

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'C'

Acc. No.....11.....
Dated.....14 June 2007

(Vol. XX contains Nos. 31 to 35)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

A.K. Singh
Joint Secretary

Harnam Dass Takker
Principal Chief Editor

Dr. R.N. Singh
Chief Editor

Prabhakar Mohanty
Senior Editor

Dhani Ram
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XX, Seventh Session, 2006/1928 (Saka)]

No. 32, Thursday, May 18, 2006/Vaisakha 28, 1928 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 482-483	3—37
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 484-491 and 493-501	37—66
Unstarred Question Nos. 4063-4292	65—297
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	297—307
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	307, 339—340
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
Tenth and Eleventh Reports	307
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES	
Fifth Report	308
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR	
Statements	308
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
Eighteenth to Twenty-first Reports	309
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	
Hundred and fifty-fifth to Hundred and sixty-first Reports	309—310
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in fourth report of Standing Committee on Rural Development pertaining to Ministry of Panchayati Raj Shrimati Suryakanta Patil	310—311
(ii) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in twelfth report of Standing Committee on Rural Development pertaining to Ministry of Panchayati Raj Shrimati Suryakanta Patil	311—312

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry Report on the demise of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose	312—327
(ii) Re: Reported grenade attack by militants in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir on 17th May, 2006 ...	340—343
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	327—339
(i) Need for widening of alternate road from Barthlaguandu to Kodaikanal via Vadipatti-Thadiyankundu-Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu	
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan	327—328
(ii) Need to take steps to clear the pending draw of lots in Cooperative Housing Societies of Delhi	
Shri Jai Prakash	328
(iii) Need to provide reservation for Nomadic tribes along with OBCs in higher educational institutions	
Shri Haribhau Rathod	328—329
(iv) Need to withdraw import duty on cement with a view to check its soaring price	
Shri Santosh Gangwar	329
(v) Need to broadcast DD-2, Metro Channel in Katihar district, Bihar	
Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary	329—330
(vi) Need to provide employment allowance to unemployed youth in the country	
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	330
(vii) Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose land has been acquired for Air Force Project in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan	
Shri Nihal Chand	330—331
(viii) Need to set up industries based on Manganeese/Silica sand in Rewa Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Chandramani Tripathi	331
(ix) Need to withdraw new catering policy outsourcing the entire catering of Railways to private parties with a view to protect the interests of commission vendors	
Shri Sunil Khan	331—332
(x) Need to clear the proposal to bring forth public bonds of REC and NHAI for the benefit of investors	
Shri Rewati Raman Singh	332

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xi) Need to implement the recommendations of Rangarajan Committee on 'Petroleum products' and peg the tax rate at 20 per cent to check price rise	
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	332—333
(xii) Need to take a realistic approach to fulfil Railway Budget proposals instead of taxing passengers with indirect extra charges	
Shri A.K.S. Vijayan	333—334
(xiii) Need to send a Central team to Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh to review the implementation of Centrally sponsored rural development schemes	
Shri Rajesh Verma	334
(xiv) Need to conduct a C.B.I. inquiry into the alleged irregularities committed by Power Grid Corporation in tender procedure for setting up 765 K.V. Project in Maharashtra	
Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil	334—335
(xv) Need to include Bargarh district of Orissa under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	
Shri Prasanna Acharya	335
(xvi) Need to finalize the process for privatisation of ESI hospitals in Kolhapur and Pune for the benefit of labour force	
Shri S.D. Mandlik	336
(xvii) Need to implement the recommendations of National Farmers' Commission for the benefit of farmers in the country	
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'	336—337
(xviii) Need to check displacement of people in Jharkhand due to implementation of various projects in the absence of concrete rehabilitation policy	
Shri Tek Lal Mahato	337—338
(xix) Need to check increasing price of cement in the country	
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu	338
(xx) Need to implement the recommendations of Mahajan Commission's Report on border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka with regard to the status of Belgaum	
Shri M. Shivanna	338—339
UNION DUTIES OF EXCISE (ELECTRICITY) DISTRIBUTION REPEAL BILL, 2006	343—348
Motion to Consider	343
Shri P. Chidambaram	343—344
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	344—348

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	348
Motion to Pass	348
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2005	348—398
Motion to Consider	349
Shri Mahabir Prasad	351—353, 377—379
Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh	354—358
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	358—361
Dr. Sujan Chakraborty	361—364
Shri Shailendra Kumar	365—366
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	366—369
Shri B. Mahtab	369—371
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	371—373
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	373—376
Shri Ramdas Athawale	376—377
Clauses 2 to 33 and 1	379—397
Motion to Pass	398
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Twenty-sixth Report	350
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Situation arising out of communal violence in different parts of the country	398—510
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	398—405
Shri Harin Pathak	405—420
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	421—429
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	429—441
Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	442—445
Shri Kishan Lal Diler	445—447
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	447—450
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	450—454
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	454—460

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen	461—464
Shri Ilyas Azmi	464—469
Shri Anant Gangaram Geste	469—474
Shri B. Mahtab	475—477
Prof. M. Ramadass	478—481
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	481—483
Shri M. Shivanna	483—485
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	485—487
Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	487—491
Chaudhary Bijendra Singh	491—494
Shri Ramdas Athawale	495—496
Shri Chhewang Thupstan	496—498
Shri P.S. Gadhave	498—499
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	499—500
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	500—510
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	511—512
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	512—518
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	519—520
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	519—520

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 18, 2006/Vaisakha 28, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given an Adjournment Motion. Government have rejected the Mukherjee Commission's report received by them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Adjournment Motion given by you cannot be allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your submission is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. At this stage I cannot allow your Adjournment Motion. I disallow it. I will give you time to raise this issue during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter. Adjournment Motion should be allowed on it. Its rejection by the Government is very shameful and objectionable. It is not

proper to reject a Commission's entire report and throw it in the dustbin. ...(Interruptions) Till date Subhash Chander Bose's death remains to be a mystery, ...(Interruptions). This is objectionable. A discussion should be held on it. This discussion can not be completed during the 'Zero Hour'. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter. This Commission was constituted to unravel the mystery surrounding the death of Subhash Chander Bose. ...(Interruptions) Government do not have faith in that Commission's report. The Government have rejected it which is not justified at any rate. ...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): The Congress Party does not want the truth to come out. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give notice. The hon. Speaker, will also come on Monday. He will decide on this whether time for discussion has to be given or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I have given notice. The contention of the Government that we reject this report is not proper. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time in 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The truth should come before the public. All this is being done to hide the truth. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me now.

[Translation]

We will discuss it for 10-15 minutes after the Question Hour and after laying of papers.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The leader of the House should make a statement on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make your point during the 'Zero Hour'.

*Not recorded.

[English]

Now, we will take up the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 482—Shri Mohd. Mukeem.

[Translation]

Historical Worship Places

*482. MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether various historical worship places in the country are in a dilapidated condition;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repair these historical worship places;

(d) whether the Government has also received any proposals regarding inclusion of worship places of national importance in the list of protected monuments;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India under the Department of Culture, maintains only those historical places of worship which are notified as monuments of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. State-wise list of such protected historical places of worship is at Annexure-I.

Conservation of these monuments is a continuous process. Measures for conservation and maintenance of these protected monuments are taken from time to time as per requirement and availability of resources.

(d) to (f) Proposals for protection of 21 places of worship were received during the last three years and the same have been protected as monuments of national importance under relevant provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. A State-wise list is at Annexure-II.

Annexure I

List of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites Under Religious use under the Control of Archaeological Survey of India

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	State	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	66
2.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	113
3.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal	42
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka	85
5.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	34
6.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	57
7.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	17
8.	Chandigarh	Haryana	2
9.	Chandigarh	Punjab	1
10.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	29
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	74
12.	Delhi	Delhi	12
13.	Dharwad	Karnataka	108
14.	Goa	Goa	3
15.	Guwahati	Assam	12
16.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	36
17.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	45

1	2	3	4
18.	Kolkata	West Bengal	31
19.	Kolkata	Sikkim	1
20.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	37
21.	Patna	Bihar	13
22.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	2

1	2	3	4
23.	Patna	Uttar Pradesh	29
24.	Thrissur	Kerala	11
25.	Thrissur	Tamilnadu	4
26.	Vadodara	Gujarat	89
27.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	21
Total			974

*Annexure II**List of monuments/sites of religious use protected during the last three years*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Monuments/Sites	Locality	District
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Hayagriva Mahadeva Temple	Hazo	Kamrup
2.	Assam	Sri Kedar Temple	Niz Hazo, Tehsil Hazo	Kamrup
3.	Assam	Sri Ganesh Temple	Niz Hazo, Tehsil Hazo	Kamrup
4.	Assam	Sri Kameswar Temple	Niz Hazo, Tehsil Hazo	Kamrup
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Champavati Temples	Chamba	Chamba
6.	Karnataka	Virupaksha Temple and Bazar	Hampi	Bellary
7.	Orissa	Chandrasekhar Temple (Group of Monuments and Ancient Steps)	Locality—Yogapitha Kapilas Tehsil- Gondia	Distt. Dhenkanal
8.	Orissa	Annakoteswar Temple	Locality—Latadeipur Tehsil-Gondia	Distt. Dhenkanal
9.	Orissa	Kannakeswar Mahadev Temples & Group of Temples	Mauza-Kualo, Sheet No. 4, Tehsil Parajang	Distt. Dhenkanal
10.	Orissa	Anant Sayi Vishnu	Locality—Saranga Tehsil-Parajanga	Distt. Dhenkanal
11.	Orissa	Kapileswar Mahadev Temple	At-Hatuari, Tehsil- Kamakhyanagar	Distt. Dhenkanal
12.	Rajasthan	Peotecton of Brahma Temple	Pushkar	Azmer

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Uttaranchal	Patal Bhuvaneshwar Cave	Pithoragarh	Didihat, Pithoragarh
14.	West Bengal	Maghen David Synagouge	Ward No. 45	Kolkata
15.	West Bengal	Beth-el-synagouge	Pollock Street	Kolkata
16.	West Bengal	White Mosque Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad
17.	West Bengal	Yellow Mosque Kella Nezamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad
18.	West Bengal	Dharmaraj Temple	Pathra	Midanapur
19.	West Bengal	Sitala Temples	Pathra	Midanapur
20.	West Bengal	Navratna Temple Complex	Pathra	Midanapur
21.	West Bengal	26 Siva Temple	Barrakore Khardah	Distt. North 24 Parganas

MOHD. MUKEEM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kapilvastu being the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha, devotees and tourists in large numbers from all parts of the country and abroad visit this place. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any action plan has been made for the development of Kapilvastu? If so, the details thereof and if not, by when an action plan will be formulated to develop it.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that our Ministry has made several such plans by which cities connected with Gautam Buddha have been developed. We have specially paid attention towards developing the Buddhist Circuit and have promoted it. Till now Bodhi Gaya, Vaishali, Rajgir and Nalanda have been included. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Please state about Kushinagar? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. Please listen to her first.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: If you allow me to answer, then only I will be able to say about Kushinagar. I am explaining the circuits which we have taken up so far.

We have similar plans to take up major sites. Alongwith it, I would also like to say that these matters being in the concurrent list, proposals are submitted by the State Governments and the Union Government consider them. They set priorities for themselves and then we try to provide them the resources according to their priorities.

MOHD. MUKEEM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said about many places. I would like to know when Kapilvastu will be included in it? Through my second question I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time by when construction of an air strip will be commenced on the land acquired for that purpose in view of the fact that large number of tourists from the country and abroad visit Kapilvastu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question is not related to this.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that had it been upto our wishes we would try to build airports at several such places of historical importance and at important monuments of world class. My Ministry cannot take a decision in this regard. We are approaching the Ministry of Civil Aviation to provide flight services at more and more places and regarding Kapilvastu if you will get proposal submitted from your State Governments and from Parliament we will definitely give it due consideration.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma—not present.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. From the Statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister, I find that there are four places as protected monuments in Tamil Nadu. At Dindigul, the headquarters of my parliamentary constituency, at the centre of the city there is one Padmagirishwarar Hill and there is a temple at the top which are maintained by the Archaeological Department. Sir, through you, may I request the hon. and energetic Minister to take steps for the daily *pooja* and *darshan* at Padmagirishwarar temple which has got a very beautiful and well-built tower and *sanctum sanctorum* of century old? I have already written and spoken about this to the Director, Archaeological Department at Chennai.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I would like to inform the hon. Member that only those religious heritage sites, which have been taken under the protection of the Central Government, that is, the ASI, which were live temples or live places of worship, are allowed to carry on. Those temples, which did not have the facility of offering worship and prayer, are not allowed under the rules and regulations which govern us.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Tourism Minister. She is well aware that Konark, Puri and Lingaraj temples are places of historical worship having international importance in the tourism map of the world. I would like to know whether there is any proposal of declaring a special package for the maintenance of Konark, Puri and Lingaraj temples which have their unique importance in the tourism map of the world. The hon. Tourism Minister is also well aware that Konark is one of the wonders of the world but due to lack of proper maintenance by the Archaeological Survey of India, this is now in a state of collapse. What steps the Government is taking to maintain and repair these historical places of worship having their unique importance in the world map of tourism?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Repair, renovation and maintenance of all these historical places of worship and others are ongoing and continuous process. The hon. Member will appreciate that the Archaeological Survey of India has limited resources and limited personnel. We

are discussing with the Planning Commission to get more resources to increase the number of trained people to restore and upkeep these monuments. But I would like to tell him that the Ministry of Tourism has special packages, and I can give him all the details after the Question Hour about Konark and other places of importance in Orissa. I have all the details with me. I can give them to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Thank you hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal with the Government of India to constitute regional committees for developing and promoting tourism by involving the local MP along with other experts in view of the fact that the MP of the locality would have intimate knowledge of the places of heritage importance and about the places of worship in their region.

I would like to know whether there is any proposal to develop a massive heritage tourism network connecting Rameshwaram, the abode of National Integration, with Thiruppullani, the famous well-known Vaishnav shrine connected with the Ethic Ramayana and Thiru Utterkosamangal, the ancient and celebrated Saivait place of worship, and Kalaiyar Koil, another historical place of worship, which is also connected with the Indian Independence movement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Question is mainly with regard to historical worship places.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, even though this Question does not come from the original Question, I would like to answer it. The thing is that in 2003, we prepared a 20-year Perspective Plan for tourism. As I said already, implementation

[English]

of all the projects is decided on a priority basis with the State Governments. Funds are allocated, to some extent, by the Ministry of Tourism. The projects are taken on a regular basis. Every year we target three or four projects with every State. These 20-year Perspective Plan take care of what the hon. Member has mentioned and have general guidelines to the State Governments. I can read them out. They also talk of preparing an Action Plan. This whole 20-year Perspective Plan goes on to emphasize the importance of preparing an Action Plan for implementing eight or nine projects which we have

specified. That implementation lies with the State Government. It is not for us to form any small group to develop tourism because we would be violating the Constitution.

I have advised all my colleagues, the Members of Parliament, who have come to me with proposals of their constituencies, that they should take them up with the State Department of Tourism which will then bring it to us, and the MPs can always come to my Ministry and push their projects when we are discussing with the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is 2550th birthday of Gautam Buddha. It was decided that the Government of India would celebrate the 2550th birthday of Gautam Buddha at the Government level by constituting an all party committee. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what preparations are being made to celebrate 2550th birthday of Gautam Buddha.

Sir, the important places related to the birth and life of Gautam Buddha are in India. He was born at Kapilvastu. He attained salvation at Kushinagar. He attained Bodhi (enlightenment) at Bodhi Gaya and he gave his first sermon at Sarnath. The four important places related to his life are in India and the tourist across the world are likely to visit India. In these circumstances why the Government of India overlooked the development of Kushinagar? The most ambitious plan namely Mahatma project which was prepared for the extension of Kushinagar city, but because of certain ill will of Home Ministry, the project was not implemented in Uttar Pradesh. In these circumstances how the Government of India are planning to develop Kushinagar in the absence of funds through their own resources, I want to know this from the Hon'ble Minister?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon'ble Member that, it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to celebrate the 2550th year of attainment of salvation of Mahatma Buddha. For this purpose a 40 Member committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A 15 member implementation Committee has also been constituted whose Members are associated with Buddhist religion and belong to academic fields. We have inaugurated this year with an inaugural function on 13th of May. It was inaugurated by the hon'ble Prime Minister.

People from all States gathered in it, we had invited all Members to take part in it, but I am sorry to say that a few members were present there. Since the inaugural function has already been celebrated, we have formulated a plan that to hold an international level summit in the month of November, in which we have planned to hold an international seminar in Bodhi Gaya by inviting the followers of Buddhism from all over the world as well as academicians from our neighbouring country. The last function would be held in Kushinagar. All the three functions will be sponsored by the Ministry. Besides that we are also trying to organize small or large scale functions or a seminars in all parts of India, for it is the decision of our UPA Government as well as all of us that 2550th year be celebrated in a grand way.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the important question is that the condition of all our religious places in possession of Archaeological Survey of India, which is also responsible for their maintenance and operation are deteriorating day by day. The hon'ble Minister as well as this House would also admit this fact.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question is also related to tourism. As the hon. Minister has rightly said, we lack in resources and Archaeological Survey of India lacks in man power. Today we are in 21st Century and because of Globalisation, tourism is emerging as an industry. But I am sorry to say that the Government are not paying the kind of attention towards it as it ought to have given.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many problems have arisen due to Globalisation, out of which, one is unemployment. In the entire world tourism is such an industry which has huge potential for employment and revenue generation. Through you, I would like to know whether the Government propose to formulate a separate policy to attract tourists from all over the world keeping in view the restrictions imposed by the ASI and also taking care of its maintenance aspects so as to provide more facilities as most of these religious places are also places of tourist importance.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I totally agree with the hon'ble Member that this Ministry has not given due importance to this issue as it ought to have given in the last 6-77 years. ...*(Interruptions)*. The present period is also included in it. I would like to respond to this issue as I want it to come on record. All of us know that tourism is a kind of sector in which

more the investment is made, the more employment can be generated. It has more potential than any other sectors which can benefit our poor and unemployed people a lot, if exploited properly. The sooner we understand its benefits, the better it is for all of us. I have also learnt the same in the last 3-4 months, what I mean to say is that we need a kind of infrastructure under which we can include our historical monuments within the tourism sector. We are trying for that. We have done it at certain places and we are trying to make such circuits in several other places. When we run promotional campaigns it induces curiosity in the people and to make reach at those places, if we are not able to construct hotels. Similarly, if we are not able to connect those places with railway and airports, road transport and are not able to increase the connectivity of such places we shall not be able to fulfil our objective. For this purpose Dr. Manmohan Singh has formulated a core group in which my Ministry has also been included. I am confident that if we make efforts collectively, be it the issue of visa, be it the need of one lakh rooms for hotel industry or be it a recently induced open sky policy under that be it an issue of connectivity, or be it a issue of realization of tax services, all these issues would be paid due importance. Some States have not given their consent to implement VAT, whereas tour operators wanted that VAT must be implemented uniformly throughout the country. I am happy that Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have implemented it, this is also one of the issues raised by people. Until we grant infrastructure status to hotel industry, they will not provide us a room at reasonable rates after purchasing land at 40 crore rupees per acre. These are certain issues to which we need pay attention to.

