regulatory Authority and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of an Airlines Regulatory Authority and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs.

ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR
BILL, 2005—Contd.*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 43. When the House was adjourned last time, Shri Chandrappan was on his legs. I would request him to continue his speech.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I was speaking about the seriousness of the problem of child labour in our country. It is a very painful fact when we know that one-fourth of the child labour in the entire world is in India. That is the magnitude of the problem. Of course, it is a problem very much related to the socio-economic situation in the country.

It is because child labour is a reflection of poverty. The poor people who cannot make both ends meet, they think that their children also should make some earning so that they could lead a little better life. They do not

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think in terms of sending their children to school. Instead, they send them to work. If such a situation continues, this problem cannot find a solution. So, our approach should be treating it as a very important socio-economic problem and then trying to find remedy from that level so that these children are helped and they will go to schools and *Balwadis*.

There is no dearth of laws. Even our Constitution says that children from 5 years to 14 years of age should be provided compulsory education. That is the fundamental law. There are so many other laws speaking about how bad child labour is and how we will find the solution. But the problem is that it persists with us. As you know, these children are working in very dangerous occupations. They work in factories that make crackers, salt, kilns, gem polishing, agriculture, carpet making etc. They also work in most of the traditional industries. So, how to find a solution to this gigantic problem is the concern of the House when we are discussing this problem.

Now I have a few suggestions in this regard. One is that there are so many schemes under implementation. If you examine those schemes how they are being implemented, it is found that very tardy implementation is taking place. There is no sense of urgency. There is no concern that this country has to find a solution to this problem. That attitude should change. That is the first thing. If that attitude is changed that means the promise that we made to ourselves, to this country and to this House that by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan we will find a solution to this malady and if we are serious about it, then we will have to provide more funds. We have to do this with a great sense of urgency. But that approach is not seen either from the Central Government or from the State Governments. We have to change our attitude.

As regards the legislation about child labour which are preventing it, discouraging it and threatening punishment and all that, if need be, they should be given more teeth. I do not say that more laws are required. Rather than giving teeth and introducing more legislation, there should be a political will at every level to ensure that these laws are implemented properly. Some assurance should come. This House should express itself that the concerned legislation will be implemented.

I think now the style of implementation should also change. We have Panchayati Raj system. There are three-tier Panchayats. If we ask them to play a role in creating awareness among the masses that this malady should find a solution, that will go a long way in sending the message to the people.

Secondly, it is not only a question of reaching the message to the people, but the Centre as well as the States also will have to find enough resources so that the problem could be solved by providing sufficient financial support.

The earning of the child becomes an important part in conditions of poverty, especially in most backward regions and amongst the most backward section of our population. Take for example the fishermen community. They live in the coastal regions. The children of this community are engaged in various types work relating to fishing. It so happens because they are poor. They should be supported. Then let us take the case of entire north India, the Hindi speaking States, this is one area, if you consider it as one unit of the country, then you would find that most people are backward and illiterate here and child labour is in pre dominant in this part of the country. Special emphasis should be given and special efforts should be made by the Government in these States to find a solution to this problem.

Sir, I mentioned about the fishermen community and also about the Hindi speaking States. Generally speaking, amongst the Muslim community you would find that there is a lot of child labour. Poor in that community should be given sufficient support so that the children belonging to this community goes to school, rather than to factories. I would think that enough emphasis should be laid on these aspects and programmes in this regard should be implemented with all seriousness. If the Government has the will and the determination to solve this problem, then the Government of India should take the initiative and call a meeting of all political parties in the country and have discussion about how the Government proposes to approach this issue, how they are going to tackle this issue, to what extent financial support could be provided, how programmes meant to check this menace could be implemented speedily. All these things should be discussed at a meeting of all

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

political parties at the national level. After that, the various NGOs and other mass organisations should be asked to carry the message to the people and help in implementation of the programmes meant to check this problem of child labour. With greater support, greater involvement of different sections of the society, greater involvement of the Panchayati Raj institutions and with greater emphasis to tackle the problem where it is more serious like I mentioned about the backward communities and amongst the children of northern India, probably the Government would be able to tackle this problem more effectively than what it is doing at present.

There is an immense possibility that we would get a big support to our effort from international organisations like the ILO. We are probably not approaching them with enough emphasis and projects. Maximum effort should be made to get their support in solving this problem. It is not only the international organisations, apart from the ILO, but there are also other organisations and NGOs who could help the Government in its effort. We should take the support of the NGOs. They could provide the finance. We can get financial support from other countries as well. If all these are amassed and then if that is distributed amongst the weaker sections and they are given the requisite support, then their children would start going to school, rather than going to the factories for work. That would create a condition where we will be able to find a solution to this problem.

I had mentioned about the children belong to the dalit community, tribal community, fishermen community, children belonging to the Muslim community and also children of backward states and regions in the northern India.

Sir, you may not ring the bell. I would not take much time and I am going to conclude soon.

16.00 hrs.

What is that infrastructural support that we will have to provide? If financial assistance is provided and conditions are created for the children to go and study, then they will go to school. We must have many more Anganwadis. The ICDS Scheme should be further

extended so that every child will have an Anganwadi in the neighbourhood. If they have it, then they can go and study there. Not only that. Anganwadis should provide more facilities. At the moment they are providing certain facilities. But they should be further strengthened. They should provide not only mid-day meals, but also nutritious food, education in health and hygiene etc. More primary schools should be set up in places where it is needed. We have to approach it as a socio-economic problem. We will have to find out which are the areas which are most affected. We have to get international support. We can organise national meeting of political parties, mass organisations and NGOs and spread the message to the people utilising the panchayati raj institutions.

With all this, I think, we will be able to find a solution to this problem. Then, what is required is a time-bound programme and the whole country should be mobilised so that a solution is found to this problem. If the Government agrees with this approach, then I think, we will be able to find out some kind of solution to this problem in the near future. I hope this House will agree with all these proposals. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Child Labour Abolition Bill, 2005 presented by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi is a private member's bill of utmost importance. The Minister for Labour is present here. I believe that he would make some meaningful efforts to abolish child labour in the wake of this discussion. This is a very serious problem. It has also been laid down in Article 24 of the Constitution that no child under 14 years of age would be employed in factories. Article 39 of Directive Principles of State Policy also states that Children and youth would be protected from exploitation. Despite there being a provision in the Constitution in this regard and inspite of a host of laws on the subject there is no change in the status of the child labourers. In fact their numbers have increased instead of decreasing.