Through you, I just would like to appeal that each and every Member while speaking in the budget session, should make a demand for more fund allocation for Tourism and Culture Ministry.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the role of the father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle of the country is known to all. When we were not independent, Mahatma Gandhi alongwith Kasturba Gandhi initiated and carried forward Satyagrah from Bhitiharwa Gandhi Ashram of West Champaran for years. We all know that because of his efforts, India got freedom. But the Ashram and tourist centre there are in

very pitiable condition. The same condition is of Mother Sita's birthplace Sitamarhi. Mother Sita was born there and there is a temple there in her name. Lakhs of people come there for worship every year. No concrete steps have been taken in this regard nor is it included in the Ministry's list. Sitamarhi is also not included in the tourist map. The biggest Buddhist stupa is found is Kesharia, Champaran, no maintenance is being done of it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You referring to Sita Mata is all right.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I would like to tell the hon. Minister that these three things should be taken care of by the Ministry and the workplace of Mahatma Gandhiji should be given such a shape that the would might be drawn towards it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you wish, you may reply, otherwise that does not relate to this Question. If you wish, you may reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, he referred to Mahatma Gandhi. Last year, 75th anniversary of Dandi March was celebrated. ...(*Interruptions*) What should I say, the district-wise issues he has mentioned concerns his own area. These come under State Government. We can include these only when the projects and the new discussion of the concerned area are sent to us through State Government by the Member of Parliament of the area. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to reply the question concerning Mahatma Gandhi that the 75th anniversary of the Dandi March was celebrated throughout the country last year. We made a complete circuit of the March. It should be developed as a tourist attraction so that people view it keeping in mind the freedom struggle.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question has taken half-an-hour.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: All the documents will be kept and a whole library would be maintained at Dandi. We have decided to upgrade the birth place, and the home of Mahatma Gandhi. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. Next supplementary to be asked by Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.K. Chandrappan can put his supplementary, but only on the issue of religious places.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether her attention has been drawn to the fact that in Kerala there are a number of very important Buddhist Centres. I can mention one of them, namely, Thirumullavaram, which has been destroyed by sea. It is situated near Quilon. Is the Government thinking of conducting marine archaeology there, so that more information about that Centre would be available to us?

Secondly, in Annexure-I of the replies to this Question it is mentioned that there are 11 monuments in Thrissur, Kerala, and four monuments in Thrissur, Tamil Nadu. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Which are these protected monuments, namely, 11 monuments in Kerala and four monuments in Tamil Nadu protected by the Government? What is the stage of development and preservation work over there at present?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I had a list of 974 monuments, which I have given to the hon. Members. The individual break-up of the lists is available at my office, and I will supply it to the hon. Member as soon as I can. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. MOHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the query whether the information given in Annexure-I is correct. The hon. Minister has not answered this point. There is no place called Thrissur in Tamil Nadu also.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the historical worship places discussed here. There are three important worship places—Kashi Vishwanath temple in

Kashi, Krishna Janmabhumi in Mathura and Ram Janmabhumi in Ayodhya. All these three places are in a dilapidated condition, and there are memorials of slavery there. I want to know about the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their renovation.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I can reply about those monuments and places only which come under Archaeological Survey of India. There are many monuments and places where worship is performed but they do not come under Archaeological Survey of India. It is difficult to reply those questions.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: All the aforesaid places come under ASI. ASI itself has proved by excavating at Ayodhya that Ram Janmabhumi was very much there and presented proofs to the Ministry. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the reply of the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, hon. Minister wishes to reply my question. I asked a simple question whether all these three places come under Archaeological Survey of India. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called N.S.V. Chitthan from your party.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Hon. Minister wishes to reply. She has said that these do not come under ASI. So I would like to know this only from her *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given time to Shri N.S.V. Chitthan of your party.

[English]

Please maintain silence in the House. Now, the last supplementary to be asked by Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down. Last supplementary on this Question to be asked by Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have already given time to your party to put supplementary on this Question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, so far as Ayodhya is concerned, it is not under Archaeological Survey of India, it was in 2003 that permission for some excavation was granted to them. Now, it has also been stopped. A survey is conducted every week. That survey team comprises two persons of ASI also who check whether the items excavated from the site are safe or not. Otherwise, ASI has nothing to do with Ayodhya. As far as other two temples of Mathura and Kashinath are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as I know, these also do not come under the protection of ASI. When some monuments is to be protected, objections are invited for two months. Where there are live monuments, where worship is performed from dawn to dusk, it is not permitted there because there are certain rules for worship which conflict with ASI. That is why we do not protect them. If he has some other information he may provide it to me. I can talk about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sarhand, a place in Punjab, which is also known as Fahegharh Sahab is a shrine of not one but two religions. It is a shrine of both the Sikhs and the Muslims. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether her department is doing anything for this sacred place of two religions.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, it is my pleasure to reply to Dhindsaji's question. We have started pilgrimised route particularly in Punjab this year by which we wish to bring all such places to world standard. We have made a special circuit for NRIs particularly for those NRIs who land at Amritsar. If he wishes to connect some routes or some historical towns to that other than the circuit, he may give me in writing. I would be happy to connect that one. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would give you time later, Mr. Jha has been given time from your party.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I would like to inform him that we are doing it from 2008 only. It is being done on a very large scale. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 483, Shri Brajesh Pathak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will give time to you also. Next question has been started.

Railway Projects

+
*483. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several railway projects worth thousands of crores of rupees have been grounded for decades and also placed on the 'non-priority' list as reported in the 'Times of India' dated April 30, 2006;

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

(c) the total cost of these projects and the amount spent thereon;

(d) the details of the projects out of them which relate to the remote and backward areas of the country; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken to take up these projects on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Railways have a huge throwforward of projects requiring over Rs. 53,946 Crore for completion. The funds are limited and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources keeping in view the operational requirements and other considerations. The News item published in *Times of India* (Delhi Edition) on 30.04.06 mentioned about 84 projects reported to have been grounded for decades. The prioritisation of Railway Projects under New Line and Gauge Conversion was done by the Government in April, 2005 in the following Categories:

- (i) Category (I)—Projects where progress is more than 60% and throwforward is less than Rs. 100 Crore.

- (ii) Category (II)—Viable/Operationally required projects.
- (iii) Category (III)—National Projects, Projects in Assam & North East Region, Cost Sharing with State Governments, Defence Funded Projects and projects covered under Public Private Partnership.
- (iv) Category (IV)—Other ongoing projects not covered in Categories (I, II & III).

As per the prioritisation, 84 projects were in Category (IV). The total anticipated cost of these projects is about Rs. 26000 Crore and the amount spent on these upto 31.03.2006 is about Rs. 5400 Crore.

(d) Most of the New Line & Gauge Conversion projects except a few required on operational considerations are aimed to improve connectivity to backward, tribal, remote & under developed areas of the country so as to bring about socio-economic development of the regions through which the line passes. The details of Category (IV) projects are given in Annexure enclosed.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to expedite completion of these ongoing projects. Minister of Railways have written to Chief Ministers' of the States to consider suitable cost sharing for the ongoing New Line and Gauge Conversion projects to the extent of 50% or more. Efforts are also being made to explore part funding of projects through 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' and other Poverty Alleviation Programmes of State/Central Government.

Annexure

Category (IV)—Other Ongoing Projects of New Lines and Gauge Conversion not Covered in Categories (I, II and III)

Sl.No.	Project	Plan	KMS
1	2	3	4
1.	Abohar-Fazilka	NL	42.72
2.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	NL	114.1
3.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath	NL	261.25
4.	Ajmer-Pushkar	NL	31.4
5.	Akola-Purna	GC	210
6.	Amravati-Narkher	NL	138
7.	Angamali-Sabarimala	NL	146
8.	Angul-Sukinda Road	NL	90
9.	Ara-Sasaram	NL	98
10.	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	GC	58.66
11.	Azimganj (Nasipur)-Jiyaganj up to the Ghat	NL	3
12.	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	NL	260
13.	Bankura-Damodar River Project GC, Bowaichandi-Khanna NL, Rainagar-Chanchai NL & Bankura-Mukutmanipur NL	GC	198
14.	Baramati-Lonad	NL	54

1	2	3	4
15.	Beas to Dera Baba Jaimal Singh	NL	5
16.	Bhildi-Viramgam	GC	157
17.	Chandigarh-Ludhiana	NL	112
18.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	GC	149.52
19.	Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur	NL	235
20.	Dausa-Gangapur City	NL	92.67
21.	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road	NL	149
22.	Dharmavaram-Pakala	GC	227
23.	Etawah-Mainpuri	NL	60
24.	Fatuha-Islampur Restoration and Sheikhpura to Neora via Daniawan	NL	171.5
25.	Gadwal-Raichur	NL	60
26.	Godhra-Indore & Dewas-Maksi	NL	316
27.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow PH I	GC	60
28.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa	GC	260
29.	Gulbarga-Bidar	NL	140
30.	Hajipur-Sagauli	NL	148.3
31.	Hassan-Bangalore	NL	166
32.	Hathua-Bhatni	NL	79.6
33.	Howrah-Amta	NL	75
34.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	GC	285
35.	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	GC	268
36.	Jind-Sonipat	NL	88.9
37.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur	NL	93
38.	Kakinada-Pithapuram	NL	21.5
39.	Kalka-Parvanoo	NL	7
40.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly include MM for extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan	GC	545
41.	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	GC	233.5
42.	Karur-Salem	NL	85

1	2	3	4
43.	Katihar-Jogbani and Katihar-Barsoi-Radhikapur	GC	200
44.	Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	NL	42.3
45.	Khurda Road-Bolangir	NL	289
46.	Kichha-Khatima	NL	57.7
47.	Kosi Bridge	NL	21.85
48.	Kothapalli-Narsapur	NL	58
49.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	NL	541
50.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	NL	56
51.	Macherla-Nalgonda	NL	92
52.	Madurai-Rameswaram	GC	161
53.	Maharajganj-Masrakh	NL	35.49
54.	Mansi-Saharsa & Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	GC	142
55.	Mathura-Achnera	GC	35
56.	Miraj-Latur	GC	374
57.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	GC	162
58.	Munger-rail-cum-road Bridge on river Ganga	NL	19.8
59.	Munirabad-Mehbubnagar	NL	246
60.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	NL	64.5
61.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar (Ph-I) with extn. to Mettupalayam	GC	148
62.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	NL	126
63.	Nangal Dam-Talwara & Taking over siding of Mukerian Talwara	NL	83.74
64.	Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur	NL	19
65.	Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	NL	177
66.	Pipar Road-Bilara (MM of Phulera-Jodhpur gauge conversion)	GC	41.4
67.	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur	GC	99.27
68.	Puntamba-Shirdi	NL	17.8
69.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchchendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar	GC	357
70.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalua to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	GC	281

1	2	3	4
71.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	NL	262
72.	Rewari-Rohtak	NL	81.26
73.	Rewari-Sadulpur including Sadulpur-Hissar	GC	211
74.	Rupsa-Bangriposi	GC	90
75.	Sakri-Hassanpur	NL	76
76.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	GC	116
77.	Talcher-Bimlagarh	NL	154
78.	Tanur (Kuttipuram)-Guruvayoor	NL	50.23
79.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with Ext. up to Kumarkundu Bypass connecting Howrah-Bardhaman Chord	NL	85
80.	Tarantaran-Goindwal	NL	21
81.	Trichy-Manamadurai	GC	150
82.	Villupuram-Katpadi	GC	161
83.	Naupada-Gunupur	GC	90
84.	Kottayam-Erumeli*	NL	—

*Since dropped in 2006-07.

NL-New Line, GC-Gauge Conversion, DL-Doubling, MTP-Metropolitan Transport Project, RE-Railway Electrification.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is being exaggerated that the Railways have started earning profit since Lalu Ji became the Minister of Railways. Hon. Prime Minister has also appreciated the Minister of Railways along with the whole department for Turning the Railways into a profit-earning organisation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon. Minister of Railways has accepted that due to scarcity of funds pending projects can not be completed in time. The grounds on which funds are being allocated on either operational considerations or on some other grounds. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the grounds which cannot be laid on the Table of the House?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: The hon. Minister said that Railways were earning profit. It is an admitted fact that we have

made better strides in the last two years and showed surplus in all accounts. The question put here is why have 84 schemes been grounded. While on the one side, when we are saying that we have got so much of profit. On the other side, the hon. Member asked, why we are saying that there is no money for these projects.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: He has accepted that there is no money. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Let me complete. I am going to answer all the questions that you have asked.

On 20th April, 2005 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs went into the question of how to prioritise the schemes on the shelf and the projects were divided into four categories. The first category speaks of those

schemes which have done 60 per cent progress, and throw forward less than Rs. 100 crore, which can be taken up and completed as the last-mile projects in two-three years. The second category would be of those projects which are operationally viable and which can be taken up and completed for operational reasons. The third category would be of the national projects in the North-Eastern region and Jammu and Kashmir. Then come the PPP schemes, defence-funded schemes and also schemes which are State-assisted up to 50 to 66 per cent, which were put in category three.

For the first, second and third categories we are able to find resources within the budget as well as within our resources mentioned, and we are going to complete them. Now come the 84 projects of category four. The hon. Members have been pressurising us. People have their aspirations which the Government has to try and fulfill. So, we want to take the rail link to the most backward, hilly, tribal and unconnected areas so that people get benefited and socio-economic development takes place. All these 84 projects are unremunerative projects.

In the Railway parlance, those projects which have a 14 per cent return on the discounted cash flow method alone can be taken up. We never said that these projects would be grounded. Even in the case of the last project that may be a priority but unremunerative, even if the return sometime is minus to one, we assure the House that all the projects will be completed in the course of time as and when the funds are mobilised.

The point you have raised is about the profit which we are now generating. In fact, for the first time the capital fund has been taken up out of which about Rs. 500 crore have been earmarked for development of these projects. So, I assure all the hon. Members that a portion of the profits earned would be earmarked and it would be seen that the projects are taken up. I also say that none of them will be grounded. They will be taken up in the course of time and completed maybe in the course of five years' time.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a second supplementary question. In reply to the question a list of States has been given showing the ongoing projects and the projects which the Department of Railways proposes to take up. The length of railway line in kilometers under these projects has been shown

but funds have either not been allocated to these projects or have not been shown in this list. I want to ask the hon. Minister why funds have not been allocated to them? I also want to know the time by when Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow gauge conversion is likely to be completed and the amount allocated for it.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: As I mentioned, for priority schemes we have allocated about Rs. 6,007 crore, both for new lines and for gauge conversion. In all these schemes we have only taken new lines and gauge conversion. We have not taken doubling or electrification or such schemes because they are not on priority. Doubling is not a priority for the development of backward areas. The basic question you have raised is about the fund allotment to Uttar Pradesh. I have got ten schemes of Uttar Pradesh. If the hon. Member repeats the name of the scheme, I can give information on that.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Please tell us about Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow gauge conversion project.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: It is a scheme sanctioned. The incurred expenditure is Rs. 4.27 crore. This year, only Rs. 1 crore has been allotted. In fact we have got a throw-forward of Rs. 69 crore. The project cost is only about Rs. 73 crore.

I have already informed you that for Uttar Pradesh alone, this year, we have allotted about Rs. 877 crore for all the projects put together; and the throw forward amount is Rs. 2,300 crore. Hence, you cannot say that no fund is allotted. For the said scheme, Rs. 1 crore has been allotted this year. Maybe, next year, you may get more funds.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that 'in due course of time' these projects would be completed. These words 'in due course of time' have been mentioned in the Railway Budget for the last 15 years. It is a very subjective thing. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. Can he set a reasonable time-frame for completion of these projects because these projects still require more than Rs. 50,000 crore? In his answer, he has mentioned that many State Governments have been approached. They

are approaching the Rural Development Minister for financing 84 projects. How many State Governments have come forward to fund these projects? Has the Rural Development Ministry agreed to fund these projects? What is he going to do, especially about projects of new lines which are pending, namely, Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad; Macherla-Nalgonda; Mudhked-Adilabad and two other projects? Can he set a reasonable time-frame? I mean, he cannot say that it would be completed in due course of time. It is a responsibility. When he has mentioned in the Budget, in the august House, it is the responsibility of the Ministry to complete these projects. He has set a time-frame. Have any State Government come forward to fund these projects? Have the Rural Development Ministry come forward to fund these projects?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you fix a time-frame?

SHRI R. VELU: I am coming to that. Before coming to the fixing of the time-frame, I must explain as to how difficult it is to give a commitment, in the sense, for five years or so. I would like to explain why I cannot give a commitment. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. JAGANNATH: The Minister has said the Railways have earned a profit of Rs. 11,000 crore. Then, what happened to Karimnagar-Nizamabad, Macherla-Nalgonda, and other projects, which are located in backward Telengana area of A.P.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI R. VELU: First of all, let me explain. In this country, there is great expectation. Aspirations of the people are high. Even if the hon. Member comes with a proposal tomorrow, I cannot say 'no' to him. He would argue that I must sanction the project for his constituency, irrespective of the fact as to whether it is going to be remunerative or not. Taking into account the aspirations of the people, the need of the people, and the need of the area, we always say that we are obliging. A total of about 260 schemes amounting to Rs. 53,976 crore is on the roll. We have written to the State Chief Ministers asking them to come forward to participate in the schemes to the extent of 50 per cent. Many of the States—four of five States, namely, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Haryana etc. have come forward. We have already written to all

the Chief Ministers. But so far we have not had any positive response. But I would say that we are not going to leave at that stage. We are going to complete these projects and ask them to come and assist us so that many schemes can take off.

There is a scheme in the Rural Development Ministry—National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme—through which a lot of funds have been given to the States. It is meant for the labour-oriented schemes. Construction of new lines in the Railways is mostly labour-oriented job. Why not participate in the schemes? That is how, at the Ministry level, and at the Government of India level, we are approaching.

Leave alone that, we have also stated, that we would go to the public-private partnership projects. For the first time, this has caught the imagination of the country. Many people have come forward and participated in the railway projects. That being the case, now we would definitely find resources and see that those projects, as I mentioned earlier, would be completed. I cannot definitely say that a particular scheme would be completed by a particular year. 'Due course of time' means it is only about five year's time because the rate at which we are now funding, these projects would take not less than five years. However, as hon. Prime Minister has already committed to find resources for infrastructure of the country, he would be the first person to come forward to see that it is fulfilled. In fact, when the Railway Ministry approached the hon. Prime Minister, he said that he would find resources for infrastructure. That way, 10 schemes of Andhra Pradesh would be taken up.

This year, we have allocated Rs. 451 crore for these projects in Andhra Pradesh. That being the case, the hon. Member should be happy.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Sir, Andhra Pradesh has not been given justice. ...(*Interruptions*) It has not been given its share. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. VELU: Anyway, your point is well taken. We would take it up. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, in the past until late Eighties, the Railway projects used to be completed in a time-bound manner, and every plan used to attract

*Not recorded.

investment plan also. I am quite happy that at least now, the Ministry of Railways have come out with a plan and prioritised all the projects into four categories.

Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has said that this year they have allotted Rs. 6,500 crore. So, I would like to know from him as to what is the total category-wise investment; and how much he is going to invest in these four categories, year-wise.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very good question. As I mentioned, Category (I) which is for last mile projects, is involving Rs. 348 crore. I would be completing eight projects under this scheme. In Category (II), there are four projects involving about Rs. 477 crore. In Category (III), there are 24 projects involving national projects, projects in Assam and North-East region, projects of cost sharing with State Governments, Defence funded projects and projects covered under public-private partnership. The national projects would involve an amount of Rs. 7,527 crore; projects in Assam and North-Eastern region would involve Rs. 3,762 crore; projects on cost sharing with States would involve an allocation of Rs. 1,970 crore; Defence funded projects would involve Rs. 399 crore; and projects covered under public-private partnership would amount to Rs. 1,277 crore. In all, there are 36 projects involving throw forward of Rs. 15,713 crore. In Category (IV), there are other ongoing projects not covered in Categories I, II and III. The number of such projects is 84 which involves the cost of Rs. 26,000 crore, of which we have already spent about Rs. 5,400 crore. The balance of about Rs. 20,000 crore would be the throwforward.

So, we would be requiring Rs. 35,000 crore for all 120 projects under these categories.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, for the last so many years, I have been asking about the Terai area.

As you know, Mr. Minister, I have repeatedly asked you—verbally and in writing—that this is the richest area in providing sugar, wheat and rice. But it has a *chhoti line*, and hence the farmers are not able to take their food materials out. It is causing a great deal of stress to them, and this richest area is being under-utilised. I have asked you again and again whether it can be converted into broad gauge?

I am sure, I am supported by other MPs in other parties who are also the MPs of the Terai area. Could

you please tell us when would you sanction this? I am prepared personally to give my entire MPLAD Fund if it would help start construction.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member has raised this question more than once. I have also replied about this area. It is for broad gauge conversion, especially of Bareilly-Pilibhit-Thanaapur line. She had asked it last time, and I had answered it.

Sir, we had sent this proposal to the Planning Commission, and she would be glad to know that the Planning Commission has given, in principle, approval; and we would process it further. I think, she should be happy now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: As the honourable Minister has said in his reply that incomplete project have been divided into four categories. I would like to know from him about the incomplete projects in Maharashtra, the categories under which they have been covered and the time by which they are likely to be completed?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that there are nine projects in Maharashtra; and the throwforward would be about Rs. 1,765 crore. This year, for all the projects in Maharashtra under this scheme, we have allotted about Rs. 362.49 crore.

The nine schemes that have been taken up under this are: Puntamba-Shirdi; Miraj-Latur; Mudkhed-Adilabad; Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi; Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath; Baramati-Lonad; Amravati-Narkher; Akola-Purna; and Chhindwara-Nagpur.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I went to draw your attention towards the issue raised by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. I also want to raise question regarding Bareilly Pilibhit, Lakhimpur and Sitapur broadguage railwayline.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already given the reply that he would do this.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: It is very important.

[*Translation*]

It is a very important railway line. I want a positive reply in this regard.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that he has divided railway projects into two categories—profitable and non-profitable. He has stated that 24 per cent railway lines have been categorized as profit-earning railway lines. Hence work regarding these projects is being undertaken on priority basis. When these schemes are approved they are also sent to the Planning Commission. At that time public interest is also kept in mind along with profit. The hon. Minister has started the schemes which are profitable but has excluded the schemes which would benefit the public. Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that 50 per cent of the amount is being sought from the States and he wants to complete these schemes through Employment Guarantee Scheme. Today Lalu Prasad Ji is the Minister of Railways. Previously both he and his wife have been Chief Minister. At that time they used to state that backward States will not be able to raise funds. So how can he expect to complete the schemes with the help of the funds contributed by the backward States I want to talk about any other area mentioned in the list other than the State to which the hon. Minister of Railways belongs. There is a mention of Kaptanganj Thave-Siwan-Chhapra railway line at serial no. 41 and Maharajganj to Masrakh railway line has also been mentioned in the written reply. At one place narrow gauge railway line is being converted into broad gauge and at another place a new railway line is being laid. The hon. Minister has started work at both the places. Whether the Government has written letter to the State Government to acquire land has Maharajganj-Masrakh railway line and whether money has been allocated for acquiring land? Similarly I would like to know in clear terms about the amount allocated for Kaptanganj-Chhapra railway line and the targets and time limit fixed for completing the work regarding this line?

[*English*]

SHRI R. VELU: First of all, let me clarify that we have written to the State Government to see whether they could participate in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is a labour-oriented scheme where money is available, so that the Railways' new line

projects could be assisted. I am not going into whether Bihar is a poor State or not. But the Chief Minister of Bihar has not come forward to say that whether it is possible for them or not. It is left to the Chief Minister whether they could participate in this scheme and on priority basis, what are the schemes that are to be taken up. We have yet to receive the response from the Chief Minister of Bihar. He has mentioned about two schemes. One is about Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Chhapra. The cost of this project is Rs. 320 crore; the number of KMs. is 233; the anticipated expenditure up to March 2006 is Rs. 77.4 crore; and the throwforward is Rs. 242 crore. The second project is about Maharajganj-Masrakh; the cost of the project is Rs. 113 crore; the anticipated expenditure is only Rs. 1.11 crore and the throwforward is Rs. 112 crore. So, next year, we may be allotting sufficient funds to these schemes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I asked whether a letter has been written to the State Government to acquire land or not and whether funds are being allocated for acquiring the land or not? The honourable Minister is replying to all the questions, the honourable Minister of Railways has.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I will allow only one Supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged that portion.

[*English*]

SHRI R. VELU: I am sorry that the hon. Member has made such a remark. We have, in the Railways, taken everything seriously. ...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged that portion.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That remark is wrong.

SHRI R. VELU: Today, the Railways have taken things very seriously, compared to what they have done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the remark is very objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, he usually makes such remarks. It is unbecoming of him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, I have already said that it was expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has already been expunged. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged that portion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Being a part of the Government is not a sin. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam I have expunged that portion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What is unparliamentary in the portion expunged by you? Kindly give a ruling on this. ...*(Interruptions)* I have asked a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed only one supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raised the question with your permission. If that is unparliamentary, kindly give a ruling why is it so. If it is unparliamentary, then he would have to reveal whether any other work has been allotted or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There shall be no personal attacks.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Minister of State have not been allotted any work. They are not happy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is their look out and that is their distribution of work.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, through you, first of all let me clarify this. If the Railway Ministry is not doing any work, how can the Railways show a profit of Rs. 11,000 crore this year? ...*(Interruptions)* If the Railway Ministry is not doing any work, how can the new projects come up in this country? ...*(Interruptions)*

Further, I am really surprised that the Deputy Leader of the Party is also saying the same thing. A 'Minister' includes the 'Minister of State' also. It is clarified more than once on the floor of the Parliament. But I am sorry to say that he also made that remark.

As regards those specific cases, I will definitely write to the hon. Member; we have already written to the State Government for the land acquisition; this is for the kind information of the hon. Member.

I will request the hon. Member to get back to the State and ask the Chief Minister to see that the lands are acquired and placed at the disposal of the Railways.

I am very sorry to say that such a comment has come from the learned hon. Member and that too, the Deputy Leader of the Party. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has been deleted.

SHRI R. VELU: Today the Railways are having the Golden Period. ...(*Interruptions*) Why are they saying that nothing is being done in the Railways? ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, in Telangana area, there is one project. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will give you a chance later.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, due to time constraints, I am straightway coming to my question. In the last Budget—for the year 2005-06—hon. Railway Minister has declared that six cement sleeper coach factories would be set up. Fortunately or unfortunately, one of the six would be in my constituency, Palghat. But till this time, it has not started. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when they are going to be set up and when the work will start. This is the only question that I want to ask the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

*484. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

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

(a) the progress made so far on Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether Iran and Pakistan have signed an agreement to lay a gas pipeline with a higher offtake for Pakistan from an earlier proposed 2.1 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) to 2.8 bcfd in the 3.2 bcfd capacity of the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government on the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) As the domestic availability of gas is not adequate to meet the country's demand, Government have been pursuing import of gas, both as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and through transnational pipelines. One of the pipeline projects under consideration is the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project which envisages a pipeline of about 2000 kilometres length from Assaluyeh in Iran to the India-Pakistan border. The Government is discussing the details of the project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan at bilateral and trilateral levels. So far, three meetings each of the bilateral joint working groups and one meeting of the trilateral working group have been held in which various technical, commercial, financial, legal and other project related issues have been discussed. The progress of discussions was also reviewed by the Petroleum Ministers of the three countries in Doha in April, 2006 on the sidelines of the Ministerial meeting of the International Energy Forum. The second trilateral working group meeting is scheduled to be held on 22-24 May, 2006 at Islamabad.

(b) There were reports in some sections of the media about Iran-Pakistan reaching an agreement for higher offtake of gas by Pakistan. However, Mr. M.H. Nejad Hosseini, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran, during his recent visit to New Delhi on 1-2 May, 2006 informed that no such agreement has been signed between Iran and Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

Leakage of Classified Information

*485. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in regard to the investigation of leakage of classified information from Naval War Room;

(b) the number of officials and other persons found involved therein and arrested so far in this case; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case on 20th March 2006 under Section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code read with Sections 3 (1) (c) and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. In the course of investigations, it has carried out raids, seizures and arrests in the case.

(b) As CBI investigations are continuing details of persons involved cannot be indicated at this stage. However, six persons have been arrested in the case so far.

(c) A number of policy letters and guidelines are already in place to ensure security of information stored in computers. To prevent such incidents in future, re-configuration of Local Area Network in the Directorate of Naval Operations has been undertaken to limit the number of users and to limit access by way of authorization and modification of access control passwords. Measures are also instituted to monitor the usage of the network by Naval personnel authorized to hold sensitive information. A comprehensive Indian Naval Book of Reference on

"Technology Information Security" related issues has been promulgated.

[English]

Security of Railway Passengers

*486. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in crimes in trains/stations including atrocities against women;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during 2006 and the action taken in those cases;

(c) the measures taken to check increasing crimes in railways;

(d) whether the Railways propose to install close circuit television in compartments to check crimes there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a decrease in the total number of cases of crimes (Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Crime against women passengers and theft of passengers' belongings) reported in trains and Railway premises during the year 2005 as evident from the table below:

Year		Murder/ Attempt murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Rape	Theft passengers luggage
2004	In trains	70	107	224	9	7055
	In premises	295	25	183	33	4645
2005	In trains	54	95	174	8	6103
	In premises	244	31	151	29	4743

Further, there is a decrease in total number of cases of crimes during the period January to March 2006 in comparison to January to March 2005. However, there is

an increase in the incidents of Dacoity and Rape during the period January to March 2006 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Year		Murder/ Attempt murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Rape	Theft passengers luggage
2005	In trains	14	16	48	0	1631
(Upto March)	In premises	67	5	49	6	1297
2006	In trains	5	30	33	3	1384
(Upto March)	In premises	53	8	47	17	1104

All cases of crime on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments.

(c) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

To effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are being deployed to escort many trains and also on access control duties in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticketless travel, unauthorized entry into coaches earmarked for ladies etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) with the amendment to the Railways Act, 1989 w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land. Close liaison with State authorities has been maintained and concerned

State authorities have been requested to sensitize the Government Railway Police personnel particularly about crime against women. State level co-ordination committees have been constituted in most of the States at the initiative of the Railway Board. These Committees comprise of Additional Director General of Police (Railways), all the Chief Security Commissioners/RPF, concerned heads of the Intelligence and Crime Branches of the State and they meet periodically.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Competition between Public and Private Airlines

*487. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occupancy rate in the public sector airlines has come down recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of the private airlines are offering competitively low fare for the tickets booked in advance;

(d) if so, whether the public sector airlines also extend such concessions to attract passengers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the public airlines propose to meet the challenges posed by the private airlines?

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

Indian Airlines:

The seat factor of Indian Airlines has improved from 54.9% in 2003 to 64.8% at end of March, 2006.

Air India:

The seat factor of Air India has marginally declined from 70.5% in 2003-04 to 67.2% (provisional including Air India Express) in 2005-06. The decline is predominantly due to heavy capacity induction by Air India in recent past. It is estimated that capacity offered by Air India in 2005-06 increased by nearly 50% over 2003-04.

(c) to (e) Private scheduled airlines *viz.* Air Deccan, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet, Go Air, etc. offer dynamic fare system based on demand for seat. Other scheduled airlines *viz.* Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines offer APEX fares and Check Fares which are discounted than the normal fares.

(f) Both the airlines constantly endeavour to take measures to improve their product and remain competitive in the market. These airlines are in the process of acquiring modern aircraft in order to revamp their fleet. The Government has already accorded approval for acquisition of new aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines. Further, both the airlines are proactively adjusting their pricing based on market demand and competition. Besides, Air India has launched low cost airline *viz.* Air India Express in April, 2005 to cater to price sensitive markets and to retain its market share on routes such as to Gulf. Indian Airlines offers competitive market fares through various promotional schemes to compete with low fares offered by Low Cost Carriers *viz.* 'Easy Fares' and 'Unchecked fares' Schemes.

Tourism Master Plan

*488. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared Tourism Master Plan with emphasis on strategic planning for long term tourism development with focus on infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the said Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) During the years 2002 and 2003, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for the States/UTs, with the objective of development of tourism in the States in a systematic manner on short-term and long-term basis.

(b) The broad objectives of the 20 Years Perspective Plans were to:

- (i) assess the existing tourism scenario in the States;
- (ii) review the status of existing development/investment plans;
- (iii) evaluate the existing and potential tourist destinations;
- (iv) develop sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;
- (v) identify the existing as well as new tourism projects that have potential for development;
- (vi) give plans with short term and long term targets;
- (vii) indicate the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and
- (viii) prepare an action plan for implementation of identified potential schemes/projects, and for development of infrastructure.

The plans, *inter-alia*, evaluated the existing schemes of the States, existing tourist destinations/circuits, analysed traffic flows to major destinations, identified likely infrastructure requirements, assessed the institutional mechanism for tourism development in the States, and identified existing and new tourism products. Besides evaluating the existing tourism infrastructure, etc., the Perspective Plans have given an action plan for development of tourism in the States in the short and long term.

(c) As the development and promotion of tourist spots/ places in States/UTs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned, the 20 Years Perspective Plans were forwarded to them for planning and development of tourism in the States/UTs in

accordance with the action plan and priorities laid out in the Perspective Plan.

[Translation]

Anti-Fog Techniques in Railways

*489. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss suffered by Railways due to fog conditions each year;

(b) whether the Railways are contemplating to implement the anti-fog techniques;

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

(d) the time by which the said techniques are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Due to limited visibility during foggy conditions, trains get slowed down and suffer detentions. To make space for important trains to keep running some less important trains have to be cancelled. The delay and the cancellation varies from day to day depending on the extent and severity of fog. As such, it is not feasible to work out the losses suffered by Railways during foggy conditions and such a data is not maintained.

(b) No, Sir. At present no anti fog technique is available and therefore question of implementing the same does not arise.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above does not arise.

Export of Petroleum Products

*490. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the export of petroleum products during 2005-06 is more than 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries to which petroleum products were exported during the said period;

(d) the share of the public and private sectors in export during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(e) the actual export earnings during 2005-06 in comparison to 2004-05; and

(f) the steps taken to boost export of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the export of petroleum products during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

2004-05	—	18.2 MMT
2005-06	—	21.5 MMT

(c) The name of countries to which petroleum products were exported during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Share of the public and private sector export quantity during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

(Figures in %)

	2004-05	2005-06
Public Sector Undertaking	43.8	49.6
Private Sector	56.2	50.4

(e) Details of export earning during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

(Rs. Crore)

2004-05	—	29,928
2005-06	—	46,785

(f) With the delicensing of the refinery sector since June, 1998, more Petroleum infrastructure including domestic refineries have been set up in the country. We have now become net exporters of petroleum products. Further capacity addition is being planned in the country both by public and private sector companies which is expected to boost the export of petroleum products.

Statement**Major Destination Countries of Export**

Sl.No.	Country
1	2
1.	Argentina
2.	Bahrain
3.	Bangladesh
4.	Belgium
5.	Brazil
6.	China
7.	Egypt
8.	France
9.	Germany
10.	Greece
11.	Hongkong
12.	Indonesia
13.	Iran
14.	Italy
15.	Japan
16.	Kenya
17.	Korea
18.	Kuwait
19.	Mauritius
20.	Netherlands
21.	Newzealand
22.	Nigeria
23.	Philippines
24.	Republic of Benin
25.	S. Korea
26.	Singapore

1	2
27.	South Africa
28.	Sri Lanka
29.	Thailand
30.	Turkey
31.	U.A.E.
32.	U.S.A.
33.	United Kingdom
34.	Vietnam
35.	Yemen

MNCs In Food Processing Sector

*491. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether several multi-national companies are engaged in the food processing activities and have been granted permission therefor by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small scale and cottage industries engaged in food processing are getting discouraged due to the presence of these multi-national companies in this sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Several multinational companies are engaged in the food processing activities. In accordance with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, FDI is permitted up to 100% on the automatic route in food processing sector subject to sectoral rules/regulations.

The Government has not received representation from food processing industries/associations in SSI sector that these units are being discouraged or are suffering due to

presence of multinational companies in the country. The growth rate of unregistered manufacturing sector, of food products has been quite robust as compared to the registered sector.

Assistance is provided under the plan schemes of this Ministry to the food processing industries. Assistance is provided for technical civil works and plant and machineries @ 25% subject to a limit of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% with a cap of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas for technology upgradation, modernization and establishment of food processing industries. Assistance as per the approved pattern of assistance is also provided for infrastructure development, human resource development, Quality Assurance and R&D and Strengthening of Institutions.

Outstanding Dues against Private Airlines

*493. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) from the Delhi and Mumbai airports separately during each of the last three years;

(b) whether all the private airlines operating in those airports have not paid their dues to the AAI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the AAI to recover the dues from the private airlines before the proposed restructuring of these airports are implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The revenue earned (Rs. in crores) by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) from Delhi Airport during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are Rs. 407.81, Rs. 489.33 and Rs. 667.53 and from Mumbai Airport are Rs. 436.38, Rs. 488.51 and Rs. 681.56 respectively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Details of outstanding dues of private airlines as on 31st March, 2006 in respect of Delhi Airport viz. Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan, Spice Jet, Kingfisher Airlines, East West Airlines, NEPC Airlines, Skyline NEPC, Archana Airways, Elbee Air,

Continental Aviation and Jagson Airlines are (Rs. in lacs) 687.40, 221.24, 223.61, 32.81, 79.38, 32.82, 7.69, 14.72, 39.62, 11.86, 0.1 and 131.26 respectively. Outstanding dues in respect of Mumbai Airport viz. Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan, Kingfisher Airlines, Go Airlines, East West Airlines, NEPC Airlines, Skyline NEPC and Continental Aviation are (Rs. in lacs) 90.50, 12.52, 164.67, 96.20, 14.86, 407.43, 6.98, 34.94 and 16.45 respectively.

(d) Dues are monitored regularly by AAI. Wherever necessary, action is taken through legal/arbitration/Public Premises Eviction Act. Besides, interest is levied for over due period on defaulting airlines and they are put on operation on cash and carry basis. The security deposit is also increased suitably based on operations.