Even after 58 years of Independence there are nearly ten crore child labourers in our country. Out of these, two thirds are working in rural regions and one-third are employed in urban regions. Recently, on the

occasion of International Anti-Child Labour Day, the fact was brought to light that nearly 50 lakh child labourers work as domestic servants. Most of these children belong to tribal communities, are from poor and backward classes. There are a total of 24.6 crore child labourers in the world as a whole, out of which ten crore are from our country. UNICEF, a United Nations Organisation working for the benefit of child labourers has said that child labour in the 21st Century is a blot on face of the world.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Central Government has resolved to eradicate child labour from India by the year 2007 in collaboration with Labour Department of America and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Hon. Shri Sahib Singh Verma who was the Labour Minister in the previous government headed by Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had said that a four crore dollar project is being undertaken for this purpose and that they would eradicate child labour by the year 2007. The Government of India has signed on six treaties of the International Labour Organisation. There is a 1986 legislation for freeing child labourers under which there is a ban on employing child labour. A National Policy on Child Labour was also formulated in 1987. A legislation to end child labour was passed in 1951 and a child labour agreement was signed in 1952.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Despite all this, the desired results have not been achieved in our country. Even now there are nearly four to five lakhs of bonded child labour just in Delhi. But when the Minister for Labour comes out with his statement he would simply list the laws made by the government and would say that action is being taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3644 dated 18 April, 2005 it had been stated in this House that the Government is vigilant about the exploitation of children in the country and all but efforts are being made to free them from the clutches of child labour and penalise the employers. Complaints have been registered against the employers in this regard and such employers have also been taken to court. The data provided in this regard is as follows. 8930 court cases

were registered in 2002-2003. 2650 court cases were registered in 2003-2004. 8246 court cases were registered in 2004-2005. These figures are negligible in a country where there are as many as ten crore child labourers. Figures regarding the penalties imposed and the number of people punished as a result of the said court cases are not available with the Government.

Mr. Chairman, the census figures between the years 1971 and 1981 make it evident that the number of child labourers has increased by 25 per cent and the problem has become graver. The children who should have been in schools, whose hands should have been holding pens are instead left holding 'pattals' and 'kulhars'. The issue of child labour cannot be separated from the issue of poverty. I would like to draw your attention towards the root of the problem. It would be difficult to find a solution for this problem unless we examine the conditions that drive the children to seek employment. People who have a humanitarian outlook are deeply concerned about this issue since legal means are not enough to deal with this problem. Prosperous countries have declared that the issues of poverty and hunger would be eradicated by 2015 and such an appraisal has also been published. Even if this comes true, it will be too late for crores of children.

Mr. Chairman, 87 per cent children drop out of school by the time they reach class XII. This does not at all mean that the parents of such children do not wish to educate them. Their financial constraints do not permit them to educate their children. Till the time that they have assured means of livelihood and adequate arrangements are made for rehabilitation and education of poor children, this problem would not be solved.

Mr. Chairman, I come from Firozabad constituency which is a centre for bangle work. Lakhs of labourers and children work there. Raids are conducted to seek out child labourers. Children escape from backdoors and plead with the owners to keep them on work. A 11 year old child who belongs to a family which consists of an aged father, a sick mother and an adolescent sister will perforce have to work to keep the home fires burning. The same child who is freed from labour after a raid pleads with the factory owner to re-employ him so that

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

he is able to continue feeding this family. Serious thought needs to be given to this aspect of the problem.

As I stated earlier the problem of child labour is intrinsically related to the problem of poverty. There is need to have a holistic approach and a multipronged strategy to deal with this problem. Interestingly, there is no mention of child labourers in the circular/paper that has been prepared regarding the Poverty Eradication Programme. This is a serious problem but it cannot be solved through the agency of law. Helplessness, hunger and unemployment are issues related to poverty prevails in India, so long would the child labourers exist. I would like to say to the Government that there are laws and Constitutional provisions but they are not enough to find a permanent solution to this problem. The Government should be proactive in implementing the poverty eradication programme. This problem cannot be resolved till alternative arrangements made for these children. They are disengaged from work but unless and until arrangements for their education, rehabilitation and for improving their financial condition are made, they are made self reliant and till the time they are constrained by circumstances to work, the situation will not change. I urge the Minister for Labour to take concrete measures to address the problems linked with poverty. The Government should strengthen the poverty eradication programme and take firm steps to implement it. Only then would it be possible to get rid of this problem.

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, no Member in this House has any doubt about the intention with which this Bill has been brought forward by Sardagi Saheb. However, it is a different thing whether the Bill seeking to ban child labour would be able to achieve its objectives. I have a different perspective in this regard. I want that if the Government intends to say some thing about the child labour, then its reply should come from the Education Minister and not from the Minister of Labour. This problem is not so much concerned with Labour Ministry as much with the Education Ministry and with development related issues.

Whatever my senior colleague has said before me, makes it clear. If we look back at the history of the last

50-55 years and pay attention to those issues, then I think we feel ashamed. Much development has taken place in the country during the last 50-55 years and progress has been made on several fronts.

But, there are still some grey areas which make our head hang is shame. Even today, starvation can be seen in the country. Even today, women are being exploited and its instances are before us. The way in which the dalits and the tribal are treated even today is shameful in itself. The child labour can also be included in this category. Members speaking prior to me have said that the child labour is, in someway, related to the poverty but I say that it is directly related to the poverty and to the poverty alone. Let me say something about the child labour before going into its details. There are many figures available regarding child labour. Someone says its number is three crore and the other says that it is around ten crore but they get lost somewhere in its details. There are many such intellectuals who have given a very clear picture while saying that every such child who do not go to school should be treated as a child labour. I think that we should accept this description and definition of the child labour. One should not pay attention to those figures according to which all children are going to school in each state and each district as per the official records. I am talking about the daily attendance in the school. I humbly request the Government that every child, who does not go to school daily, should be treated as a child labour and only then we can factually know about the problem of child labour and also about the gravity of the problem of poverty in the real sense.

Sir, Firozabad was mentioned, bangle industry was mentioned, somewhere lock industry, matchbox industry and cracker industry was mentioned. We believe the child labour associated with these industries to be in very hazardous situation as compared to other industries. These things are brought to the light because here are some industries where our children are able to find opportunities and that is why the problem seems to be more terrible in Firozabad, Tirupati or Sivakasi. But, that does not, in the least, mean that elsewhere, where such industries don't exist and where children can find work and do it are in a cleaner and safer environment, and the problem is not so grave. There would hardly be a

place in India where one cannot see the child of a poor man looking for work. But since he does not find work, his number is not included in the figure. He is out of your and my right, he fails to catch the eyes of institutions like UNICEF and WORLD BANK. They fail to catch the eyes of the organisation engaged in social work who can retrieve them by taking effective steps. Unfortunately, this fact fail to get the media attention also. But, there are thousands and lakhs of such children in each district who are sacrificing their childhood and leaving behind the childhood activities for which our society did not give them time and, works somewhere. My submission is that every child, who does not go to school anywhere, should be considered as child labour.

Second important thing is related to schools. Just now, mention was made about the children going to school. I believe that there is hardly any Government school, which is equipped with proper infrastructure and teaching facilities. We have many schools and children attend these schools having faith in the government and in the government schools somewhere because there is no other option available to there. Parents send their children to schools but there are very few government schools in the country which are in a conditions to admit children and which are worthy of giving education to our dear children. In these schools they do not find the roof so that they do not get drenched during rainy season and can protect themselves from the heat of the sun during summers. There are very few schools which have a blackboard where children can read what the teacher writes on it with chalk. There are very few schools where the children can find such a teacher who will make them progress according to their age. There is only one teacher for teaching four or six classes whose only training is either a DIETE course or what we call B.Ed. degree. It has been accepted in each state that these methods have become obsolete in the present situation. But, our teachers get such kind of a training. The number of such schools is very less where the children get books on time and also the number of such schools is very less which have conducive environment for learning. Many children bunk class because they do not feel themselves at home in schools while the outside world attract them more.

The children of rural areas do not run away from their schools because they do not find any attraction outside. Teachers are also not capable. The education system evolved by the Government of India and State Governments is not such as to create interest in the children. If a child is sent to a school at the age of 10 or 12, he is not able enough to decide as to which direction he has to lead his life.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might have seen and I have also seen that there has been political dispute over the school curriculum. The most of the dispute relates to about whom more should be covered in curriculum, about Akbar or the India's golden period, Ram Rajya or about Gandhiji. We members of Parliament and people like us discuss on such trivial matters on whose shoulder the responsibility of making India's future rests. We have confined ourselves to these trivial matters. Three basic things are required for the development of a child, which are neither discussed in the House nor outside of it. The thing which is required for the development in the of child gets missing. When we cannot provide proper education, then how can we create proper environment conducive to child's development in a school.

We were just talking about teachers' training. The manner in which the politics is mixed with teaching, it seems that 95 per cent work of today's Education Minister is confined to transfers only. All our colleagues know it very well. Whether our education system or the administration is confined to the teachers' transfer only? The student teacher ratio in every school of each district is 1:40 whereas this ratio is 1:70-80 or somewhere it is 1:100 in rural areas. Teachers do not teach students in such schools. The teachers are being posted in the schools where the student teacher ratio is 3-4:40. Such teachers should have been posted in the remote villages. The children do not have any option but to take admission in public schools, and for this all of us and our education system are guilty. I humbly request the Government to focus more on the functional schools. One more thing which is important is that whether children get something from schools? Your and mine children particularly the section of society to which we belong, face no difficulty in sending our children to

[Shri Sandeep Dixit]

schools. The general opinion is that the children who pass out from other than public schools are less capable. We can groom their future and we should do that. Our schools infuse such virtues in the children....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. Time is very short.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): This is a very important discussion. So, time should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today the Prime Minister made a *suo motu* statement on his recent official visit to the United States of America. Thereafter, the hon. Speaker announced that he would allow a discussion on the Prime Minister's statement on Monday the 1 August, 2005.

Subsequently, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has informed that the Prime Minister would be busy on 1 and 2 August, 2005 in connection with the Official Visit of His Excellency, the President of Seychelles and has requested that the discussion may be deferred to 3 August, 2005.

Therefore, the hon. Speaker has now decided to have the said discussion on Wednesday the 3 August, 2005 instead of Monday as announced earlier.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am ready to conclude my speech when you will ask me to do so. I said one thing only whether the school education play an important role in a person's life or not. This is an important aspect in this context, I would like to submit one thing as it is often said that the children should be imparted vocational training. To some extent it is a true but at the same time, we must accept that the kind of education needed for the mental development of a child in its initial years particularly from three to eight years of

age, should be such as precised by learned educationists. But our school management is incapable of doing so. I know it very well since I have seen several schools. Unless we give our fullest attention and provide sufficient funds, we cannot expect development of children in schools. Today, we have got many options of economic development, so our efforts should be in the direction so that a child's energy is channelised towards them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I said one thing in the beginning that the definition of child labour should be changed. We will have to add one or two things in that when we talk of child labour, the picture of children working mostly in the hazardous industries comes before our us. There cannot be two opinions in this regards that this is the area where we will have to take effective steps first. But we have one more kind of child labour in our society, which we generally do not talk about. And this kind of child labour may not be snatching the schooling of children from them. You might have seen that the children of well-to-do families of the urban areas are working in T.V. serials, pictures and such other programmes. This is also a sort of factory. I want to submit before the house that whether or not this kind of labour by the children also comes under the child labour category. Do we mean by the child labour that a poor child grappling with difficult situation? Do the children of this other kind of child labour are not being deprived of their childhood? The childhood, where the natural development takes place....(Interruptions) I am concluding in one minute.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I am on a point of information. I want to say that the Hon. Speaker gave a ruling that the Hon. Railway Minister would make a statement at 4:30; now it is 4:30 o'clock.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am coming to that. The hon. Railway Minister, who is present here, has all along been dealing with railway accidents, but now he has to deal with bomb blast also. This is very unfortunate. Now, he will make a statement.

16.29 hrs.**STATEMENT BY MINISTERS****(iii) Explosion in 2391 Rajgir-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express between Harpalganj-Kolripur railway stations***[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): With profound grief, I would like to apprise the House of the unfortunate incident of the explosion that took place in 391 Rajgir-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express between Harpalganj and Kolripur Railway stations in the Jaunpur-Sultanpur section of the Lucknow Division of Northern Railway in the state of Uttar Pradesh at 5.27 p.m. on 28-07-2005.

The explosion took place in the general compartment while the train was running between the above two station, resulting in the death of 9 passengers and causing grievous injuries to 16 passengers and simple injuries to 45. One passenger died on the spot, another died while being taken to hospital and 7 succumbed to their injuries at the Badlapur hospital. Injured passengers have been admitted in the different hospitals at Varanasi and Jaunpur.

Immediately on receipt of information, Accident Relief-cum-Medical Vans from Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow were rushed with teams of Railway doctors and Para Medical staff. Divisional Railway Managers of Lucknow and Varanasi Divisions also rushed to the spot alongwith their teams of doctors and required officials.

I also reached the site promptly to make an on the spot assessment of the relief and rescue operations. Minister of State for Railways Shri Narayanbhai J. Rathwa, General Manager of Northern Railway, Director General of Railway Protection Force and the Director General of Railway Health Service also reached the site from New Delhi. We visited injured passengers at the hospitals.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle will conduct statutory enquiry into the incident. The Forensic experts of the State Police have visited the spot and examined the damaged coach.

I have announced Ex-gratia payment as follows:—

Rs. 1,00,000/-	Each to the next to kin of the dead passengers
Rs. 15,000/-	Each to the grievously injured and
Rs. 5,000/-	Each to those with simple injuries.

Apart from the above-mentioned ex-gratia payment, compensation of Rs. 4 lakh to the kith and kin of deceased and stipulate amount also to the injured will be paid as per the decision of Railway Claims Tribunal. Employment to the dependents of each killed and to each disabled due to this incident will also provided. Suitable facilities for medical treatment are being made available to the injured with special care to those injured with severe burns. The injured will be given free treatment by the Railway and after treatment they will be sent to their relatives at the cost of Railway.

I would like to further state that I have visited the injured in Varanasi hospital and have ordered to shift the seriously burnt patients immediately in a special coach in the care of doctors to Delhi so that they could be provided best medical facilities. 99 per cent of such injured people belong to Nalanda and are poor people.

I have come to know that Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has also announced Rs. 1 lakh to the family members of the dead passenger, Rs. 50,000 for seriously injured and Rs. 25,000 for injured persons.

After the clearance from the police authorities, the Shramjeevi Express has left for its destination.