Kissan Seva Kendra

*494. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the number of retail outlets opened under the name 'Kissan Seva Kendra' in the rural areas during 2005-06, State-wise;

(b) the intended objectives behind setting up of such outlets;

(c) the number of such retail outlets proposed to be opened during 2006-07, State-wise;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the efficacy of such outlets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (c) During the year 2005-06, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) opened 557 Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs), the Company's low-cost retail outlets in the rural areas, in the country. IOC proposes to set up 694 more such outlets during the current year, i.e., 2006-07. However, opening of such outlets during the current year will depend on various factors like availability of land, viability of locations, obtaining statutory approvals, etc. State/Union Territory-wise break-up of these numbers is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The intended objectives behind setting up such outlets include making diesel as well as the allied agri-facilities/items required by the farmers available to them under one roof at their doorsteps, providing gainful employment opportunity to rural people, etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Taking into account the low level of investments made in KSKs, it is expected that the likely sales volume in the second year will make these KSKs profitable. During 2004-05, IOC had commissioned 23 KSKs, which are running profitably. Similarly, KSKs commissioned in 2005-06 are likely to be fully operational during 2006-07 and thus expected to be profitable thereafter. Such retail outlets are economically viable if their monthly throughput is at least 25 Kilolitres. As against this, the average throughput per KSK commissioned during 2004-05 was 62 Kilolitres during March, 2006.

Statement

Number of Kisan Seva Kendras opened and proposed to be opened in the country by Indian Oil Corporation Limited during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Kisan Seva Kendras	
		Opened in 2005-06	Proposed to be opened in 2006-07
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36	40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	01
3.	Assam	12	09
4.	Bihar	42	60
5.	Chhattisgarh	04	15
6.	Goa	0	01
7.	Gujarat	36	39
8.	Haryana	12	35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	02	05
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	07	10
11.	Jharkhand	08	15
12.	Karnataka	57	40

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	51	50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23	35
15.	Maharashtra	09	19
16.	Manipur	01	02
17.	Meghalaya	02	01
18.	Mizoram	0	01
19.	Orissa	22	35
20.	Punjab	49	75
21.	Rajasthan	50	60
22.	Tamil Nadu	51	46
23.	Uttaranchal	02	05
24.	Uttar Pradesh	70	95
25.	West Bengal	08	30
Union Territories			
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	01
27.	Pondicherry	03	04
Total		557	694

Development of Historical Heritages

*495. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared a scheme to develop the historical heritages and mythological holy places to attract the domestic and foreign tourists as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated April 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the historical heritages and mythological holy places identified for this purpose, State-wise;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development of tourist places, including places of historical and mythological importance, is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. The Department of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UT Governments for development of tourist places, including places of historical and mythological importance after prioritisation of such projects in consultation with them, subject to inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(b) A list of projects of historical, holy places and heritage priorities which has been prioritised in consultation with the State/UT Governments for central financial assistance during the current year is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Rs. 439.00 crore has been earmarked during the current year for Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, including development of places of historical and heritage importance.

Statement

List of Projects of Historical, Holy Places and Heritage Properties Prioritised for the Year 2006-07

Sl.No.	State	Destination	Circuit
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad including Chairminar & Golconda 2. Warangal	Buddhist circuit
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Amenities at Parsuramkund Lohit District. 2. Restoration & Preservation of Heritage Site (Stone Rampart) at Dambuk.	
3.	Assam	1. Kamakhya 2. Satellite Pilgrimage Township of Hazo.	
4.	Bihar	Mandeshwari Temple	Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir
5.	Chhattisgarh	Rajim	Jagdalpur circuit
6.	Goa	—	1. North Goa Circuit 2. South Goa Circuit
7.	Gujarat	1. Champaner 2. Gir 3. Dwarka	1. Junagarh-Veraval-Porbandar
8.	Haryana		1. Kurukshetra
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Dharamshala	Pilgrim circuit
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Leh and Kargil	Development of Tourist Circuit at Kargil
10.	Jharkhand	Parasnath	
12.	Karnataka	Hampi	1. Bijapur-Biddar-Gulbarga
13.	Kerala	Padnabhapuram Palace	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandu	1. Amarkantak-Mandla-Dindoi 2. Hasangabad-Maheswar-Onkareshwar-Barwani
15.	Maharashtra	1. Omkeshwar	1. Buddhist circuit including Elephanta 2. Fort Circuit

1	2	3	4
16.	Orissa		1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark
17.	Punjab	1. Fatehgarh Sahib (Including Aam Khas Bagh with SEL show) 2. Kapurthala	1. Freedom Struggle Circuit Delhi-Amritsar 2. Pilgrim Circuit
18.	Rajasthan	1. Ajmer Sharif 2. Jaisalmer	1. Floodlighting of monuments
19.	Sikkim		1. Pilgrim Circuit at Sorang.
20.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Thanjavur Kanyakumari	1. Mahabalipuram mega festival
21.	Tripura	1. Chaturdashi Devta Bari	
22.	Uttar Pradesh		1. Agra-Fatehpur Sikri-Mathura 2. Varanasi-Samath 3. Brajbhoomi-Vrindavan
23.	Uttaranchal	Yamnotri	1. Rishikesh-Haridwar (Mega Project)
24.	West Bengal	Plassey	1. Freedom Circuit

Refining Cost of Crude Oil

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

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

(a) the estimated cost of crude oil refining in the public sector oil companies at present;

(b) whether the cost of crude oil refining in the public sector oil companies is more than the private sector oil companies;

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

(d) the steps taken to reduce the refining cost of crude oil in the public sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The average refining cost of crude oil excluding fuel and loss and entry taxes etc., during 2005-06 in respect of Public Sector Oil Companies is estimated at Rs. 604 per metric tonne.

(b) and (c) The cost of crude oil refining depends on the complexity of refineries and other operating factors.

Some of the factors are type of crude oil processed, capacity, process configuration and technology employed, product specifications, environmental stipulations, product slate, age, geo political location and conditions.

Private Sector refineries do not publish refining cost. However, Reliance Industries Limited, a private sector refinery, has reported on 27.4.2006 that the gross refining margin of their Jamnagar refinery is 10.3\$/bbl.

(d) Some of the steps taken by Public Sector Undertaking refineries to reduce refining cost are:

- (i) Thrust on energy conservation and to reduce fuel and losses.
- (ii) Adherence to preventive maintenance schedule to achieve the optimum maintenance cost.
- (iii) Control on overheads.
- (iv) Technical audit for control of chemicals and catalysts consumption.
- (v) Installation of variable speed drives for selective MV and LT motors.
- (vi) Implementation of flare gas recovery system to recover gas from flare and sending back to heaters.

- (vii) Yield maximization of value added products
(LPG, Motor Spirit, Aviation Turbine Fuel etc.)

[English]

Delay In Supply of LPG

*497. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether there had been several complaints in the recent past about delay in receipt of LPG supply by the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the quota of the gas agencies has been curtailed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure timely supply of LPG to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a), (b) and (e) There is no shortage of bulk LPG in the country. However, due to some shortage of LPG cylinders in some States, mainly because of inadequate supply of these cylinders by cylinder manufacturers, a wait list for new LPG connections has emerged recently in these States. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that this wait list is expected to be liquidated in a month's time. Further, the OMCs have informed that a temporary refill backlog ranging from 2 to 5 days has emerged in Manipur, Assam and Bihar on account of certain local administrative and operational reasons. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) OMCs have informed that no quota has been fixed with regard to the supply of filled cylinders to their distributors. The refill supplies of domestic LPG are being made by the OMCs as per genuine requirements of the customers.

Statement I

The details of State-wise waiting list with OMCs as on 01.05.2006 is as under

State	Waiting List with OMCs
Andhra Pradesh	85791
Arunachal Pradesh	364
Assam	6410
Bihar	8000
Chhattisgarh	0
Delhi	13674
Goa	0
Gujarat	0
Haryana	7646
Himachal Pradesh	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0
Jharkhand	0
Karnataka	3882
Kerala	54363
Madhya Pradesh	0
Maharashtra	0
Manipur	699
Meghalaya	651
Mizoram	226
Nagaland	2415
Orissa	0
Punjab	0
Rajasthan	0
Sikkim	0
Tamil Nadu	46218
Tripura	1803
Uttar Pradesh	5146
Uttaranchal	0
West Bengal	1150
All India	238438

Statement II

The reasons for temporary refill backlog in Manipur, Assam and Bihar are as under:

Manipur:

Backlog of 5 days [338 Metric Tonnes (MTs)] is due to (i) disruption in supplies owing to blockade from 01.04.2006 to 17.04.2006 by 'Kuki Students Organisation and Zealiang Rong Students Union' demanding development of road between Senapati and Tamenglong in Manipur and (ii) Strike by LPG Bulk and filled cylinder transporters at Gopanari Bottling Plant supplying filled cylinders to Manipur on account of action by the Police against certain transporters who were found to be indulging in theft.

Assam:

Backlog of 2-3 days (405 MTs) due to strike by LPG Bulk and filled cylinder transporters at Gopanari Bottling Plant supplying filled cylinders to Manipur.

Bihar:

Backlog of 3-4 days (700 MTs) due to shutdown of Barauni Bottling Plant of IOC for maintenance work during 28.04.2006 to 09.05.2006 and repair work on Kolbar road bridge which affected supplies ex-Gidha Bottling Plant.

Expansion of Minority Communities

*498. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of definition of minority communities under the relevant provision in the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to bring more linguistic and religious groups under its purview;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No final decision has yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Railways Network

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

(a) the estimated annual share of railways in the country's economic growth;

(b) whether the network of the railways have expanded at a very slow pace;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the railways to increase its network?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Economic Growth is usually measure by the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices. The table below shows country's total GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 constant prices from 1999-2000 to 2004-05 alongwith the contribution of Railways in it as obtained from Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Total GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 constant prices	GDP of Railways at factor cost at 1999-2000 constant prices	Percentage Contribution of Railways
1999-2000	1792292	19504	1.09
2000-01	1870387	20310	1.09
2001-02	1978055	21811	1.10
2002-03	2052586	23133	1.13
2003-04	2226041	24287	1.09
2004-05	2393671	26046	1.09

It may be seen from the table above that percentage contribution of Railways in total GDP remained 1.09 per cent from 1999-2000 to 2004-05 except for 2001-02 and 2002-03 when the contribution increased to 1.10 per cent and 1.13 per cent respectively.

(b) and (c) The increase in Route Kilo Metres, Originating Passenger, Passenger Kilo Metre, Originating Tonnage (Revenue), Net Tonne Kilo Metres (Revenue), from 1950-51 to 2004-05 has been as under:

	Unit	1950-51	2004-05	Percentage Increase
Broad Gauge	Route Kms	25258	47749	89.05
Metre Gauge	Route Kms	24185	12662	-47.65
Narrow Gauge	Route Kms	4153	3054	-26.46
Total	Route Kms	53596	63465	18.41
Originating Passenger	Million	1284	5378	318.85
Passenger kilo Metre	Million	66517	575702	765.50
Originating Tonnage (Revenue)	Million	73.2	602.1	722.54
Net Tonne Kilo Metres (Revenue)	Million	37565	407398	984.51

It may be observed from the table that the increase in Broad Gauge (B.G.) Route Kilo Metres from 1950-51 to 2004-05 is 89.05 per cent, whereas Metre Gauge (M.G.) and Narrow Gauge (N.G.) decreased by 47.65 per cent and 26.46 per cent respectively, as over the period more and more M.G. and N.G. sections were converted to B.G. which facilitated strengthening of the network. The overall increase in Route Kilo-metres was 18.41 per cent from 1950-51 to 2004-05. The Originating Passenger has increased by 318.85 per cent, Passenger Kilo Metre by 765.50 per cent, Originating Tonnes (Revenue) by 722.54 per cent and Net Tonne Kilo Metre (Revenue) by 984.51 per cent from 1950-51 to 2004-05.

The expansion of network is being carried out as per the traffic needs over the years in the form of new lines, double/multiple lines, gauge conversion and electrification of the lines. The total Track Kilo Metres have increased to 1,08,805 in 2004-05 compared to 59,315 in 1950-51. Track renewal is continuous process; upgradation of track is also done along with the track renewals. Since 1951-52 to 2004-05, nearly 1,08,157 Kilo-metres track renewals has been carried out. Further, in order to strengthen the network, outdated signalling systems are being upgraded by providing modern signalling systems.

(d) A large number of new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects are in progress throughout the country. The completion of new lines would add about

7800 Kilo Metres of BG lines to the railway network. A number of initiatives have been taken in the past few years for generation of additional resources through specific funding for National Projects, funding from Ministry of Defence, Public Private Partnership and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been announced which envisages investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in 5 years on projects which have been taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward, remote and under-developed areas.

Apart from this, it has been decided to build a Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on Western and Eastern Routes capable of running heavier trains with computerized control system. The approximate length of Dedicated Freight Corridors will be about 2700 Kilo meters.

Discovery by ONGC and OIL

*500. SHRI KIREN RIJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have largely failed to discover new oils despite holding significant acreages;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken to intensify the drilling activities by ONGC and OIL particularly in the North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the performance record of ONGC and OIL in comparison to other exploration and production companies with regard to hydro carbon discoveries;

(e) whether the Government is taking any steps to restrict the public sector oil companies to their present holdings so that they can concentrate in increasing the productivity from their existing holdings; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) In 2005-06, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have made 10 oil and gas discoveries. Out of 10 discoveries, 7 gas discoveries are in the onland & offshore areas of Krishna Godavari Basin, 2 oil discoveries are in Mumbai offshore and one oil discovery is in Assam. Oil India Limited (OIL) have made 5 oil and gas discoveries in Assam during the year.

As on 1.4.2006, ONGC have carried out 9,27,129 Kilometre of 2D seismic survey, 1,01,046 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic survey and drilled 4,977 exploratory wells in its operational areas. As a result of these exploratory efforts, ONGC have since their inception established 6,252 Million Metric Tonne of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) of in-place oil and gas reserves.

As on 1.4.2006, OIL have carried out 65,358 Kilometre of 2D seismic survey, 6938 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic survey and drilled 343 exploratory wells in its operational areas. As a result of these exploratory efforts, OIL have similarly established 939 MMTOE of in-place oil and gas reserves.

(b) and (c) During the first four years (2002-06) of X Five Year Plan, ONGC have drilled 75 exploration wells in North-Eastern States i.e. 59 wells in Assam and 16 wells in Tripura. During the corresponding period, OIL have drilled 38 exploratory wells in Assam.

In 2006-07, ONGC and OIL plan to drill 21 and 20 exploratory wells in the North-Eastern region respectively.

(d) The performance of ONGC and OIL in comparison to other Private/E&P companies with regard to reserves accretion through new hydrocarbons discoveries during the last 5 years (2000-05) is as under:

Company	In-place reserves accretion through new discoveries (MMTOE) in 2000-05
ONGC	173.760
OIL	34.00
Private/JV Companies	504.920

Reserves accretion for 2005-06 is under evaluation by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies.

(e) and (f) Government of India is not restricting any company for participation in hydrocarbon exploration. Under the sixth round of NELP, Government of India have offered 55 exploration blocks in onland, offshore and deepwater areas. 7 exploration blocks are falling in the States of Assam and Mizoram. These exploration blocks are to be awarded through international competitive bidding, wherein, bidding terms are uniformly applicable for public sector, private and foreign companies.

Upkeep and Restoration of Monuments

*501. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements have been signed with the Corporates for upkeep and restoration of monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds received from the Corporates for this purpose and spent thereon during the last two years; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government for improving upkeep and restoration of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has signed four agreements with corporates under National Culture Fund for which an amount of Rs. 2733.43 lakhs has been received, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Archaeological Survey of India is taking steps on a continuous basis for structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development of the centrally protected monuments. Measures are also undertaken to provide tourist-related amenities, like

provision of drinking water, toilet blocks, pathways, signages, information centres, etc. During the year 2006-07 the following amount has been allocated under Budget Head 'Conservation of Ancient Monuments'.

Plan	Rs. 5041.00 lakhs
Non Plan	Rs. 6820.00 lakhs

Statement

Details of MOU with corporate sectors for upkeep and restoration of the monuments and Funds received

Sl.No.	Corporates	Name of the Monument	Amount received (Rupees)	Amount spent during last two years (Rupees)	Date of signing of MOU
1.	Indian Oil Corporation	(a) Qutub Minar, (New Delhi) (b) Hampi Group of Monuments (Karnataka) (c) Sun Temple, Konark (Orissa) (d) Kanheri Caves (Maharashtra) (e) Khajuraho Group of Monuments (f) Warangal Fort (Andhra Pradesh)	25,00,00,000 1,00,00,000	The amount of Rs. 26,00,00,000 only received from Indian Oil Corporation by NCF which is transferred to Indian Oil Foundation.	30.3.2001
2.	Apeejay Surendra Hotels	Jantar Mantar, New Delhi	3,51,000	1,03,020	11.10.2000
3.	Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	Taj Mahal, Agra (U.P.)	104,91,750	96,15,677	21.6.2001
4.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Protected Monuments, Lodi Garden	25,00,000	Nil	10.1.2006

Fake Killing of Terrorists by Army Officers

4063. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that systematic attempts are being made by the Army Officers to create fake killings of terrorists and other insurgents during the last three to four years for winning gallantry awards;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the said period and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has withdrawn the gallantry awards presented to the Army officers who were found involved in such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, two incidents of fake encounters in the year 2003 had come to notice. The Army Officers involved in the said incidents have been court martialled.

(c) to (e) No awards were given to any of the accused officers.

Safety and Security Coverage to Employees

4064. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) deployed at offshore drilling operation at Mumbai High are being provided safety and security coverage;

(b) if not, whether the Government proposes to amend the existing regulations/rules in order to provide safety cover to the employees of ONGC working beyond territorial waters; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Air Force are responsible for protecting the EEZ in which ONGC installations are located. ONGC has informed that they have also taken the following measures to secure its vital assets and manpower.

- (i) Regular patrolling of the offshore area by armed patrol vessels;
- (ii) Monitoring of vessels/aircrafts through radars located on some select offshore platforms.
- (iii) Thorough screening of men & materials going to Mumbai high.
- (iv) To strengthen surveillance in the area ONGC is also procuring state-of-art Vessel and Air Traffic Management System (VATMS) and high-speed patrol vessels.

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

Merger of MSAIL with MUL

4065. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to purchase the Maruti Suzuki Automobile India Limited (MSAIL) and merge it with Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a five member panel has been constituted to evaluate the price of Suzuki stake in MSAIL; and

(d) if so, the amount of investment involved in the MSAIL deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) is a non-government company with 10.27% government share holding and the management control is with M/s. Suzuk Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan. The Board of Directors of MUL, at a meeting on 13.04.2006, had decided to merge Maruti Suzuki Automobile India Limited (MSAIL) with MUL.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MUL Board had approved constitution of a panel of five Directors for the purpose of valuation of shares of MSAIL. The five member panel has recommended purchase of 1,200,000 number of MSAIL shares from SMC at the rate of Rs. 100 per share (at par) aggregating Rs. 12 crore. This has been approved by the MUL Board in their meeting on 26.04.2006.