A drive is being launched to intensify vigil in the Railway premises and trains in respect of security of passengers. State Governments are also being asked to further strengthen the security measures to prevent recurrence of such incidence.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir,...(*Interruptions*)*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is not permitted.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Speaker had promised that each one of us will be allowed to speak for one minute.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed you because of the gravity of the situation, but it is not permissible under the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: As far as security in railways is concerned, I share the concern of the hon. Minister of Railways. Railway security is an important issue. The cause of the accident should be brought to light as it may be a terrorist or naxalite act. Whatever be the cause of the accident, it should be taken seriously as it is a matter related to national security. It is not correct to believe that GRP and RPF would provide fool proof security as there was explosion. The actual cause of the accident should be brought to light. A thorough enquiry should be conducted to ascertain whether it was a naxalite or a terrorist act. There is a need to review railway security and chalk out a comprehensive plan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion please. I will not allow anybody to have a discussion now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No further discussions. I am sorry, I would not allow anybody to have a discussion. I would not allow that. It is because of the gravity of the situation, I have allowed Shri Mohan Singh to make a few observations. That alone will do, and Shri Sandeep Dikshit can continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has stated that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has announced financial assistance. In this regard, I would like to inform the House that it is not merely an announcement but

today morning he has also distributed the money.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of crime on moving trains and safety and security are State subjects. However, still we do not shun our responsibility and we shall probe it....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): If you allow him, then you allow us also to say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It will be treated as part of his statement.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It can be ascertained only after the probe as to what elements had their hands behind the incident. It has been decided that an enquiry jointly by the State Government, the Commissioner of Railway Safety and Intelligence Wing will be conducted with utmost seriousness and the outcome thereof will be made public.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has announced on T.V. that there is no terrorist hand in it....(Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. He should not have made such a statement. Even before instituting an enquiry, he announced that there was no terrorist hand in it. This is very unfair. Terming it to be the responsibility of the State Government is also not correct....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record because it is not permissible.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have not said so on the T.V.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have watched it on T.V.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I have not said so on T.V. I would like to say to the hon. Member that he should pay a bit attention while listening to anything. He might have listened to any anchor saying so. We can reach any conclusion only after the enquiry....(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2387/05]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says, and that will be treated as part of his statement. Now, he is repeatedly doing it but it will be treated as continuation of his statement. Though the Minister has spoken two or three times, but it will be treated as part of the same statement.

(Interruptions)*...

16.39 hrs.

ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR BILL, 2005—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak again.

Before the statement by the Hon. Minister of Railways, I was saying that we should pay attention to another form of child labour. That form of child labour is that the kids are attracted towards a particular field. I am expecting that people from amongst us will express their views, some for it and some against, but we cannot deny that the children who perform in T.V. programmes or in films, start performing at a tender age as low

*Not recorded.

as 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 and for their mental development.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude. Your promised conclude within two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT: Sir, you please allow me only two minutes to conclude. My submission is only that this category should also be considered as child labour.

Sir, if we go into the genesis whatever I have said earlier regarding abolition of child labour you will find that there is a need not only to strengthen but to reform the entire education system. For this, I would like to request the entire House, because the representatives of all the parties are here, that we should first discuss the issue and mobilize funds and material from whatever sources to utilize for the development of the country in true sense. This way, I am sure, we will not only contribute in development of the country but also this will be a favour to the future generations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, keeping in mind the spirit with which the present Bill is introduced, I fully support it.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill, which is being discussed today to abolish child labour in the country is a very important Bill, which has been introduced by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

Sir, we support this Bill and the reason is that child is the future of the nation. That is the time when his mind is getting developed, his physical structure is getting developed, and he should get the best of facilities during his adolescence, childhood days.

So many recommendations were made by the international organisations. Article 39 (f) of our Constitution says:—

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

"That children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedoms and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment."

Again, article 42 says:—

"The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief."

Therefore, the provisions are there in the Constitution. Are we following them today? That has to be seen. Sir, if you go to Orissa or Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh, you will find hundreds of child labour being employed in picking *tendu* leaves from where they make *bidi pathas*, from where they make *bidi*. The entire *bidi* industry involves child labour. Sir, you go to Badaun in U.P. in the corporate industry, child labour are involved. So, when he has to develop mentally and physically, he is subjected to work. That means, we are robbing him of his rights as a child. He is forced to work. You will see that most of the child labour are from the BPL families who are subject to migration, who are subject to starvation and who are subject to acute poverty and inhuman conditions in times of natural calamity. Those children of the BPL families are subject to work because of their poverty condition. So, how do we eradicate it? How do we stop it? It is the responsibility of any democratic Government to provide the basic necessities such as proper education, proper health facilities, proper environment for his growing up to develop, and proper recreation facilities to a child.

A lot of child education programmes are going on. I will give you my district as an example. In Kalahandi district, the Government has launched a scheme for girl child education, that is *Balika Samridhi Yojana*, where at the primary level, the adivasi harijan child gets a stipend. When the child goes to the middle school, he gets a higher stipend. When the child goes for higher studies, after class X, he gets Re. 1,000 per month. You will be surprised to hear that from the Centre, the allocation has not reached my district since two years. On this I have written letters to the Ministry and I have

also written letters to the officers concerned. Under this scheme, *Balika Samridhi Yojana*, about 18,000 children have been identified in my district but not a single child has got it. So, the Department is looking at the problem of the child with callousness because they cannot raise their voice.

Only after 18 years of age, they could vote. But before that, they are subject to ask the Government, the officials and the executives. Where can they go and clamour? Therefore, this Bill is a very good Bill and it should not be taken lightly.

Till today in the hilly tracts where the ICDS programmes are going on, you will see most of the Anganwadis are empty in the tribal areas. If you go through the Reports of the Scheduled Tribe Commission and the Standing Committee, you will see this. When the Members make tour there, when they go on tour, they see that in most of the ITDA blocks, the ICDS offices are not working. The Anganwadi workers are not posted. The ICDS workers, who give their honorary services, are paid so abysmally low. When the previous Government was there, they had raised it Rs. 1000 a month for the Anganwadi and the ICDS worker. Before that, it was just Rs. 300 honorarium. So, I request the Finance Minister and the Government that a higher amount of money should be paid to those workers who are giving their honorary service in remote places of the country. They should be paid higher.

Now I congratulate the Orissa Government. I congratulate the Chief Minister, Mr. Naveen Patnaik. He has launched a new scheme to have Anganwadi centres in villages where there is a population of 150 children. Previously, a village of 500 or 300 population will have one Anganwadi centre. But now he had reduced that. Now a village with 150 population will have one Anganwadi centre so that more attention is paid to the children there. The dropout rate in children, because of poverty condition among the tribals and the Scheduled Castes, is the highest. Shri Chandra Shekhar Rao knows it very well. He comes from Telungana which is predominantly a tribal and hilly area and is akin to the geographical conditions of Orissa also, because we are neighbour to his State.

Therefore, I think when the Minister comes up with his reply, he gives us a very firm reply that in future we could get a Bill where prevention of child labour is introduced and child labour is abolished. We cannot abolish it totally immediately. It should be done in a phased manner because a lot of small tiny cottage industries depend upon the tender hands like in the Dari industry or the carpet industry of Mirzapur or other handicraft industries throughout the country. It must be worked out. There must be a time-table for them. The study should not be neglected.

Today my district has nearly about 45 child labour schools. The hon. Minister has increased the education package. He has increased the budget for education. Education cess has also been levied. But I am sorry to state that all the child labour schools in my district do not have a roof over their heads. The children do not have a roof over their heads. So, I request the Finance Minister that for the child labour schools also, they should provide infrastructure. They should provide at least three rooms.

In this recess period, I had toured about 150 villages. I had a *pada yatra*. I went to these child labour schools. If you go and see, they are in a pitiable condition. You must make a Master Plan for providing infrastructure, school buildings to the child labour schools. We just cannot open it in paper. Here I open a child labour school and some children will go there and mid-day meals will be given. But Orissa gets the South-West monsoon and it rains for six months of the year. So, where will the children go and study? So, the children are the future citizens of the country. Today we are in Parliament. The Children will become Members of Parliament. They will become Prime Ministers of India. They will become IAS officers. So, considering these facts, we have to create them the condition and atmosphere to grow into healthy citizens of this country.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Hon. Chairman, the name Abolition of the Child Labour Bill is very good when we hear it. But it is very difficulty to abolish the child labour by legal steps or remedy. Day by day, it is increasing in our country. All over the country, it is going on. The behaviour of the employers towards these

children is very bad; it is very cruel. They beat them with legs, and we have been hearing so many other things. We are ruining the future of this country by letting the children employed.

In spite of a law abolition the child labour we could not abolish this so far. It is still going on. Sometimes, some action is taken, police come, and some arrests are made. But actually it is increasing. We have to find out the real reason of this problem. First of all, it is the poverty. Poverty is the menace of our country. Without providing them with some livelihood, we cannot solve this problem. Although their parents are working yet they are not earning enough. That is why, their children also go for work. So, poverty is the main reason behind this problem.

Another reason is the unemployment problem. So far, the unemployment problem could not be solved in our country. This social aspect has to be considered seriously. Then only this child labour can be eradicated from this country. Merely by passing a law or implementing legal provisions, we cannot in any way eradicate this problem. Therefore, my humble submission before this august House is that we have to work untidely, and find out a way to eradicate poverty, and solve the unemployment problem.

[*Transliteration*]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Hon. Chairman, I would like to express my thanks for being given this opportunity to speak on the issue of child labour which is a national problem. Child labour is not only a national but an international problem. This is a matter of serious concern for India. To get at the root of the problem we need to discuss this issue seriously in this House. The very purpose for which the people struggled to attain freedom for India has been defeated. Had the Government striven to meet the basic needs of the people for which provision has been made in the Constitution, that each person in the country would be provided with food, clothing, shelter, health care and education, then it is certain that this seemingly insurmountable problem of child labour would not have assumed such a serious form. Child labour is linked to the problem of poverty. We

[Shri Rajaram Pal]

have not been able to get rid of poverty even after 57 years of independence.

The Finance Minister, the Labour Minister and other hon. Members are present here and I would like to say one thing in the House that the utilisation of funds allocated for the various schemes for poverty alleviation and overall development should have been monitored. Had due care been taken to see that the State governments made proper utilisation of such funds then we would not have faced this problem and this country would have made much more progress as compared to other countries. But no consideration is given to this issue. No discussion is carried out on the matter. The hon. Members keep raising the issue in the House. If the Government of India is providing funds to the state governments for poverty eradication or under the 'Food for Work' programme then Members of the House should be associated with such development projects. I would like to say with certainty that out of the various projects being implemented by Government of India funding, the only effective programme is the 'Sansad Nidhi Yojana' which is being monitored by Members of Parliament.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajaram Pal, please sit down for a minue.

The time allotted for discussion on this Bill is over. If the House agrees, the time for discussion on this Bill might be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the sense of the House is in favour of an extension and so the time for discussion on this Bill is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Chairman, I wish to put just one point before you, that if this House is actually sensitive towards the plight of the child labourers and is serious about implementing the poverty eradication programmes in the country, then it will have to chalk

out a firm action plan. Today, we have to examine the reasons whereby children are forced to work as labourers and we would have to take concrete measures in this regard. If we look closely we will find that a large number of child labourers belong to Dalit community, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, backward community and an even larger number of child labourers are from the minority community of our Muslim brethren.

I would like to say to the Hon. Labour Minister that the NGOs that have been authorised by the Government of India to educate child labourers are being run only on papers. Not even five per cent of their funds are being used to benefit child labourers.

Had the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' been implemented in the right spirit, our country would have benefitted hugely. A 60-65 year old man does not feel the need to send his children to school because the government school teachers are not imparting education to children. The children who pass out from such High Schools do not get employment anywhere. Therefore, a 60-65 year old man finds it a better option to send his children to work in factories, small shops and houses as that would at least help to put food on the table. I only want to say one thing that to solve this problem we need to have a strong will. If the House and the government is really concerned about the poor then it needs to formulate some concrete programmes for them.

17.00 hrs.

If such a concrete programme is made then not only will the problem of child labour be solved but India will also definitely move far ahead of the other countries. Hence, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that special attention be paid towards the problem of child labour and poverty and towards the falling standards of education so as to ensure that the children, in whose hands lies the future of India, would be able to join the mainstream. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this delicate issue today. The Bill for the

Abolition of Child Labour, 2005 is definitely praiseworthy. But for any sensible person who has seen the country, it is impossible to support this Bill. This is a Bill which has no connection to reality, to the ground conditions of India in 2005.

Like this august House, many State Legislatures, when they sit, pass innumerable Bills, amendments, Acts, laws—you name it. That is all they do. But the question comes to mind that whether these laws, these Bills or these small amendments which a lot of us sometimes forget to check or we do not even understand the import of these little words "and/or", what kind of a difference it makes at the ground level when it is implemented, mostly we do not even notice it. So, it is very easy to sit in this august House and pass laws and when the law goes down to the ground level, it gets a very perverted shape and it is implemented in that very perverted shape.

All of us here are children at heart and it is obvious that all of us who think or who are the lawmakers of this country want that the future of this nation, our children grow up as happy, extremely healthy and educated children. We would like our future generation to be on par with the best on earth. But our economic situation forces our children to work.

This law should ideally apply to children, as is understood generally, from the age group of 6 to 14 years. But children have to work. The parents force them to work primarily because of low level of education amongst the parents and resultant poverty. I firmly believe that it is time for all of us here to take a universal approach to problems like child labour. You cannot segregate it and say that child labour is to be dealt with exclusively. That is not possible. You have to deal this problem, as also innumerable other problems, with a universal outlook.

If the economic situation of the families improves, I am certain no parent would like his or her child to go to work in the field or in some damp squib factory or in some *dhaba* or in some restaurant. But with poverty looming so large and hunger burning the stomach, the choice for the children is extremely limited.

It is either they work or they starve, but in the modern situation, there is, of course, a third alternative. We also have to keep that in mind. When we sit here, let us not be unfeeling and let us not be cold and aloof. The third alternative is child pornography, child prostitution and of course, there are so many paedophiles all over this world. Through the internet and through all modern means of communication, paedophilia is a problem that is real and that has to be considered when you consider issues like abolition of child labour.

The WTO has implemented or suggested that child labour must be banned. The United States of America has banned import of many products from India and other countries because they believe that child labour has been used, but all this has been done on their part primarily because they do not understand our problems. If we, who sit in this House, also do not understand the problem of India, I am certain that we will force this country, drive this country in a very wrong direction.

Say, we pass this law and it goes down to the *thana* level, the police officer or the enforcement agency is not bothered about what happens to the child labour, but he or she is bothered about his collections for the month which have to be passed on to the SP, to the DIG, to the IG, to the DG and so on and so forth. So, instead of clamping down on the child labour or stopping the child from working, the enforcement agency, primarily the police, will start harassing your little *dhabas*, your restaurants, your carpet-making units etc. where children are given the opportunity to work and to earn a livelihood by which they support their families.

There are many NGOs who claim that they have saved so many children and they give us the figures also, but nobody speaks about what happens to those children and what is the follow up action. So, if we accept that this is an economic problem, we have our BIMARU States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh or the other name is cow-belt, without offending anybody....(Interruptions) Are you offended? I am sorry.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Orissa is also there. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Of course, Orissa is included in everything. In infant mortality also, Orissa is one of the highest. I have no shame in accepting that Orissa is also included in this conglomeration of States because this forms the major part of this country where the South has developed because of education, while this area has fallen back because of lack of education, lack of proper awareness.