Railway Link between Tuticorin Port and Madurai

4066. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to connect Tuticorin Port to Madurai via Aruppukottai by rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Request have been received for new line from Madurai to Tuticorin via Aruppukkottai. A survey for new line from Madurai to Tuticorin Port via Aruppukkottai was completed during 2002-03 as per which the cost of this 144 kms. long line was assessed as Rs. 314.40 crore with negative rate of return. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

Use of Recycled Scrap

4067. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had decided to use the scrap which is generated every year for manufacturing of wheels by recycling it;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have lost crores of rupees over delay in using recycled scrap to manufacture wheels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Railways to use the scrap for manufacturing the wheels?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Expansion of Railway Line in Rajasthan

4068. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects for which survey has been carried out for expansion of railway lines in Rajasthan;

(b) the time by which the construction work thereon is likely to commence;

(c) whether the construction work for Bilada Bar railway line, for which the survey has been completed, is likely to commence in the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of survey for new lines falling partly/fully in Rajasthan completed during the last three years are given as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Km.	Status
1.	Anupgarh-Bikaner	155	
2.	Phalodi-Balotra via Shergarh, Shaitrawa & Dechhu	165	
3.	Pokaran-Barmer	131	
4.	Rewari-Bhiwadi	27	
5.	Dahod-Banswara	120	
6.	Ratlam-Banswara via Dungarpur	176	
7.	Jaisalmer-Kandla	562	
			In view of large throwforward of ongoing projects, acute constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the lines, it was not considered feasible to take up these works.
			The survey has been completed and report is under process.

(c) and (d) Survey for new line between Bilara-Bar was included in the Budget 2004-05. Survey has been taken up and further consideration of the project would

depend upon the results of the survey, once the survey report becomes available.

Cyber Cafes at Railway Stations

4069. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations where cyber cafes have been set up so far; and

(b) the details of the railway stations where such cyber cafes are proposed to be set up during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Only one cyber café at platform No. 12 at New Delhi Railway Station has been set up so far.

(b) The details of 82 railway stations where tenders for setting up of cyber cafes have been finalized are given in the enclosed Statement. It is expected that cyber cafes at these stations would become operational during 2006-07.

Statement***List of 82 Stations***

Sl.No.	Name of the Stations
1	2
1.	Howrah
2.	Sealdah
3.	Asansol
4.	Patna
5.	Gaya
6.	Dhanbad
7.	Mughalsarai
8.	Bhubneswar
9.	Cuttack
10.	Puri
11.	Vishakhapatnam
12.	Sambalpur

1	2
13.	Guwahati
14.	Kharagpur
15.	Tata Nagar
16.	Ranchi
17.	Rourkela
18.	Raipur
19.	Bilaspur
20.	Bareilly
21.	Lucknow (N.E.R.)
22.	Gorakhpur
23.	Varanasi
24.	Amritsar
25.	Jalandhar
26.	Ludhiana
27.	Ambala
28.	Jammu Tawi
29.	Lucknow (N.R.)
30.	Chandigarh
31.	Moradabad
32.	Saharanpur
33.	Haridwar
34.	Dehradun
35.	Shimla
36.	Kanpur Central
37.	Agra Cantt.
38.	Jhansi
39.	Mathura
40.	Gwalior
41.	Allahabad
42.	Aligarh

1	2
43.	Jaipur
44.	Jodhpur
45.	Abu Road
46.	Ajmer
47.	Secunderabad
48.	Hyderabad
49.	Vijayawada
50.	Tirupati
51.	Guntur
52.	Bangalore
53.	Mysore
54.	Hubli
55.	Chennai
56.	Chennai Egmore
57.	Calicut
58.	Coimbatore
59.	Madurai
60.	Tiruchchirappalli
61.	Ernakulam
62.	Trivandrum
63.	Palghat
64.	Lonavala
65.	Nagpur
66.	Dadar
67.	Pune
68.	Bombay Central
69.	Vapi
70.	Bandra
71.	Surat

1	2
72.	Indore
73.	Ujjain
74.	Valsad
75.	Ahmedabad
76.	Kota
77.	Vadodara
78.	Borivili
79.	Boisar
80.	Churchgate
81.	Bhopal
82.	Jabalpur

[English]

Recruitment of Women Pilots in Airforce

4070. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to recruit the women students directly from the university level for joining the Indian Airforce as women pilots;

(b) if so, the response to this effect; and

(c) the Government's assessment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme for inducting women students directly from University level is in vogue since June 1993.

(b) and (c) The response from women students to join Indian Air Force as pilots has shown an increasing trend. However due to stringent selection procedure there has been a shortfall in the number of women inductees compared to the vacancies.

Seizure of Consignment by RPF

4071. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently seized silver and gold worth crores of rupees from Kolkata and Mumbai Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar types of consignments were detected by R.P.F. earlier also;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) 07 cases of carrying of gold, silver and currency, misdeclaring them as general goods were noticed in Ashram Express, Andhra Pradesh Express, Mumbai Rajdhani Express, Ahmedabad Mail and Grand Trunk Express.

1. On 03.3.2004 on an information received from Army Intelligence, the Leased front brake van of 2916 Ashram Express was checked at Delhi Main Station and 886 Kilograms (Kgs.) of Silver, 7.3 Kilograms (Kgs.) of gold and Rs. 55,03,255/- in cash (Total worth Rs. 1.77 Crores approx.) were seized by Delhi Police Special Branch with the assistance of Railway Protection Force. The case was handed over to Delhi Police for further inquiry. They have referred the case to the Income Tax Department.
2. In the 2nd case on 03.4.2004, a team of Railway Protection Force and Railway Vigilance staff detected 614 Kgs. of silver valued approximately Rs. 1 (one) crore, booked as general goods and was to be loaded in the rear brake van of train No. 2724 Andhra Pradesh Express at New Delhi Railway Station. The parties affected had filed the case in the Delhi High Court and the goods are being released to the parties after imposing appropriate fines under the Railways Act, after clearance from the Income Tax Department.
3. In the 3rd case, on 02.7.2004, on an information received by the Railway Vigilance, suspected

packages were unloaded from the front brake van of train No. 2916 Ashram Express at Delhi Main Station and 600 Kilograms of silver, 11 Kilograms of gold, Rs. 41,68,330/- in cash and precious stones worth Rs. 65,000/-, totally valued at Rs 1.5 crore were seized. The case was handed over to Government Railway Police/Delhi Main who have registered a case vide crime No. 38/04 under sections 420, 406, 34 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 163 of the Railways Act, 1989 with the arrest of one accused. The case is under trial.

4. In the 4th case, on 01.8.2004 the Leased brake van of 2952 Mumbai Rajdhani Expt. was checked by Railway Protection Force/New Delhi and gold and silver weighing 605 Kgs. and currency Notes of Rs. 1000 denominations totally valued Rs. 1 (one) crore was seized. From the same train, on 02.8.2004, on arrival at Mumbai Central, 02 more packages containing approximately 250 Kilograms of silver, valued approximately Rs. 12,10,000/- was seized. All these valuable items were declared as general goods. Cases under the Railways Act, 1989 were registered against 03 accused at New Delhi station and they were convicted with fines. Case against 02 accused registered under the Railways Act in Mumbai is under trial.
5. On 18.9.2004, RPF/Delhi Main seized Gold and Silver jewellery valued Rs. 3,90,000/- from leased front SLR of train No. 9105 Ahmedabad Mail at Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his five associates. In this connection, RPF/Delhi Main registered a case vide crime No. 59/04 U/S 163 Railways Act dated 19.9.2004 against the above accused persons. The five associates were fined Rs. 500/- each and the seized property was handed over to the owner on 5.11.2004 as per order of the Court. The case is under trial.
6. On 18.12.2004, RPF/New Delhi seized 212 Kgs. Gold and Silver jewellery valued Rs. 15,00,000/- from leased rear SLR of train No. 2724 A.P. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested one lease holder and his two associates. In this connection, RPF/New Delhi registered a case vide crime No. 297/04 U/S 163 Railway Act dated 18.12.2004 against the above accused persons. The case is under trial.

7. On 19.12.2005, RPF/New Delhi seized 285 Kgs. Gold and Silver jewellery valued Rs. 45,00,000/ from a leased rear SLR of train No. 2615 G.T. Express at New Delhi Station and arrested the lease holder. In this connection, RPF/New Delhi registered a case vide crime No. 1029/05 U/S 163 Railways Act dated 19.12.2005 against an accused person. The case is under trial.

[*Translation*]

Establishment of Regional Culture Centre in Bihar

4072. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure adopted for setting up a Regional Cultural Centre;
- (b) the main functions of the Regional Cultural Centre;
- (c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to set up a Regional Cultural Centre in Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government has not set up any Regional Cultural Centre. The Department has however, set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres in the mid '80s. These 7 Centres are set up, encompassing all the States and Union Territories of the country to extend support to artists especially the folk and traditional artists.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for setting up any Zonal Cultural Centre in Bihar as the State is already being looked after by the East Zone Cultural Centre at Kolkata and the North Central Zone Cultural Centre at Allahabad.

Promotion of Culture

4073. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps for the protection and promotion of the culture in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to protect and promote culture in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of programmes and expenditure incurred for the protection and promotion of culture in the State of Andhra Pradesh by various institutions of the Department of Culture are given in the enclosed Statement.

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Details are given in Statement to part (b).

Statement

The details of expenditure incurred for the protection and promotion of the culture in Andhra Pradesh are as under:

		(Rs. in lakhs)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur				
(for organizing festivals, seminars etc.)		7.11	12.70	8.02
Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi				
(i)	Cultural institutions/Puppet Group	1.80	3.55	3.50
(ii)	Sangeet Swaran, Hyderabad	—	—	15.40
(iii)	Training programme in Bhamakalpam etc.	1.74	1.74	—

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(iv) Special Training Programme in Andhra Lasya Tradition	1.06	1.06	—
(v) Publication			
Title NARTARNAM, Hyderabad	0.06	0.06	0.56
ABHINAYA, Hyderabad	—	—	0.05
Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi			
Promotion of books on Telugu language and literature	Rs 15.25 lakhs in the last 3 years		
Centre for Cultural Resources & Training, New Delhi			
(i) Teacher Training Programme	28.16	22.56	36.96
(ii) Culture Talent Search scholarships	4.43	3.87	3.60
National School of Drama, New Delhi			
Theatre Training Workshops/ Children Plays/Festival of plays	—	1.19	4.90
Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi			
Maintained 137 centrally protected monuments in Andhra Pradesh and take up regular maintenance, conservation, preservation, chemical conservation and environmental development	402.80	397.17	546.66
Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal			
Collection/documentation of 300 ethnographic Artifacts of Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 10.00 lakhs in three years.		
National Archives of India, New Delhi			
Preservation of manuscripts/rare books	Rs. 4.65 lakhs in three years.		
Assistance to Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums	7.70	10.30	—
Grants in NGOs/Individuals, Fellowship, Scholarship provided by Department under various Schemes	142.19	122.49	166.24

*[English]***Implementation of Ground Handling Rules**

4074. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain private airlines are flouting ground handling rules and are hiring services of sister private airlines instead of infrastructure of public sector companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for strict implementation of ground handling rules and to restrict the number of players in ground handling at each airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue of number of players providing such ground handling services is under consideration and review in the Civil Aviation Policy.

Issue of Metal Passes

4075. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any system of issuing metal passes to Members of the Railway Board or others in vogue in the Railways;

(b) if so, since when the system is in existence in the Railways and the criteria fixed for issuing such passes;

(c) the number of such passes issued during 2005-06;

(d) whether such passes are also issued to the families of the Railway Board Members;

(e) if so, on what terms and conditions and justification therefor;

(f) the difference between metal and other free passes;

(g) whether these passes remain valid even after their retirement; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes Sir. Issue of passes including metal passes to railway employees are governed in terms of provisions contained in Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 (Second Edition, 1993).

(b) The system of issuing metal passes is in existence since the inception of Railways in India. Metal passes are issued to those officers whose nature of duty involves frequent journey on Indian Railway.

(c) A total number of 122 metal passes have been issued during the year 2005-06.

(d) Chairman and Members of Railway Board including the Financial Commissioner are issued metal passes (Gold passes) which are to be used by these officers while on duty. Metal passes are not issued independently to families of Railway officers. However,

they are entitled to accompany the railway officer while on duty.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The basic difference between metal and free passes is that metal passes are minted and are issued to very senior Railway Officers for use while on duty whereas the other free passes are in form of card passes or cheque passes which are issued to other railway employees.

(g) The metal passes are not valid after retirement of the officers.

(h) Does not arise.

Concessions to Mentally Challenged Persons

4076. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing concessions to the mentally challenged persons at par with the Persons with Disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to eliminate the discrimination between mentally challenged Persons and Persons with Disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Mentally challenged persons are provided all the concessions at par with other persons with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 except reservation in employment under the Government establishments. The concessions to persons with disabilities have been provided in accordance with their requirement and suitability.

Adventure and Culture Tourism

4077. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the North Eastern States to promote adventure and culture tourism;

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administration. However,

the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for tourism related projects which are prioritised/identified in consultation with the State Government/UT Administration. The proposals prioritised/identified to promote adventure and culture tourism in North-Eastern States for the financial year 2005-06, details of the proposals State-wise and amount sanctioned/released by Department of Tourism, Government of India are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Details of the Proposals Received from the North Eastern States to Promote Adventure and Culture Tourism and the Amount Sanctioned/Released by DoT, Govt. of India during 2005-06

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	Celebration of Brahmaputra Darshan Event	15.00	12.00
2.	Celebration of Festival of Arunachal-2006	10.00	08.00
Assam			
1.	Proposal for Development of Adventure Tourism in Kaziranga	44.95	35.90
2.	Celebration of Rangoli Bihu Festival	10.00	8.00
3.	Celebration of Dehing-Patkai Festival	5.00	4.00
4.	Kaziranga Festival 11th to 14th Feb., 2006	5.00	4.00
5.	Celebration of the Tea Tourism Festival, 2005	5.00	5.00
Meghalaya			
1.	Celebration of Nongkrem Festival	5.00	4.00
Mizoram			
1.	Celebration of Anthurium Festival, 2006	10.00	8.00
2.	Celebration of Chapchar Kut Festival, 2006	5.00	4.00
3.	Celebration of Thalfavang Kut Festival, 2005	5.00	4.00
Nagaland			
1.	Celebration of Tsungremmong Festival at Lungkhum	5.00	4.00
2.	Celebration of Ahuna Festival at Sataka	5.00	4.00

1	2	3	4
Sikkim			
1.	Celebration of Khangchendzonga Festival	15.00	15.00
2.	Namchi Festival	5.00	4.00
3.	Yuksum Base Camp Project—Construction of Tourist Complex/Trekking Camp at Yuksum	39.00	19.50
4.	Construction of Rafting/Angling Huts at Mamring	8.00	3.60
5.	Tourist Trekking Trails and other Tourism Infrastructure under Sang-Martam in East Sikkim	418.42	334.73
6.	Annual tourism Festival on local food art, craft and culture at Gangtok, Sikkim from 9th to 12th Dec., 05	5.00	4.00
Manipur			
	-Nil-		
Tripura			
	-Nil-		

Renovation of Legendary Forts

4078. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought the help of France to renovate the legendary forts at Jagtyal, Nirmal Khammam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any other State in India where forts were built by France;

(d) if so, the names of those States;

(e) whether the Government is working on a tourism project connecting the forts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that no help is sought from France to renovate the forests at Jagtyal, Nirmal Khammam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Central Railway Employees Colony at Ajani

4079. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Railways on drinking water, road construction, electricity and other amenities in the Central Railway Employees Colony at Ajani in Nagpur; and

(b) the steps being taken during each of the last three years for proper maintenance of railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Approximate expenditure incurred for the last three years in maintenance of Ajani Railway Colony is given below:

Year 2003-04—Expenditure—Rs. 10.70 lakh

Year 2004-05—Expenditure—Rs. 40.13 lakh

Year 2005-06—Expenditure—Rs. 62.80 lakh

(b) The minor maintenance of the quarters is done through departmental staff. Further major repairs to the quarters, roads, water supply are done through zonal and special repair contact. The following repair and maintenance work and replacement of work has been done in last three years:

Year 2003-04—The urgent work of replacement of pipe line for improvement to water supply in the colony has been done along with replacement of grounds sewer line in affected patches. Some roofs of the leaking quarters have also been attended. One electrochlorinator plant has been installed for supply of potable water to colony.

Year 2004-05—In this year apart from white washing, colour washing and painting of quarters, repairs to the drains and repairs to the floor and roof in some quarters has also been taken up. Part of the road, have also been repaired.

Year 2005-06—This year also some small work of replacement of pipes, drain repairs, road improvement and normal repair to the quarter including roof and broken floors have been taken up through contract, apart from normal departmental maintenance work.

Centralised Railway Booking Counter

4080. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Centralized Railway Booking Counter for the general public in and around the Central Secretariat, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any proposals for setting up such a counter in or around Rail Bhawan is under the consideration; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No Sir. A Computerised Railway Reservation Centre with two counters is already functional in the complex of Press Club of India at a distance of approximately 2 k.m. from Central Secretariat, having access to general public as per policy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation of Monuments

4081. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has formulated any conservation programme for the protected monuments and heritage buildings in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds has been allocated for structural repairs/chemical conservation of these monuments during the last three years and current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Conservation of protected monuments is a continuous process. Under the annual conservation programme, the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes conservation, preservation, environmental development and provision of tourist facilities in the centrally protected monuments in Gujarat subject to availability of budgetary provisions. In addition to the above, structural repairs of special nature are undertaken wherever required.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of funds allocated for structural repairs/chemical conservation in Gujarat during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2003-04	200.22
2.	2004-05	201.92
3.	2005-06	235.85
4.	2006-07	317.00

[Translation]

Grants to Voluntary Cultural Organisations

4082. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides "Building and apparatus grant to voluntary cultural organizations" under the welfare scheme; and

(b) if so, details of grants provided to these organisations during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the grants provided to organisation are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Grants Provided to Organisations During Last Three Years

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grants Recommended During 2003-04	Grants Recommended During 2004-05	Grants Recommended During 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Rs. 18,00,000/-	Rs. 3,10,000/-	Rs. 60,00,000/-
2.	Bihar	Rs. 13,00,000/-	Rs. 18,90,000/-	Rs. 22,25,000/-
3.	Delhi	Rs. 7,00,000/-	Rs. 44,10,000/-	Rs. 18,50,000/-
4.	Gujarat	Rs. 6,00,000/-	Rs. 6,50,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-
5.	Haryana	Rs. 5,50,000/-	Rs. 14,75,000/-	Rs. 45,25,000/-
6.	Karnataka	Rs. 45,00,000/-	Rs. 61,75,000/-	Rs. 1,15,00,000/-
7.	Kerala	Rs. 7,19,000/-	Rs. 31,50,000/-	Rs. 28,25,000/-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 30,00,000/-	Rs. 11,64,000/-	Rs. 20,75,000/-
9.	Maharashtra	Rs. 23,50,000/-	Rs. 13,50,000/-	Rs. 41,54,000/-
10.	Manipur	Rs. 3,00,000/-	Rs. 70,30,000/-	Rs. 1,10,30,000/-
11.	Nagaland	Rs. 87,00,000/-	Rs. 178,00,000/-	Rs. 3,65,00,000/-
12.	Orissa	Rs. 60.75,000/-	Rs. 69,55,000/-	Rs. 80,00,000/-
13.	Punjab		Rs. 5,00,000/-	
14.	Rajasthan	Rs. 13,50,000/-	Rs. 34,00,000/-	Rs. 45,50,000/-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 53,25,000/-	Rs. 23,00,000/-	Rs. 8i7,25,000/-
16.	West Bengal	Rs. 24,67,000/-	Rs. 47,25,000/-	Rs. 43,25,000/-
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 28,40,000/-	Rs. 10,00,000/-	Rs. 29,75,000/-
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 5,00,000/-		Rs. 26,50,000/-
19.	Chandigarh	Rs. 80,000/-	Rs. 2,50,000/-	Rs. 2,50,000/-
20.	Goa	Rs. 2,00,000/-	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 2,00,000/-	Rs. 8,00,000/-	Rs. 3,50,000/-
22.	Meghalaya	Rs. 5,00,000/-	Rs. 17,50,000/-	Rs. 26,00,000/-
23.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 17,50,000/-	Rs. 26,75,000/-	Rs. 10,50,000/-
24.	Tripura	Rs. 7,00,000/-	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 11,50,000/-
25.	Uttaranchal	Rs. 13,75,000/-	Rs. 36,00,000/-	Rs. 39,00,000/-
26.	Chhattisgarh	Rs. 80,000/-	—	—
27.	Sikkim	—	—	Rs. 20,00,000/-
28.	Mizoram	—	—	Rs. 4,50,000/-

*[English]***Construction of Railway Stations**

4083. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new railway stations constructed in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total amount spent on the maintenance of various stations in West Bengal during the above period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct any new railway stations particularly in West Bengal, in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

International Flights from Madurai Airport

4084. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demands from various quarters to improve international flights from Madurai airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Requests have been received for operation of flights from Madurai to Gulf and South East Countries. Actual operations by airlines from any particular point is guided by their commercial judgement. Air India and Indian Airlines have no plans at present to introduce flights from Madurai.

Subsidy on LPG

4085. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sought the views of the State Governments on restricting the subsidy on domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to the families living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, responses of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) This Ministry had asked for the views of the State Governments on the suggestion of restricting the supplies of subsidized domestic LPG to only the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. This matter was also subsequently discussed in a meeting held in this Ministry in December, 2005 with the representatives of the State Governments, and the view that emerged in the meeting

was that subsidized domestic LPG is used to a considerable extent by Above Poverty Line (APL) families also and thus restricting it to only BPL families may not serve any purpose.

Natural Gas Reserves

4086. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of natural gas reserves in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the quantity of natural gas being supplied to Karnataka annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The reserves position State-wise established as on 1.4.2005 in the country is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Natural gas is not being supplied to Karnataka by ONGC, OIL, GAIL and Private/Joint Venture Companies.

Statement

*State-wise reserves position established in the country
(as on 1st April, 2005)*

States	Reserves (MMT)		
	Oil (MMT)	Gas (BCM)	O+OEG
Andhra Pradesh	4.72	42.28	47.00
Arunachal Pradesh	5.21	2.88	8.09
Assam	163.68	141.62	305.30
Gujarat	173.99	89.49	263.48
Nagaland	2.69	0.12	2.81
Rajasthan	11.10	4.12	15.22
Tamil Nadu	8.17	29.57	37.74
Tripura	—	27.83	27.83
Total Onland	369.56	337.91	707.47
East Coast	32.53	372.25	404.78
West Coast	338.68	361.68	700.36
Total Offshore	371.21	733.93	1105.14
Grand Total	740.77	1071.85	1812.62

[Translation]

Doubling of Jhansi-Kanpur Railway Line

4087. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Jhansi Division regarding doubling of Jhansi-Kanpur rail line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, representations have been received for doubling of Jhansi-Kanpur section. Doubling of single line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on Jhansi-Kanpur section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling of this section will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

[English]

Railway Projects for East Coast Zone

4088. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing railway projects and the newly approved projects for East Coast Railway Zone, division-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of work and inclusion of proposals for approval and execution, project-wise; and

(c) the funds provided to this Zone for railway projects during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing railway projects and new works on East Coast Railway Zone are as under, Projects are identified Railway Zone wise and not Division wise:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Project	Plan	KMS	Cost 06-07	Anticipated Exp. upto Mar. 06	Outlay 06-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Daltari-Banspani	New Line	155	850.69	590.6	155.85
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	New Line	56	119.29	29.32	19.00
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir	New Line	289	700	46.55	23.00
4.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	New Line	82	594.34	49.51	44.00
5.	Angul-Sukinda Road (Suppl.)	New Line	90	344	0.88	20.00
6.	Talcher-Bimlagarh (Suppl.)	New Line	154	726.96	5	10.00
7.	Naupada-Gunupur	Gauge Conversion	90	91.3	33.47	34.00
8.	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (2nd bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa)	Doubling	3	109.56	49.43	39.90
9.	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	Doubling	47	134.73	108.93	15.00
10.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	Doubling	43	172.8	157.48	10.00
11.	Rajatgarh-Barang	Doubling	20	178.98	31.36	72.70
12.	Khurda Road-Puri PH-I	Doubling	15	52.02	42.02	10.00
13.	Sambalpur-Rengali	Doubling	22.7	70.36	15.5	20.00
14.	Cuttack-Barang	Doubling	12	178.68	30	40.15
15.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line	Doubling	35	133.41	30	46.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Jharsuguda-Rengali	Doubling	25.96	56.68	2	10.00
17.	Sambalpur-Titlagarh	Doubling	182	474.25	0	5.00
18.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	Railway Electrification	540	406.51	359.85	35.00

These works are progressing as per availability of resources on annual basis.

(c) Details for the East Coast Railway is as under:

Outlay 2006-07	Anticipated Expenditure 05-06	Expenditure 2004-05	Expenditure 03-04
Rs. 619.5 Cr.*	Rs. 287.89 Cr.	Rs. 255.43 Cr.	Rs. 186.22 Cr.

*This include Rs. 454.2 Crore provided through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

Retail Outlet Network

4089. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government owned oil companies have proposed to expand its retail outlet network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the expansion programme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are free to expand their retail outlet network in the country as per their business plans and policy guidelines, subject to the conditions that they set up new retail outlets at locations which are found to be commercially viable after conducting feasibility study. Four such OMCs, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have plans to set up 3,222 new ROs in the country during the current year, i.e., 2006-07. However, it is not possible to indicate the timeframe within which the new outlets will be set up as the exercise involves various steps like advertisement, selection of dealer, procurement of suitable site, obtaining various approvals, explosive licence, clearances from the National Highways Authority of India, etc.

Exploration in Mahanadi Basin

4090. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding oil exploration work in the Mahanadi basin in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government has decided to award more areas to the private parties for oil exploration work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In the Mahanadi Basin 13 exploration blocks are being operated by ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint Venture companies. Exploration Companies have carried out 16,410 Kilometers of 2D seismic survey, 10,444 Square Kilometers of 3D seismic survey and drilled 7 exploratory wells in this area.

Six gas discoveries have been made by Reliance Industries Limited in the shallow water block NEC-OSN-97/2.

(b) and (c) Government of India has offered six block in Mahanadi Basin (offshore areas) in the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) VI round through International Competitive Bidding on 23rd February, 2006. The details of the blocks are as under:

Name of the blocks	Area (Sq. KM)
MN-DWN-2004/1	9885
MN-DWN-2004/2	11813
MN-DWN-2004/3	11316
MN-DWN-2004/4	8822
MN-DWN-2004/5	10454
NEC-DWN-2004/1	7790
NEC-DWN-2004/2	6706

The bid closing date for these blocks is 15th September, 2006.

**Discontinuance of Agreement with
M/s. Smart Chip Ltd.**

4091. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has engaged the private company M/s. Smart Chip Ltd. for maintaining Smart Card Enrolment and issuance database of Indian Army;

(b) if so, whether M/s. Smart Chip Ltd. has signed Non-disclosure Agreement with the Government regarding the security of "Database and Corresponding Information", which is being made available to M/s. Smart Chip Ltd. from servers of Indian Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the Smart Card Agreement in view of recent leakage of secret information;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The Army Headquarters awarded a contract regarding implementation of Canteen Inventory Management System (CIMS) Software Interfaced with Smart Cards to M/s Smart Chip Limited on 15th April, 2004.

The contract agreement signed by M/s Smart Chip Limited has the following safeguards for the security and integrity of data:

- (i) Employment of Indians only.
- (ii) Conducting background check of the persons before appointment to the project and furnishing the background details of the persons to the Army also.
- (iii) Earmarking of separate premises for the project and entry to the premises restricted to employees who are working on the project.
- (iv) Securing of entry to the premises by way of positive authentication including bio-metric control.
- (v) Signing of confidentiality and non-disclosure undertaking between the firm and the employees.
- (vi) Issue of Identity Cards to all the persons working in the Canteen site.
- (vii) Movement of all in and out-bound applications strictly through Army Postal Service.

At present, there is no proposal to discontinue the Smart Card agreement since no secret data are being made available to M/s Smart Chip Limited.

[Translation]

**Income Tax Exemption to Industries Employing
Physically Challenged Persons**

4092. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of income tax exemption for the industries which provide employment to the physically challenged persons and preference is accorded to the products of such industries in the matter of the Government purchases;

(b) if so, the details of the industries which are enjoying the benefits of the said facility;

(c) whether the provision of preference for the Government purchase being given to the products of these industries holds true for the State Governments as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Kota Airport

4093. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kota Airport has been declared "Uncontrolled VFR Airfield" by the Government as reported in the 'Rajasthan Patrika' dated April 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) At present, there is no scheduled flights operating to/from Kota airport and hence the airport has been notified as uncontrolled VFR airport w.e.f. 20th April, 2006.

In order to utilize the available resource, manpower and other resources have been redeployed to other operational airports. Further declaration of this airport as controlled airport is subject to proposal of scheduled flight operations to/from this airport.

Pay Scale of Master-Craftsman

4094. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay scale of master-craftsman working in Defence Organisations is less than that of other departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would consider to remove this discrepancy; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said discrepancy is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 5th Central Pay

Commission (V CPC) recommended the scale of Pay of Rs. 4500-125-7000 for the grade of Master Craftsman (MCM). After implementation of the V CPC recommendations, Master Craftsman in Ministry of Railways have been given higher scale of pay of Rs. 5000-150-8000 to maintain parity with head clerks in Railways whereas in Ministry of Defence the pay scale of Master Craftsman has been retained at Rs. 4500-125-7000. In the Ministry of Defence, higher inter grade ratio has been granted to compensate for the lower scale of pay in comparison to Ministry of Railways. In Ministry of Defence, 13.75 percent of Artisan staff have been given MCM grade whereas in Ministry of Railways only 5% (now revised to 8%) have been granted MCM grade.

(c) Staff side has raised the issue in the Departmental council of JCM. A committee has been constituted to look into the issue and submit its report within three months.

(d) No time frame can be indicated at this stage.

[English]

Reimbursement of Demand Draft Charges

4095. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of reimbursement of demand draft making charges to the dealers;

(b) the total amount reimbursed by the oil companies during each of the last three years on this count;

(c) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the reimbursement of demand draft making charges to the dealers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Considering the competitive scenario and the fact that most banks were found to waive demand draft charges owing to introduction of Electronic Fund Transfer facilities, a decision was taken by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and IBP Co. Ltd. to discontinue reimbursement of demand draft making charges, effective 11-12/09/05. However, on

account of serious objections raised by the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT), the OMCs are reimbursing demand draft making charges, at actuals, subject to a ceiling, against production of proof of such incidence like bankers charge slip.

(b) The amount reimbursed by IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and IBP Co. Ltd. during each of the last three years on this count is given below:

(Rs. in crores)			
Name of the oil company	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
IOCL	37.43	39.70	27.42
BPCL	39.25	50.68	23.38
HPCL	26.00	27.00	23.00
IBP Co. Ltd.	11.87	12.61	10.59

(c) No, Sir.

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

Closure of Public Sector/Private Companies in Maharashtra

4096. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector/private companies which have been closed in Maharashtra during the last three years and thereafter till March, 2006 and how many of them have been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for revival of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05, there were 26 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2005 having their registered offices in the State of Maharashtra. Out of these 26 CPSEs, 6 have been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) (as on 31.12.2005) namely Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Maharashtra Elektrosmet Ltd., NTC (Maharashtra

North) Ltd., NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd. and Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.

The establishment of one company namely Maharashtra Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was closed during 2004-05 based on the recommendations of BIFR for its winding up on 4.7.2000.

(b) Enterprise specific measures for revival/restructuring of CPSEs are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and management from time to time on case-to case basis. The Government in December, 2004 also has set up a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for consideration of *inter-alia* restructuring/revival of sick and loss making CPSEs. Concerned administrative Ministries/Departments prepare enterprise specific revival packages for consideration of BRPSE. Based on the recommendation of BRPSE, the Government has approved revival packages for NTC including its subsidiaries, Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. and Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. Government has also accorded 'in-principal' approval for exploring the options for revival of Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd. through a joint venture.

Extortion Notice from ULFA

4097. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has received an extortion notice from ULFA militant outfits;

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

(c) whether the lives of personnel and property of ONGC in Assam is completely unsafe and ULFA militants are threatening to face consequences; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by ONGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A letter dated 01.01.2006 addressed to the Asset Manager, Assam Asset purportedly written

by ULFA demanding Rs. 500 Crores was received by ONGC.

(c) The lives of the personnel and the property of ONGC in Assam do not appear to be in danger. However, there have been 4 disruptive incidents by militants resulting in minor damage to the property of ONGC in the recent past.

(d) ONGC has taken the following steps:

- (i) Patrolling and checking of security in vulnerable areas has been intensified.
- (ii) Apart from sensitising the security personnel deployed in ONGC installations in Assam in view of the increasing threat by militants, Security concerns have also been taken up in the Onshore Security Coordination Committee meetings being held from time to time by the oil companies including ONGC.
- (iii) ED (Security) personally visited Assam Asset on January 10, and after reviewing the security arrangements, issued several instructions for strengthening the same.
- (iv) In view of the increasing threats to ONGC assets C & MD along with DG-CISF, Director (HR) and ED (Security), ONGC have reviewed the security arrangements in consultation with the CISF, CRPF and District authorities.

Hiring of Consultants by ONGC

4098. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. hire consultants for its projects;

(b) if so, the purposes for which they are hired; and

(c) the details of the projects for which the consultants have been hired during the last three years and the payment made to them during the said period?

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

(b) ONGC engages consultants to supplement its exploration and production activities. The broad areas where consultants are engaged by ONGC relates to engineering, procurement and construction activities; planning and designing of drilling wells; data reprocessing and interpretation; reservoir modelling and studies; analysis of geoscientific data; safety of structures; acreage appraisal and other type of petro-physical studies etc.

(c) Information is being collected.

Application for Retail Outlets in Rajasthan

4099. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1559 on December 9, 2004 regarding applications for dealerships retail outlets in Rajasthan and state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) Jaipur, Rajasthan had cancelled all the 1207 applications received for 47 locations reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and asked the applicants to submit fresh applications for the said locations according to a booklet dated November 1, 2004 provided by IOC;

(b) if so, the number of applications received again by the IOC, Jaipur during September, 2005 against each of the 47 locations reserved for SCs;

(c) whether the IOC, Jaipur has further cancelled all the applications received from SC applicants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken or being taken by IOC for allotment of dealerships of these 47 locations reserved for SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had not cancelled all the 1,207 applications received for the 47 locations reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) category. Till November, 2004, interviews were conducted for 32 locations out of the 47 locations in question. In order to make the process of selection of dealers more transparent, the Company had brought out a booklet, w.e.f. 1.11.2004, for information of the candidates for dealership of retail outlets. The booklet provided, among others, detailed marking system on each of the qualifying

parameters. Because of this, the applicants for the remaining 15 locations were provided with the booklet and new application forms, asking them to apply afresh.

(b) A total of 213 applications were received by IOC in respect of the remaining 15 locations for which the applicants were asked to apply afresh. Selection process was completed for one of the locations for which fresh applications were received.

(c) and (d) In November, 2005, the Government advised the OMCs a revised system of evaluation of the candidates eligible for benefits under Corpus Fund Scheme, which includes the candidates applying for dealerships reserved for Scheduled Castes. It was advised that such candidates should not be evaluated on the parameters "capability to provide land and infrastructure/facilities" and "capability to provide finance". In view of this revised marking system, IOC decided to cancel the selection process of the pending locations in question, and, therefore, no further action was taken on the re-submitted applications. IOC has initiated action to cancel the process in respect of the balance locations.

(e) One of the pending locations has been dropped due to economic unviability. In line with the revised guidelines, advertisements are being released by IOC for procurement of land for the remaining 13 locations, and, on completion of the land procurement, these locations are proposed to be re-advertised for dealerships.

[Translation]

Bokaro Airport

4100. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights which take off from Bokaro Airport in a week at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal for expansion and modernisation of Bokaro Airport in view of the industrial importance of Bokaro;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present,

no scheduled operator is operating any scheduled air service to/from Bokaro.

(b) to (d) Bokaro airport is a private airport which belongs to Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). SAIL has no proposal for expansion and modernisation of this airport.

[English]

Repairing of Helicopter

4101. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force has extended the calendar life of a helicopter without authority and without appropriate technical documents;

(b) if so, whether the said helicopter was collapsed within the period of extended life causing an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 3.49 crores on its repairs;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The IAF has both infrastructure and expertise for granting calendar life extension on both TBO (Time Between Overhaul) and TTL (Total Technical Life) of MI-series helicopters. This is undertaken in consultation with various technical agencies by carrying out detailed checks on each of the processes.

(b) A helicopter of IAF collapsed within the period of extended life but the collapse was not due to the extended calendar life but due to failure of a part of the aircraft.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Court of Inquiry attributed the collapse to faults in one of the parts of the aircraft which was replaced by the Original Equipment Manufacturer in order helicopters.

(e) As recommended by the Court of Inquiry, checks were carried out on the other three MI-26 helicopters

and similar defects in struts were found. The struts on these helicopters were replaced by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

Service Tax on Mobile Catering Services

4102. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to introduce service tax on Mobile catering services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and
- (d) the estimated quantum of amount the Railway is expected to collect by imposition of the said tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) In compliance to Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue notification No. 2/2006-Services Tax dated 01.03.2006, instruction for levying of Service Tax on Mobile Catering Services of Indian Railways, at the prescribed rate and the manner contained in the said notification, has been issued. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and its licensees of on-board catering services, have been instructed to collect the Service Tax as fixed by Ministry of Finance and pass on the whole amount collected from the passengers, to the authorities concerned under the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue.

Electrification of Railway Line

4103. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to electrify railway line from Jamnagar to Ahmedabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be electrified; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is at present, no proposal to electrify Ahmedabad-Jamnagar section.

Indo-European Union Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector

4104. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the India and European Union have any plan for joint cooperation in hydrocarbons sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount likely to be invested on the hydrocarbons exploration; and
- (d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Government of India has suggested a few possible areas of cooperation between India and European Union (EU) in the hydrocarbon sector, to the Joint Working Groups set up under Indo-EU Energy Panel to explore the possibility of Strategic Collaboration with EU in energy sector.

- (b) to (d) No proposal/plan has been finalised.

[Translation]

Property of Waqf Boards

4105. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the property of Waqf Boards as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the maintenance of these property and the financial accounts maintained in respect of these property during the last three years;
- (c) the total amount received from the Waqf property during the said period; and
- (d) the amount utilised in the development of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) As per Section 13 (1) of the Wakf Act 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'), State Wakf Boards are established by the State Government concerned. As per Section 32 of the Act, the general superintendence of all Wakfs in a State shall vest in the Board established for the State and details regarding income and expenditure of the Wakfs is to be maintained by Wakf Boards. As per available reports, 3,09,307 Wakfs were registered with State Wakf Boards in December, 204 (details at Statement). A fresh survey of Wakfs is being conducted by 26 State Governments.