So, to deal with this problem, three things, in my mind, are very important. We have to take a universal look first, but after that, there has to be population stabilisation. There has to be public awareness, which I think is probably the only answer to this problem. But keeping the present scenario in mind, the Government and the enforcement agencies can do a positive action instead of collecting their little monthly *battis* or whatever you call it. They can take a positive role and ensure that wherever a child is working, the child is given minimum wages as are applicable to a grown up. So, if you ensure through your enforcement agencies, through your police, through your labour organisations and Labour Departments that we will not stop the child from working, we will not penalise the owner of the organisation because she or he is employing a child, but we will ensure that the child is given minimum wages, then probably our approach will be more balanced and we will be able to give some kind of justice till such time that the economic situation of this country improves, with such brilliant people sitting on both sides of this House and also, I hope, that the Lord Almighty blesses this country.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participation in the discussion on the consideration of the Abolition of Child Labour Bill, 2005 moved by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi on 13 May, 2005 and make some vital observations on this issue.

The 2001 census speaks about the volume of child labour in the country. Perhaps, we have the largest number of child labour employed in the world. The official reports might speak of a lesser number, but I think, this number is more than what is given in the official records.

Several of our learned colleagues have pointed out that there might be many reasons for it, but one of the important reasons for this problem is the abundant availability of children in the country to work as labourers as they could be employed at a very cheap rate. This is one of the basic reasons for this problem prevailing in this country, and poverty is the basic cause for all this. Therefore, I do fully agree with the viewpoints expressed by my friends.

I would like to narrate some of my humble experiences. All of you are aware that I belong to the State of Manipur, which is surrounded by hills. These hills are very very thinly populated. We have 90 per cent of the area of the State in the hills and 10 per cent of the area of the State in the valley, but the concentration of population is just the opposite of it. I mean to say that more than 90 per cent of the population live in the valley and less than 10 per cent of the population live in the hills.

During our childhood we have never come across the problem of child labour. We always used to follow our parents to the fields to do the ploughing, cultivation, harvesting, etc., but that is not to be treated as child labour, which we are discussing here today.

We have seen in the movies, and we have also personally seen in many of the metropolitan cities that the *mafias* are employing children to do their work. We have even found children being blinded or their legs chopped off, and made to beg in the cities. These *mafias* earn money out of it, and do all this by violating the basic human rights of these children. This is the manner in which we have learnt that perhaps there is definitely the problem of child labour in the country.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

A number of children are employed as domestic servants, which is also very very unfortunate. I would like to very humbly mention in this august House that most of the elite people of our country do employ children below the age of 18 years for doing their family chores. I am very sorry to mention this fact here. We

have to be very clear in our mind if we wish to solve the menace of child labour in this country.

Basically, we have been talking about two issues. Firstly, it was stated that proper education should be provided to the children as well as to their parents, and at the same time we have to take care of their health problems. If we can take care about these two issues, namely, educating the children as well as taking care of their health problems, then we shall be able to do away with this menace of child labour.

But then, why this Act? That is because, my friend must have brought this Bill with the very good intention of highlighting the real problem being faced in the country. I congratulate him for that. However, still I would like to put forward my opinion that we are now in such a situation where solving this particular problem by an Act is a little too early. If I may be allowed to put it in a very modest way, all of us have to try together for getting feasible solutions.

When I came to Parliament this time, I am rather very lucky to be on the Committee on Human Resource Development. Under that Committee, we have a Department called the Department of Women and Child Welfare. We have had long and detailed discussions on the issues of women budgeting, child budgeting, etc. The Government of India has got a plan to have a National Commission for Children to look into all the various problems. I will refer here one of the very important opinions that were brought forward. As you know, the recent amendment to article 45 of the Constitution of India provides early childhood care and education to all children until they complete the age of six years. This has been covered by the ICDC where, after reaching the age of six years, when the child is quite healthy and can be taught preliminary ideas of what is education, they can be converged under what we proposed to be the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Children aged between six and 14 years would be covered under this scheme. By that way, perhaps the children will be made so busy in their lives that they will have no time to go any other way. Their parents will be very happy in the sense that the children would be given food, they would be given shelter, they would be given clothes,

they would be given free books and what not. We are going to provide free and compulsory education to children through *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Once we do that, the problem is almost solved, I put it that way.

However, in a State like ours—I am not ashamed to say this before all of you—the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has not taken off in spite of the fact that it has started some years back. But, we do not lose hope because this time we are collecting education cess from all and we have enough money to implement the provisions. So, we are very hopeful that we will start now. Perhaps we shall be able to come up on par with other parts of the country. As you know, Manipur is having a literacy rate of not less than 60 per cent at the moment. So, it will not be a problem for us. In our case, I was trying to point out, once the ignorance of parents towards the education of their children is removed through proper education both for the parents and children, this evil of child labour can be got rid of. This is my firm belief. This is one of the most important things that we have to do.

For this we have to find a holistic approach, comprehensive, strategic and area specific arrangement. Our country is vast and every area has got different kinds of problems. Therefore, it must be area-specific. The approach should be comprehensive, integrated and holistic. Only then perhaps we shall be able to come out of this problem.

I congratulate my friend for having brought this Bill to the House to see that all of us are enlightened to the problem and go ahead in ensuring that the future of our children is in a very good shape and that they compete among themselves and among the children of the rest of the world.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Here, the main question is with regard to the amendment to the present Act—the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. There is already a law in the land which regulates child labour. In the present Act, there is an inherent weakness and deficiency. I would like to bring that into focus and to the attention of the Government. The point is that

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

children are allowed to work but not allowed to do hazardous work. Only in the field of hard labour, there is prohibition but in other fields, children are permitted to work and they are still working.

When children of their age are going to school, these poor children who are living below the poverty line are working hard in hotels, restaurants, etc. They are working in an obnoxious situation. This is the situation in the country. We have the Eighty-Sixth amendment of the Constitution, which has declared 'education' as a fundamental right. All citizens have the right to education. It is a fundamental right. Providing education is the duty of the Government. Here, is a case wherein the children are not allowed to go to schools because of poverty and poor economic circumstances. They are forced to work in some restaurants or saloon or beauty parlour, which are not termed as hotels.

As I have already pointed out, it is a tragedy and it is a clear case of discrimination when there is a law and education is a fundamental right according to the Eighty-Sixth amendment of the Constitution. These children are denied that right. They are not allowed to enjoy this right. This is the pitiable condition available in the country. I would request the hon. Minister to amend the present law. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is only partial and does not enforce total prohibition. The law is defective in the sense that prohibition is there, no doubt, but that prohibition is only for so-called hard labour. Prohibition is only partial. Hence, my request is that it must be made total, total in the sense that all children up to the age of 14 must go to the school. They must have the right to go to the school. This is the fundamental right under the Eighty-Sixth amendment of the Constitution. It is clear that these children who are now going for work are not allowed to do hazardous work. Under the present Child Labour Act, they are denied that opportunity.