(d) Wakf properties as well as income from Wakf properties are used for religious, pious and charitable purposes such as schools, musafir-khanas, charitable dispensaries, pension to widows, scholarship to students, etc which certainly contribute to the development of the country.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	No. of Waqf Estates/ Institutions' Properties registered with Wakf Boards
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Approx. 38,000 Institutions
2.	Assam	166
3.	Bihar	Survey not yet completed
4.	Jharkhand	Survey not yet completed
5.	Chhattisgarh	Survey not yet completed
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	12,000
8.	Haryana	11,929
9.	Himachal Pradesh	546
10.	Karnataka	26,096
11.	Kerala	7,241
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14,601
13.	Maharashtra	22,000
14.	Manipur	326

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	30
16.	Orissa	3,729
17.	Punjab	24,258
18.	Rajasthan	18,716
19.	Tamil Nadu	7,057
20.	Tripura	603
21.	Uttaranchal	1,804
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1,09,770
23.	West Bengal	8,052
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30
25.	Chandigarh	11
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15
27.	Delhi	1,977
28.	Lakshadweep	311
29.	Pondicherry	39

[English]

Cakkunai Temples in Karnataka

4106. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that the 800 years old Cakkunai Temples in Gadag district of Karnataka whose sculptures are compared with Halebedu and Belur have been completely ignored by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for the development of these temples as tourist centre?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There is no place Cakkunai in Gadag district, and the reference may be to Lakkundi of Gadag district where 7 temples have been protected as monuments of national importance and are conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India. In

respect of two monuments namely Kumbareshwara and Naganatha temples, a court case is pending for evacuation of persons to whom compensation has already been paid through the State Revenue Department. All the other five monuments are well maintained and conserved as per archaeological norms.

(c) Apart from regular conservation, preservation and development of environs, the centrally protected monuments are provided with tourist facilities like toilets, drinking water, wheel chair for physically handicapped persons, guide books, cultural notice boards, etc.

Conversion of RCF, Kapurthala Into PSU

4107. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to convert Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala into a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RCF employees have protested against the move; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Minister for Railways, during his Railway Budget 2006-07 speech has announced that the suggestion to declare Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala a wholly owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Railways is being considered and a decision will be taken after discussions with the factory staff and all other stakeholders.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Hon'ble Minister for Railways Budget speech clearly indicated that the decision on the issue would be taken after discussions with factory workers and all other stakeholders. Since the stakeholders are not in favour of the subject proposal, it has been decided by the Ministry of Railway that the suggestion to corporatise RCF, Kapurthala shall not be pursued further.

Gauge Conversion Project

4108. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made on the Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion project;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project till March 31, 2006; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Palanpur-Samakhiali section (248 kms) has been completed, and opened for goods traffic. On Samakhiali-Gandhidham section (51 kms), 14% earthwork has been completed and bridgework & ballast collection are progressing.

(b) The likely expenditure upto March, 2006 is Rs. 351.309 crore.

(c) During 2006-07.

[*Translation*]

Survey for Balrampur-Khalilabad Railway Line

4109. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had conducted any survey for laying a railway line from Balrampur to Khalilabad via Bansi and Vakhiya in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the further action/decision taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey for construction of a new line from Khalilabad to Balrampur via Uttraula, Bansi & Mehdawal (145.23 Kms) was completed in the year 1979. In view of unremunerative nature of the project, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

Reservation Charges on Return Tickets

4110. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have increased reservation charges on purchase of return tickets;

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

(c) the estimated additional income to be earned by the Railways as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Railways propose to withdraw such increase in reservation charges and restore the old system;

(e) if not, whether such an increase in reservation charges is not an indirect increase in the railway fare; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) From 1.4.2006, the Reservation Fee for tickets booked for journeys originating from other than the ticket booking station have been increased. The increase is (i) Rs. 10/- in second and sleeper class and Rs. 15/- in other classes of Passenger, Mail and Express trains, (ii) Rs. 20/- in all classes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains and (iii) Rs. 15/- in Second class and Rs. 20/- in AC Chair Car of Jan Shatabdi Express trains.

(c) The additional earnings of approximately Rs. 80 crores per year is expected from this increase.

(d) No, Sir. The basic fare has not been increased. This has been done to recover the additional expenditure involved in maintenance and continuous upgradation of a networked system.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) There is no proposal to revert the increase.

Increase in Fares of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express Trains

4111. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fares of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains have been increased after the Railway Budget was passed;

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

(c) the annual income from operation of Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains and the extent to which it is higher or lesser than the cost of operation of the said trains;

(d) whether such increase in fares is likely to become effective in other trains also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Train-wise separate figures are not maintained.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Increase in Entry Fee

4112. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the tourist inflow in the country has been increasing immensely in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether, in order to protect the tourist sites and to make it more restrictive for Indians, the Government is considering to increase the entry fee; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2003, 2004 and 2005 (provisional) have been 2.73 million, 3.46 million and 3.92 million respectively, showing an increase of 14.3%, 26.8% and 13.2% respectively over the previous years.

(c) There is no proposal at present pending with the Ministry for enhancement of entry fee for Centrally Protected Monuments.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Loan Facility to OBCs for Higher Education

4113. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is providing loan facility to the Other Backward Classes students for pursuing for higher education through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students granted loans by NBCFDC during 2005-06 and to be provided during 2006-07, State/UT-wise;

(d) the norms being followed for selecting the students for such assistance;

(e) the number of applications received in this regard, State/UT-wise; and

(f) the number of applications sanctioned so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs), extends loans to OBC students whose annual family income is below double the poverty line for pursuing Professional/Technical course at graduate or higher level under its Education loan scheme. The maximum loan limit per beneficiary under this scheme is Rs. 75,000/-per annum or Rs. 3.00 lakh for the entire course.

(c) Details regarding number of students granted loans by NBCFDC during 2005-06 State/UT-wise are given in the enclosed Statement. For 2006-07, the funds will be released to the SCAs on the basis of their demand.

(d) The students, who have obtained admission in professional institutes recognized by concerned Government, may apply for loan to SCAs. They should belong to the Backward Classes as notified by State/Central Government and their annual family income should be below double the poverty line i.e. Rs. 40,000/-p.a. in rural areas and Rs. 55,000/-p.a. in urban areas.

(e) and (f) The NBCFDC Schemes are implemented by SCAs and the Corporation does not invite applications from the beneficiaries.

Statement

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation Detail of Assistance provided by SCA's under NBCFDC Education Loan Scheme (During 2005-06)

Name of States/UTs	No. of beneficiaries
Bihar	10
Haryana	1
Kerala	187
Maharashtra	419
Pondicherry (UT)	58
Sikkim	2
Uttar Pradesh	85
West Bengal	13
Total	775

Railway Projects

4114. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on-going railway projects in Uttaranchal during the last three years and the targets fixed for completion of these projects;

(b) the amount released and spent on these projects so far;

(c) whether several districts in the country particularly Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are deprived of railway lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of on-going railway projects falling fully/party in Uttaranchal alongwith anticipated cost, anticipated expenditure, outlay 2006-07 and target wherever fixed are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the projects	Anticipated Cost	Anticipated Expenditure upto 31.03.2006	Outlay 2006-07	Target wherever fixed
1.	New line from Kichha to Khatima (57.70 Kms.)	165.67	0.14	5	Not fixed
2.	Gauge conversion of Bareilly to Lalkua section (80 Kms.) as a part of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkua (544.50 Kms.)	661.72	283.55	61.98	Kanpur-Farrukhabad section has been completed
3.	Railway Electrification of Ambala-Moradabad section (274 Kms.)	246.46	227.64	18.10	Ambala-Nazibabad (188 RKM) section has been completed. Work on Nazibabad-Moradabad (95 RKM) section is targeted for completion by March, 2007.

(c) and (d) The projects are taken up on national perspective to meet traffic and other requirements and are not guided by geographical boundaries of District/ State.

[English]

Construction of Dr. Ambedkar National Library

4115. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct Dr. Ambedkar National Library at Janpath, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the funds sanctioned for the construction of the said Library; and

(d) the time frame fixed for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Five Bungalows had been allocated to Dr. Ambedkar Foundation for the project. So far possession of two bungalows has been received by the Foundation.

(c) Rs. 5.5 crores have so far been received by the Foundation.

(d) No time frame can be given for the completion of this project.

Revival of AAI

4116. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Airports Authority of India (AAI) has submitted any proposal for revival of Airport Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion Project

4117. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved the Bharuch-Dahej gauge conversion project;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the approval is expected to be accorded to the project?

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

(b) The project has been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways, for execution. It has been included in the Railway Budget 2006-07 only. Final Location Survey of the project has been completed. The project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which will include RVNL and other stakeholders and which will execute the project is under finalization. An Amount of Rs. 10 crore has been provided for the project during the year 2006-07. The work will start only after formation of SPV and financial arrangement is achieved after signing of the shareholder's agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Threat to Historical Heritages

4118. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that mining work in some States of the country has posed a threat to the World famous historical heritages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop mining work at such places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mining operations have been reported near some of the protected monuments, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The district authorities, civic agencies and the State police have been requested to intervene in such cases, and show cause notices have been issued, under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959.

Statement*The details pertaining to mining work that has posed a threat to the centrally protected monuments*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument	Details of the threat posed to centrally protected monuments
1.	Sculptures of various Hindu deities carved on boulders of Kauvadol hill at Kuri Sarai in Gaya Distt of Bihar	Threat due to mining operation carried out by local people
2.	Garhi Padaoli and Group of temples Batesar District Morena	Mining of stone in the prohibited area
3.	Megalithic sites, Kulathur Taluk, Pukukkottai District	Unauthorized mining works reported in the regulated areas.

*[English]***Air Service between Mumbai and Nasik**

4119. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is contemplating to introduce a morning flight from Nasik to Mumbai and an evening flight from Mumbai to Nasik;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Indian Airlines' estimate, the traffic potential to/from Nasik is not sufficient to sustain commercially viable operations with the jet type of aircraft in IA fleet. Moreover, all the present resources available with Indian Airlines are fully deployed and there is no spare capacity available with Indian Airlines.

Kannur Airport

4120. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 3490 on December 15, 2005 regarding 'Construction of Airport at Kannur' and state:

(a) whether the Union Government has examined the feasibility report submitted by the Government of Kerala on construction of airport at Kannur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The feasibility report submitted by the Government of Kerala has been examined and they were advised to work out the land requirement for parallel runway for effective International operations.

(b) The proposal consists of construction of runway, terminal building and associated facilities for operation of wide bodied aircraft.

(c) and (d) The subsequent report received from the State Government is being examined to see whether it is in conformity with the policy for greenfield airports. No time frame can be given for the decision.

*[Translation]***Survey for Laying New Railway Lines**

4121. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway lines for which proposals were included in the Railway Budget 2005-06 and 2006-07 for the survey work;

(b) the time limit set for the completion of survey work of those lines; and

(c) the norms prescribed for approval of new railway lines after completion of survey work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A total of 40 and 22 surveys for new lines were included in the Railway Budgets 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. Out of 40 surveys included in the Railway Budget 2005-06, 8 have been completed. The surveys are normally planned for completion within 2-3 years depending upon the availability of manpower and resources.

(c) The policy for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980. This policy states that new lines would be taken up on the following criteria:

- (i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources.
- (ii) Missing links for completing alternative routes.
- (iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and
- (iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

Apart from this, the financial viability of the project is also taken into consideration. As per extant norms, a project is considered financially justified if it yields a return of not less than 14% under Discounted Cash Flow Method.

[English]

Increase in Frequency of Delhi-Srinagar Flight

4122. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is considering any proposal to increase the frequency of Delhi-Srinagar flight keeping in view the increase in tourists inflow to Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines does not have any plans to increase the frequency of flights to/from Srinagar on a scheduled basis as it does not have any spare aircraft capacity to do so. Indian Airlines is presently operating 15 flights per week between Delhi and Srinagar. It also operates ad-hoc additional flights on the basis of traffic demand and availability of resources.

[Translation]

Misutilisation/Diversion of Funds meant for SCs Welfare

4123. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether some States failed to utilize the funds sanctioned under the schemes for the development of Scheduled Castes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of those States thereof;

(c) whether some States have diverted the funds sanctioned under welfare schemes for SCs during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Union Government against the States which have misutilised/diverted the sanctioned funds; and

(f) the measures taken by the Union Government to check the misutilisation and diversion of funds by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) State Governments of Kerala, Punjab, Jharkhand & Bihar did not fully utilize Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan funds during the last three years.

(c) No such instance has been reported.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Refurbishment of Railway Stations

4124. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to refurbish 335 railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the criteria for selection of those stations;

(c) the services which are proposed to be taken up on priority basis and the time-frame within which these are proposed to be completed;

(d) the machinery for keeping a constant watch on those services so that they are not neglected in future;

(e) whether the Railways propose to have a special drive for revamping the railway stations in the metropolitan cities and State capitals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) Railways have been advised to select 5 stations, on each Division (there are 67 Divisions on Indian Railways) out of the declared model station or important stations including stations falling in Metropolitan cities and State Capitals for effecting modernization and giving facelift.

Some of the areas which are to be given adequate attention in this regard are as under:

- (i) Improvements in the façade of the station building,
- (ii) Improvement in the circulating area so as to ensure proper entry and exit of vehicles etc.,
- (iii) Installation of a lighting tower at an appropriate place for proper illumination,
- (iv) Improved, modern, cost effective lighting arrangements at the platforms, concourse etc.,
- (v) Renovated water booths,

(vi) Renovated, modern, Pay & use toilets,

(vii) Good waiting and retiring room with modern furniture,

(viii) Good passenger guidance system including signages and coach indication boards,

(ix) Improvement to the platform surface,

(x) Improvement of booking office and enquiry offices to give them a facelift, and

(xi) Lighting of booking office, the queuing area in front of booking windows.

Planning and execution of above works shall be monitored at sufficiently higher level i.e. at the level of Divisional Railway Manager in Division and General Manager on Zonal Railways. The progress is also being monitored at apex level in Railway Board.

These works are targeted for completion by February, 2007.

[Translation]

Subsidy Burden on Oil PSUs

4125. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

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

(a) whether public sector oil marketing companies are suffering huge losses due to subsidy on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the total loss suffered as a result thereof during each of the last three years, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard without hurting the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The profits of public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and IBP Co. Ltd. have declined substantially due to subsidy on petroleum products. However, these companies would have incurred heavy losses but for the subsidy sharing mechanism implemented by the Government by which the subsidies are shared by the upstream companies and the Government.

(b) The profit after tax reported by IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and IBP Co. Ltd. for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and for the period April-Dec'05 is tabulated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Oil Company	2003-04	2004-05	April-Dec'05
IOCL	7005	4891	890
BPCL	1694	966	(1659)
HPCL	1904	1277	(1608)
IBP Co.	215	59	(521)

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government in this regard without hurting the interest of consumers:

- Roll back in excise duty on petrol from 26% to 23% and on diesel from 11% to 8% from 19.8.2004 coupled with reduction in the customs duty on petrol and diesel from 20% to 15%. Similarly, excise duty on PDS kerosene was scaled down from 16% to 12% and customs duty on LPG and Kerosene from 10% to 5%.
- Customs and excise duty on PDS Kerosene and LPG packed domestic has been made nil from 1.3.2005. This has been done to reduce the under recoveries of oil companies on these products.
- The customs duty on petrol and diesel has been reduced from 15% to 10%. The customs duty on ATF, FO (for general use), LSHS (for general use) and Bitumen has been reduced from 20% to 10% from 1.3.2005. Simultaneously, the

customs duty on crude has been reduced from 10% to 5%. The excise duty on petrol has been revised from 23% plus Rs. 7.50 per litre to 8% plus Rs. 13.00 per litre and on diesel from 8% plus Rs. 1.50 per litre to 8% plus Rs. 3.25 per litre.

- Sharing of losses of the OMCs on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene with the upstream companies namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL.
- In the Union Budget 2006-07, the Government categorised domestic LPG as 'declared goods' under Sales Tax Act. This will reduce the sales tax/VAT levied by States to 4%. This is also expected to marginally reduce the under-recoveries of oil marketing companies without increasing retail selling prices of domestic LPG.
- In view of losses/under-recoveries suffered by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in marketing LPG (domestic) and PDS Kerosene, during the financial year 2005-06, the Government has issued Bonds worth Rs. 11,500 crores to OMCs.

[English]

Refining Process Outsourcing

4126. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to start Refining Process Outsourcing (RPO) in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Working of Retail Outlets

4127. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to revamp the working of the retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any direction has been given by the Government to the oil marketing companies in that regard particularly to ensure the quality fuel supply and to prevent adulteration of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas held a meeting with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on 19.03.2006 at Mumbai and reviewed the existing practices being followed by the OMCs to combat adulteration with the objective of drawing a blue-print for preventing this menace. This meeting was followed by another meeting taken by the Secretary (P&NG) on 12.04.2006. During these meetings, the OMCs were *inter alia* asked to take the following steps:

- (i) OMCs to have third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month.
- (ii) OMCs to monitor the movement of all Tank Trucks viz, Company owned/Dealer owned/ Contractor tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system.
- (iii) OMCs to introduce marking of potential adulterants at refineries/manufacturing units and import locations all over the country.
- (iv) OMCs to identify and suggest the names of reputed agencies/NGOs who could be entrusted with the drawal/testing of MS/HSD samples from retail outlets.
- (v) OMCs to undertake automation of all their retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month.

Deputation of Air Force Pilots

4128. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Air Force pilots deputed to the Central Government Organizations and State Governments during the period from 2002 to 2005;

(b) whether the Government has received any requests from public sector airlines for deputation of Indian Air Force Pilots;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that there would not be any shortage of IAF Pilots after going on deputation to the public sector airlines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The number of pilots who have proceeded on deputation to various Government organizations during the years 2002-2005 is 143.

(b) to (d) The requests received for deputation to various Government organizations including State owned Airlines are considered individually on merits after ensuring that such deputations do not affect the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force.

Human Resource Development in FPI

4129. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing a scheme of Human Resource Development in Food Processing Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up the National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship and Management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH

KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industry is implementing a scheme for Human Resource Development in food processing. Under the scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance for setting up of Food Processing & Training Centres, creation of infrastructure facilities for running degree/diploma courses, conduct of Training programmes & Entrepreneurship Development programmes in food processing.

(c) and (d) The objective of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) is to produce world class technologists, entrepreneurs and managers, undertake research in frontier areas, offer business incubation services, provide global level business consultancy so as to gain rightful share of global trade opportunities.

Special Booking Counters for Physically Handicapped at Mysore Railway Station

4130. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for opening of a special booking counter for physically handicapped at Mysore Railway station is pending with the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A separate booking counter for physically handicapped persons has been made operational at Mysore railway station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Funds under Mahila Samriddhi Yojana

4131. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and released under Mahila Samriddhi Yojana during 2005-06 and 2006-07, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the funds actually utilized under the scheme during 2005-06 alongwith the number of beneficiaries, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for proper utilization of funds under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No State-wise allocation is being made by the Apex Finance Corporations of the Ministry under the "Mahila Samridhi Yojana". However, funds are sanctioned and released depending on the proposals received from the State Channelizing Agencies/Non-Government Organizations. The State-wise details of funds released during the years 2005-06 & 2006-07 and number of beneficiaries for the year 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) To ensure proper utilization of funds, officials of the Central and State Governments undertake sample verification of beneficiaries. Also, evaluation studies are conducted from time to time to monitor the utilization of funds.