Therefore, my humble submission in the instant case is that the Government must take a very definite stand to see that the 1986 Act is amended prohibiting all sorts of child labour, whether it is at the beauty parlour

or restaurants or some hotel or some other place of work. Children below the age of 14 should not be permitted to work in hotels, restaurants, beauty parlours, etc.; they should go to school. The law must be changed. Otherwise, we cannot speak of equality before law. We are really denying the citizen's right to these poor children. The law is crystal clear and that it is discriminatory in the sense that there is only partial prohibition.

Now in the 21st century, partial prohibition is not enough. Hard labour is prohibited; hazardous labour is prohibited. But, other type of labour is very widespread. It has covered the entire human activity. So, we can see children doing their jobs which are hazardous in nature. When we travel on the road, we can see children doing some work, collecting the papers or doing some work to earn some money. Their parents will send them for work due to poverty.

Ours is a vast country. We claim and boast that our country has attained cent per cent literacy. How can we attain literacy when the dropouts in the schools are alarmingly on the increase? So, due to compulsion, children go up to first standard or second standard. After that, they become dropouts and go for doing labour. Majority of these children do not reach tenth standard or even fifth standard. There will be dropouts in the country even at the level of primary education. So far as partial prohibition is concerned, it should be converted into total prohibition. In our country, we feel proud of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. We are trying to see that all children in our country go to schools. We have this Employment Guarantee Scheme. We are now taking steps to see that everybody gets a job, everybody is employed. That is our aim. We should have some aim that all children should go to school without any discrimination whether they are living below the poverty line or otherwise. Whatever be the economic condition, the State should take the responsibility to see that all children go to school. The Child Labour Act, 1986 should be amended.

So, I request the hon. Minister who is present here, he is a man of good sense, he has a great concern towards children, to take steps to amend the 1986 Act

so that all the children in our country below the age of 14 get an opportunity to attend the school. The child labour should be totally prohibited in our land. That is the need of the hour. I hope that the Minister will definitely see and bring an amendment Bill on Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986. There is a national campaign also going on. I support it for total prohibition of child labour. With these words, I support this Bill.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Abolition of Child Labour Bill.

"That the Bill to abolish the child labour in the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Children are God. Children are like flowers blooming in God's Garden. The flower is having equal petals. Each petal has equal value. It is said:—

[Translation]

"Punrapi Jananam, Punrapi Maranam,
Punrapi Janani, Jathare Shayanam"

[English]

We are born as child and we die as child. The young and the aged are as one.

The old man also is a child. Again after death he will go to a mother's womb, according to Hindu hymn. So, all children are Gods. But now we are punishing children, that mean, we are punishing the God. They are labouring, which means, the God is labouring. We are butchers; we are butchering the God. So, that infinity coherence is synchronised within us. We do not know the art how to recognise that eternal power which unfolds the creating potentiality probably hidden inside children. So, child labour is a crime.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member from Kalahandi, Mr. B.K. Deo and the hon. Member from Dhenkanal, Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, while participating in the debate, quoted the truth as to what is happening in Kalahandi. That truth is simple, natural and effortless. What is

happening in Kalahandi? We see a mother is selling her own baby just at the cost of Rs. 5 whereas the onion costs Rs. 30 a kilo there. See the value of children, particularly in Kalahandi!

Sir, ours is the State, which was earlier hit by super cyclone. Then we had super floods, and now we are hit by severe droughts. All these have converted us into super poverty. In the super cyclone, those fathers and mothers who are dead, washed and wiped away totally, whom ocean has swallowed, what will happen to their children, those orphans?

I am grateful to my Chief Minister, Mr. Navin Patnaik who has rendered maximum help to have shelter houses for all those affected persons. Here, I would request the Central Government that likewise they are developing shelter homes, old age homes and holiday homes for old people, they should do something similar for the poor children also. Wherever the *Anath Ashrams* are there, some charitable institutes are managing them. But they are not well organised. The Government should see to it that these *Anath Ashrams* are run properly. They should render all possible help.

Sir, what happens to the education of the poor children? The moneyed people are having huge accumulation of properties. They are sending their children abroad, to Doon schools and other English medium schools for their education. There is a mushroom growth of English medium schools. But who looks after the poor children, the orphans, and others, who are studying in the rural areas? That is the rural catastrophe. We all know what happens to the downtrodden, *Adivasi* and poor children in the rural areas. The children are now starving, particularly, in my State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the question of humanity. You know it better. You can see that most of the children of my area in the age group between 12 to 20 are suffering from elephant leg disease, known as *Filaria*. Because of this disease, they do not get married. Nowhere in the world, you would see such a great suffering of children. More than 50 lakh people, who are suffering from *Filaria* and fever with shivering, are not able to sleep in the night.

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

Then, in the coastal belt of Orissa, especially in Chilka under my Constituency, the children do not get even milk; they do not get even any breakfast. It is happening in my State. It is rampant.

Sir, today, wherever you go, you see a large number of poor children begging. If you are moving via car towards airport, on the way on any red light, you might see poor children begging, saying give them money. Poor children are begging on the roads on any red light; they are begging at the railway stations; and even in the running trains. This is the plight of the poor children.

I know, the law is there for the protection of their rights. But it seems, we do not know the art how to promulgate the law; we do not know how to protect them. Their protection is highly solicited. The law needs to be implemented in true spirit so that all these children get full meals, proper attention, full protection and proper education. Most importantly, the child labour should stop at all costs. We should discuss all these things very seriously in this august House, the temple of modern democracy of our country, India.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM (Jamnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since my seat is behind the pillar, therefore, I seek your permission to speak from here. I welcome the Bill introduced by our friend Shri Iqbal Ahmedji and would like to express my views in that regard only. Hon. Members who have expressed their views prior to me on child labour but I would like to speak on a different line. Perhaps, some may agree with me and some may not. This problem is not related to just poverty. Of course, poverty is one of its reason but this problem is also associated with the family planning. We believe that only poor people are engaged in child labour. The children of rich people only study and they need not work. It is the responsibility of the Government as also of the other departments, to eradicate this problem. This problem can be solved only when the Education Department and the Family

Planning Department will work towards bringing awareness in the society. My friend Shri Sandeep Dixitji has rightly said that all the children not going to school are child labour. Because the children not going to school have shortage of money. Those who have money, they send their children to schools. The figures can vary but I do not want to go into them. The child labourers are of two kinds. The first is the kind of labour that is seen by us and who go for work in the morning and return by evening. The other is the bonded labour who are mortgaged with some industrialist or farmer for a year period and the child is unable to go home for the period. The parents take money in advance and the children are forced to do labour. I want to say that the Child Labour Act should be implemented strictly and the people enjoying as well as the parents sending children for work should be given the stringent punishment.

Some people do not belong to poor families and also have facilities but they leave their children on the road for earning money and indulge in drinking and enjoy with the help of money earned by the children. This problem is related to different departments and the awareness of the society is also linked with it. My friend Shri Ramji Lal Suman has said that we should not endanger the future of the country by giving work to children having mercy feeling towards them. Some difficulty is felt when some Act is implemented strictly but it is for a short period only. We should bear that difficulty in the interest of the country. Many children work in the chemical factories, Beedi Industries and other such hazardous places where they fall prey to many diseases. The future of the children of our country cannot be bright if they fall sick at such a tender age. If their childhood will not be free from diseases, then how will be their youth? How can the future of the country be bright if the youth will not be free from diseases? Even more stricter Act should be enacted if the existing one is not sufficient so that we can secure the future of our country by following it. Recently, a large number child labour has been freed in Surat of Gujarat and Mumbai. One can make them free but afterwards no inquiry is ever made to find out as to what happened to them and whether the earning

member of their family can be provided job or not. This vice cannot be eradicated as long as these problems are not solved.

My friend Shri Sandeepji has said that there is one teacher for 40 students but in my constituency, there is one teacher not for 40 but for 100 students and he too does not come regularly, few times only. Sometimes, there are two teachers for 300-400 students. One out of the two teachers comes and handles all the children.

Sir, he gives some kind of home work to all and keeps taking sounds in the class while all the children keep sitting. There is nothing like teaching but only to keep the children for 3-4 hours. Therefore, my suggestion is that if a person has more than two or three children, then the facilities they got from the Government should be curtailed and they should neither be provided ration nor medicine. The problem can only be solved by taking such harsh steps and not otherwise. A limit should be specified as to how many children a poor person can have. Anyone having two children is poor, person having 4-5 children is also poor. It should not be so. Each section of the society has some responsibility towards the country. Everyone will have to think as to how the country can be made strong and healthy? We can control this problem only if we do so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, often the contractors in Gujarat bring workers from Madhya Pradesh. A workers team of 15-20 children is made and kept in a village and the work is got done from that team for one year. Neither the contractor nor the employer takes any care as to what happens to those children in one year. Someone dies in accident and someone dies of disease. No attention is paid to them. Our Gujarat state does not even falls under BIMARU (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) concept. It is a rich state but workers are brought these from outside, particularly from Madhya Pradesh and many colonies are established. Therefore, there is need to address this problem.

Sir, finally, I would say that the bill brought in here by our colleague is very good one and we should ponder over it. Be it any law, it should be implemented strictly and politics should not be played in that. I would like to

request the hon. Minister that if we want to take our country forward, we will have to take some tough measures. There are many industries in my Jamnagar area and the children are working therein. The problem with us is that if we speak, then also we are criticised and if we do not, then also we face the similar situation. I, therefore, suggest that we will have to find out a solution to this problem by sitting together and rising above the party affiliations, only then we can secure a good future for our country.

Sir, child labourers also face the problem of sexual exploitation, we all know this thing. This does happen with them. My submission therefore, is that if the present law is not strong enough, then a new law should be enacted, and if the need be, amendments should be effected in the present law so as to make it more powerful. There should be a provision of harsh punishment for those, say the parents of the children who force them for child labour and the contractors who employ them, only then we would succeed in abolishing this evil practice.

While giving my thanks to the Hon. Chairman, I support this Bill and at the same time I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for bringing forward such a good Bill.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I rise to support unequivocally the Bill brought forward by our colleague Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi because our posterity will not condone us if we do not agree to the elimination and abolition of child labour.

Being an Indian, we are proud that we have been striving hard to carve out a space for our country in the comity of nations. We have already transformed our country into one of the biggest economies in the world. We have made significant stride in information technology, space technology and other modern technologies.

But still our fate has been stigmatised by a number of aspects which we have been bequeath upon from the time immemorial. Sir, in spite of all progress, we

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

are not immune to disgrace and bereft of ignominy because while India shares the 16 per cent of the world population, we also hold the largest number of child labour. More so, female child is dominating the child labour in our country. As we know, whatever is in bloom is in jeopardy. The child of the world is vulnerable, susceptible to any kind of adversity and it is our bounden duty to protect them, to nourish them and to nurture them. We have a past, we have the present and we have a future also. Past is a cancelled train. Future of India is a promissory note. Present in cash in hand we have to spend it wisely. Sir, I cannot restrain myself from reading out a few lines from the Annual Publication of UNICEF, 1997. I quote:

"A day will come when nations will be judged not by their military or economic strength, nor by the splendour of their capital cities and public buildings but by the well being of their people, by the levels of health, nutrition and education, by the opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labour, by their ability to participate in the decision that affect their lives, by the respect that is shown for their civil and political liberties, by the provision that is made for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged and by the protection that is afforded to the growing minds and bodies of their children."

Sir, the nationalist leaders of our country during the national upsurge of India have conceived a vision for our future. In that, Congress of 1931, which is renowned as Karachi Congress very firmly stipulated the welfare and wellbeing of the children of India. Now-a-days, the child labour has often hogged the limelight since our economy has been integrated with the global market. Sir, you are well aware that in the wake of Uruguay round of talks at Marrakech we have been a signatory of the agreement. Not only that we always subscribe the view expressed by the International Labour Organisation.

We are signatory to the convention on the rights of children. Not only that, in Delhi in the presence of international forum and under the UN system, we have made a Joint Declaration for the rights of the children.

But it is also a fact that the child labour problem, be it acute or not, cannot be solved by any revolution. It has to be done away with through a voluntary process. Therefore, the Indian Government has taken initiative for gradual elimination of child labour prevalent in our country.

First of all, I would like to ask the hon. Minister who hails from Andhra Pradesh—which has already earned I do not know the credit or discredit of having the second largest child labour population in India—as to what is the actual or exact number of child labour in our country. How the child labour has to be defined? It is because before doing anything or before formulating any policy or before framing any law, first we have to have a conceptual clarity as to what is the distinction between labour and work and whether it is paid or unpaid labour or work. Even our Constitution enshrined that child till the age of 14 years will not be engaged in hazardous work. Now what is the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous? It has to be defined. For example, most of the Members of this House represent rural areas. As you know, in the rural sector now-a-days fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides are being used in a large way. I would like to know whether those children who are working in the fields are not vulnerable of having been infected with this kind of pesticides and insecticides. In Latin America, there is a country named Costa Rica. In this country, 15,000 children have become impotent because of the impact of pesticides and insecticides.

It is a very prevalent conception that the work is generic but labour is restrictive in definition. So, first of all, we have to clarify the labour and work and then hazardous and non-hazardous. I would like to know whether it is true that whenever a child works in a non-hazardous situation, he will be able to avail of all kinds of facilities and advantages of our society. He cannot.

Therefore, we should view the entire issue of child labour from the holistic perspective taking into account the socio-economic factors...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for the discussion on this Bill is over. If the House agrees, then the time for the discussion on this Bill may extended by half an hour...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: We have to formulate all our policies in a very holistic manner because we should not allow ourselves to be confused in the definition of child labour. The problem of child labour is universal in its character, but in the Indian context it is crucial because now child has become a commodity.

International trade agreements are now being contingent upon the status of child labour in our country. In this age of cut throat competition through out the world, child labour has become a subject of great discussion. In the Kyoto protocol also, the issue of child labour in India was cited to deflect the attention and concern of the third world countries. Naturally, in this competitive age, when everything ascertained on the theory of economies of scale, children have the capacity to tilt the balance for or against anything. Therefore, the issue of child labour has now assumed global proportions.

In our country this question of child labour is not anything new. Child labour has been in existence in this country since ages. It is because since our childhood we have to adopt ourselves and get ourselves acclimatised with our environment. So, since that time only we do certain works and sometimes, in keeping with the

age-old concept practised throughout the world, we earn while we learn.

The problem is that children are exploited because of poverty and penury. Children are subjected to various kinds of mortification. Children have been subjected to cupidity. Children are even being traded on a large scale. Worst, girl children have even been dragged into the flesh trade.

Even in the case of insurgency, children are being used.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, you can continue your speech next time.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 1st August, 2005 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 1, 2005/Sravana 10, 1927 (Saka).

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