Statement

The funds released during the years 2005-06 & 2006-07 and number of beneficiaries during the year 2005-06 under the Scheme of "Mahila Samridhi Yojana" being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Sl.No.	State/UT	Amount released during 2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released during 2006-07 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries during the year 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2091.57	—	17143
2.	Assam	—	—	30

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	—	—	9
4.	Chandigarh	3.88	—	169
5.	Chhattisgarh	142.23	—	470
6.	Delhi	4.50	—	603
7.	Goa	0.95	—	41
8.	Gujarat	194.13	146.25	1667
9.	Himachal Pradesh	180.10	—	382
10.	Haryana	285.41	—	3246
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	132.40	19.44	10
12.	Jharkhand	25.88	—	—
13.	Karnataka	408.56	—	4279
14.	Kerala	196.66	—	1383
15.	Madhya Pradesh	319.18	—	2795
16.	Manipur	1268.30	—	31
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—
18.	Maharashtra	—	29.50	4511
19.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
20.	Nagaland	1.00	—	501
21.	Orissa	—	—	2076
22.	Punjab	3.01	4.00	164
23.	Rajasthan	2880.50	—	2882
24.	Sikkim	15.00	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	1114.47	1.90	25150
26.	Tripura	27.00	—	84
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13.30	488.30	1029
28.	Uttaranchal	17.71	5.25	145
29.	West Bengal	589.68	—	9448
30.	Lakshadweep	13.54	—	41
31.	Pondicherry	49.11	—	969

Railway Communication System*[English]*

4132. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector operator has recently hacked the Railway Communication System as reported in *Dainik Jagaran* dated April, 02, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Railways have conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Railways against the persons found involved therein; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in West Bengal Telecom Service area some interference was being caused by a private telecom service operator in the frequencies meant for railway working and the private sector operator providing mobile telecom services has been directed not to use the frequency spots earmarked to Ministry of Railways for their Railway Communication System.

(c) The matter was reported to Wireless Planning & Co-ordination Wing (WPC) of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, when Railways found interference in its frequency during pre-commissioning trials and recordings.

(d) and (e) Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing (WPC) has directed the private cellular operator not to use the frequency spectrum earmarked for Railway.

(f) The position regarding extent of interference is being constantly monitored in various sections, in coordination with the Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing (WPC) of Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

Construction of Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar BG Railway Line

4133. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of new broad gauge railway line from Munirabad to Mehaboob Nagar;

(b) the amount spent on the said project, till date; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Munirabad-Mahbubnagar new line (246 kms) project has 230 km. of new line and 16 km. of doubling. Yeramara-Yadalapur (14.5 km.) doubling has been completed and commissioned. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. An amount of Rs. 31.9 crore has been spent on this project upto 31.03.2006. No target date has been fixed for the project. The work will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Indo-Iran LNG Deal

4134. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether India and Iran have signed a \$22 billion LNG deal in June, 2005;

(b) if so, whether Iran has now backtracked from the said deal as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated May 3, 2006;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) A Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA)

for the purchase of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of LNG was signed between GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL)/Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)/Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), on 13th June, 2005 in Tehran. The contract period is 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. The pricing of LNG has been negotiated on commercial considerations and is linked to Brent crude prices with floor and ceiling.

Through a side letter, dated 13.06.2005, to the LNG SPA, NIGEC conveyed that they needed to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective.

It is understood that Iranian internal procedures required to be completed for the approval of the SPA have not yet been finalized.

Incidents of Sexual Assault on Foreign Tourists

4135. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of sexual assault on foreign tourists in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported from various States during the current year, State-wise;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Law and Order is a State subject and data pertaining to mistreatment or harassment to tourists is not compiled by the Department of Tourism. However, in order to curb illegal activities and to ensure safety and security, the Department of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist centres. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, etc. have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

Financial Assistance to Indigent Artists

4136. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for providing financial assistance to indigent artists for 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) the number of artists benefited from the scheme during 2005-06;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new policy for providing financial assistance to indigent artists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Budget allocations made under the scheme of financial assistance to indigent artists for 2005-06 was Rs. 3 crores and for 2006-07 is Rs. 3.95 crores. A total number of 1460 artists benefited from the scheme during 2005-06. There is no proposal at present to introduce any new policy for providing financial assistance to artists in indigent circumstances.

[Translation]

Railway Lines from Gola Gokran Nath to Mohammadi

4137. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for laying a new railway line from Gola Gokran Nath to Mohammadi via Shahjahanpur was conducted;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An updating survey for construction of a new line from Gola Gokran Nath to Shahjahanpur via Mohamdi (67 Kms) was conducted in the year 2004-05. As per the survey report, the cost of construction was assessed as Rs. 172 crores with rate of return of (-) 14.92%. In view of unremunerative nature of the project, heavy throwforward

of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of Refineries by ONGC

4138. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding setting up of refineries in Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) and Rajasthan by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC);

(b) the details of estimated cost of each of these projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), through its subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd. (MRPL) have initiated efforts to consider setting up the following projects:

- (i) An export-oriented refinery in the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh near Kakinada, for which MRPL has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. (IL & FS) and Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd. (KSPL), and incorporated a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called "Kakinada Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd." (KRPL) on 6.9.2005 at Hyderabad.
- (ii) A well-head refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan, for processing the crude oil discovered by the Joint Venture of Cairn and ONGC.

(b) and (c) The financial outlays and time-lines for these projects can be worked out only after completion of detailed techno-economic feasibility studies.

Improvement in Passenger Amenities

4139. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the non-existent of passenger amenities in all the stations in Barasat-Hasnabad section under the Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are taking any steps to improve the passenger amenities at these stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Barasat-Hasnabad section comprises of 16 stations, 8 stations each are 'C' and 'F' category. According to norms and their category all the minimum essential amenities have been provided at these stations. However, several improvement works in this section have further been carried out/taken on hand as follows:

- (i) Improvement of approach road at Basirhat, Takiroad, Champapukur, Malatipur, Madhyampur and Hasnabad.
- (ii) Foot over bridge in crossing stations at Sondalia, Harua Road, Basirhat and Champapukur with cover.
- (iii) foot over Bridge at Hasnabad.
- (iv) Improvement of platform surface at Hasnabad, Sondalia and Harua road.
- (v) Hand tube well provided at Kanknara Mirzanagar, Kazipara, Bhayna halt, Sondalia, Labutala, Bhasila, Harua Road, Champapukur, Basirhat, Takiroad and Hasnabad.
- (vi) New station works at Kazipara and Matinia Anantapur.
- (vii) Improvement of model station at Basirhat.
- (viii) Platform shed at Harua road and Champapukur.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Tourism in Collaboration with Private Sector

4140. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with private sector to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Public and Private sector collaboration for promotion of tourism in the country is an ongoing process.

(b) and (c) Government, due to limitation of funds under its disposal, involves the private sector in the areas of product, infrastructure development and tourism promotion/marketing. Joint promotional activities are undertaken in cooperation with Tour Operators/Travel Agents, Hotels, Airlines and other stakeholders of the industry. Private sector is also actively involved in development and promotion of new schemes such as medical tourism, rural tourism, cruise tourism, golf tourism and large revenue generating schemes.

Reserved Posts for SCs/STs/OBCs

4141. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has been filled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Filling up of posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs is a continuous process. The vacant posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs are reported to the concerned Recruitment Agencies from time to time for filling up accordingly to the provisions of the Recruitment Rules.

[English]

Schemes for Disabled Persons

4142. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated and released under the schemes implemented for disabled persons during 2005-06 and 2006-07, State/Union Territory-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the funds allocated under the said scheme have been properly utilized during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of funds utilized by each State/ Union Territory during the said period, scheme-wise;

(d) the number of persons benefited by such schemes, State/UT-wise;

(e) whether some complaints have been received regarding misutilisation of funds by the State Governments/ UTs;

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

(g) the measures taken by the Government for the proper utilization of funds meant for disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Funds are not allocated to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under any scheme for the persons with disabilities. However, in the year 2005-06, a sum of Rs. 73.80 lakhs had been released to five State Governments as per the details at Statement-I under the Scheme of Implementation of PWD Act. Statement-II indicating scheme-wise RE for 2005-06, BE for 2006-07 and releases made during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) Utilization certificates for the releases made to State Governments/UT Administrations in 2005-06 are not yet due.

(d) There are two major schemes where benefits are given directly to persons with disabilities, namely, ADIP scheme and Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS). State/UT-wise information on number of beneficiaries under ADIP scheme is not maintained. State/ UT-wise information on number of beneficiaries under DDRS is at Statement-III.

(e) and (f) Funds were released to State Governments in 2005-06. No complaints in this regard have been received so far.

(g) Proper utilization of funds is being ensured

through audit of accounts for the projects sanctioned and inspections carried out annually. In case of projects run through NGOs, funds are released based on the recommendations of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Statement I

Funds released to State Governments/UT Administrations under the Scheme of Implementation of PWD Act during the year 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Amount	Purpose
1.	Chhattisgarh	16.00	For making provision of hydraulic lifts in State Secretariat
2.	Himachal Pradesh	16.00	-do-
3.	Orissa	16.00	-do-
4.	Punjab	9.80	-do-
5.	Uttaranchal	16.00	-do-
Total		73.80	

Statement II

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2005-06		2006-07	
		Funds allocated (RE)	Amount released	Funds allocated (BE)	Amount released (As on 14.05.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata	4.00	2.50	4.00	0.00
2.	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun	5.00	3.45	5.00	0.00
3.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH), Mumbai	7.50	6.15	6.50	0.00
4.	National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research (NIRTAR), Cuttack	6.25	7.23	7.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped (IPH), New Delhi	0.75	1.00	1.00	0.00
6.	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad	10.00	10.99	10.00	0.00
7.	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Handicapped (NIEMPD)	6.50	7.49	6.50	0.00
8.	Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC)	3.50	2.98	3.50	0.00
9.	Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)	3.00	2.86	3.00	0.00
10.	Implementation of the Persons with Disability (PWD) Act	13.57	*13.57	11.00	0.43
11.	S&T Projects in Mission Mode	2.00	0.62	2.00	0.00
12.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	72.00	66.80	81.00	1.87
13.	Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)	59.00	57.91	63.90	0.12
Total		193.07	183.55	204.40	2.42

*This includes Rs. 73.80 lakhs released to the State Governments as per Statement-I.

Statement III

Number of persons benefited under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of beneficiaries	
		2005-06	2006-07 (As on 14.05.06)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13305	661
2.	Assam	1035	64
3.	Bihar	2259	0
4.	Chandigarh	1505	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	1465	10
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2481	0
7.	Daman and Diu	143	0
8.	Delhi	5817	0

1	2	3	4
9.	Goa	203	0
10.	Gujarat	8582	25
11.	Haryana	1113	0
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5899	0
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	93	0
14.	Jharkhand	220	0
15.	Karnataka	13480	136
16.	Kerala	4387	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	2228	107
18.	Maharashtra	6540	0
19.	Manipur	809	0
20.	Meghalaya	682	0
21.	Mizoram	152	0
22.	Orissa	16246	126
23.	Pondicherry	89	0
24.	Punjab	7252	0
25.	Rajasthan	1439	134
26.	Tamil Nadu	35958	286
27.	Tripura	65	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	32380	50
29.	Uttaranchal	786	118
30.	West Bengal	20665	0
Total		187258	1717

Note: Under the ADIP Scheme, the state-wise number of beneficiaries is not maintained. During the year 2005-06, about 2.65 lakhs persons with disabilities were covered under this scheme in whole of the country.

Electrification of Railway Lines in South Central Railway Zone

electrification of any railway lines in the South Central Railway Zone;

4143. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(a) whether railways have accorded approval for

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of

approved/sanctioned railway routes for electrification in South Central Railway are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Route	Route Kilometres	Estimated cost (Rs in crore)	Status
1.	Nandalur-Guntakal	222	152	Electrification work is being taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
2.	Guntakal-Wadi	228	163	Part of Guntakal-Wadi-Pune project for which bankability report along with doubling has been submitted by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Final decision will be taken after appraisal of the report.
3.	Lingampalli-Wadi	161	95	Included in Rail Budget 2006-07 with an outlay of Rs. 5 crore.
4.	Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi	105	41	Electrification work is in progress.
5.	Karepalli-Bhadrachalam-Monuguru	88	41	Preparatory works in hand.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment to Aircraft Act, 1939

4144. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to exempt foreign airlines, operating to and from India and also passing through the country, from payment of all levies and duties on upliftment of petrol and other lubricants in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to amend Aircraft Act, 1939 to make this effective; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Vide notification dated 18th November, 2002 issued under the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes and Duties on Fuel and Lubricants) Act, 2002, foreign airlines operating scheduled or non-scheduled international air services to/from India are exempted from levy of all taxes and duties on the fuel and lubricant uplifted by such airlines in India.

No separate amendment in the Aircraft Act is therefore required.

[Translation]

Supply of Gas to GAIL from PMT

4145. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three companies Reliance, ONGC and British Gas India engaged in production of natural gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti (PMT) fields, have agreed to supply gas to GAIL (India) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the quantity of gas in cubic metre likely to be supplied to GAIL (India) Ltd. by these companies; and

(c) the amount to be paid to them for per MBTU (Metric British Thermal Unit) and the mode of payment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. PMT Joint Venture (JV) partners namely BG Exploration & Production India Ltd.

(BGEPL), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) have agreed to sell all gas in excess of 4.8 Million Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) from its existing surface facilities for a period of 2 years w.e.f. 1st April, 2006. The actual average gas supply to GAIL during April, 2006 was 5.33 MMSCMD.

(c) The gas price for supply to GAIL is at US\$ 4.75 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU). The Indian companies namely ONGC and RIL are paid in equivalent rupees and BGEPL is paid in US\$.

[English]

Opening of Fast Food Stalls at Stations

4146. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) is planning to tie up with branded food and beverage manufacturers to open stalls at railway stations/platforms across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies which are ready to open their stalls;

(c) the terms and conditions to open such stalls; and

(d) the railway stations selected for this purpose during 2006-07, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been mandated to install Automatic Vending Machines at all categories of stations and on trains through reputed companies selected by 2-packet open tender system for dispensing beverages and snacks.

Construction of Tanur-Guruvayoor Railway Line

4147. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any memorandum from the Tanur-Guruvayoor Coastal Railway Coordination Action Committee regarding construction of Tanur-Guruvayoor railway line and also developments of the Tanur and other railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the railways thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Position on Tanur-Guruvayur new line project and the issues pertaining to development of Tanur and other railway stations is as under:

Sl.No.	Issue	Action Taken
1.	Immediately start the work on Tanur-Guruvayur new rail line	In view of the resistance of people of the area and non-availability of land for this project, the matter is being pursued with the State Government.
2.	Provision of ladies toilet and re-construction of waiting room at Tanur Railway station	Minimum essential amenities including ladies toilets already exists at Tanur Railway station.
3.	Immediately complete the second railway line at Tanur Railway station.	Doubling of rail line passing through Tanur Railway station has already been completed.
4.	Extension of foot over bridge (FOB) to both sides at Tanur railway station	Tanur is a 'E' category station which is not eligible for provision of foot over bridge (FOB). However, one FOB connecting the platforms is already available and there is no proposal to extend this FOB on either side.
5.	Construction of foot over bridge (FOB) and over bridge at Parappanangadi Railway Station.	Parappanangadi is a 'D' category station which is not eligible for provision of FOB. There is no proposal to provide FOB at this station.

Self Sufficiency in Oil

4148. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 30 per cent of petroleum is indigenously produced;

(b) if so, whether country's massive dependence on imports to meet its total energy needs has led to a vulnerability that India faces on account of global oil price fluctuations;

(c) if so, whether the experts have suggested some ways to raise self-sufficiency in the oil field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) About One-Fourth of the national demand for crude oil in terms of refinery through-put is made from the domestic production.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) From time to time, experts have recommended various measures to enhance domestic hydrocarbon reserves for increased oil gas production and thus raising self-sufficiency in the sector. These include the following:

- (i) Exponentially increased exploration in domestic acreages, including Improved and Enhanced Oil Recovery rates.
- (ii) Exploration of non-conventional fuels like Coal Bed Methane, underground coal gas and gas hydrates.
- (iii) Creation of strategic reserves.
- (iv) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas reserves through equity or participating interest.

Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate the exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding process. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP. Another 55 blocks have now been offered under NELP-VI.
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes—in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields; and
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (v) 16 contracts have been signed so far for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM). Another 10 CBM blocks have been offered in the third round.
- (vi) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has already acquired Participating Interest (PI) in various exploration and development blocks in 13 countries. To extend support to the efforts of oil companies in acquiring equity oil and gas abroad, the Government have permitted Oil India Limited (OIL) to form project specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) to undertake overseas projects beyond its financial powers. In the event, IOC is not interested, OIL can join hands with any other Navaratna downstream oil PSU. All such proposals for Exploration & Production (E&P) projects jointly to be undertaken by OIL and the Navaratna downstream oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) would be brought for consideration before the Empowered committee of Secretaries (ECS), under the same fast track mechanism as available to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL).

Standards and Norms in AI

4149. SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Federation of Air Line Pilot's Association (IPALPA) in a representation to the Prime Minister has expressed deep concern about the current situation in Air India (AI) and also the standards and norms being followed in AI as reported in the Times of India dated April 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main issues pin-pointed by the IFALPA;

(d) whether a Committee has been constituted to look into the issues raised by the IFALPA;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that standards and norms are followed in AI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The President of IFALAP has sent a representation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister alleging that the Air India was (i) Ignoring minimum requirement for Instructors; (ii) Violating Flight & Duty time limitations; (iii) Management Pilots failing to report altitude violations; (iv) DGCA seem not to be dealing with the issue.

(d) and (e) The allegations were examined by a Review Committee of Air India which found that these were unsubstantiated and were made without verifying the facts from Air India. The Committee also found that Air India was not violating rules & safety norms. A few flight Duty Time violations were reported/detected which were investigated and necessary action against concerned pilots was taken. Air India follows rules for training pilots as stipulated in their approved training manual Further, one incident of altitude violation has been reported in recent past, which has already been investigated and corrective action taken.

(f) DGCA is carrying out regular Safety Audits to ensure that Safety Standards are maintained and Regulations adhered to. 100% monitoring of Flight data recorders is being carried out for exceedence and CVR monitoring is done regularly.

Purchase of Helicopters

4150. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to procure MI-17 helicopters for Armed Forces as reported in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated April 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of such helicopters proposed to be procured along with the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the names of the companies from which these are likely to be procured; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government constantly reviews the security environment and accordingly decides to induct appropriate equipment and to make arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of helicopters for the Air Force is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure. This procedure envisages a time frame of 2-3 years for conclusion of contract in such major purchases. It would not be in the interest of national security to give further details.

[English]

Revival of Burn Standard Company Ltd.

4151. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to revive Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) including Salem unit is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the time by which the revival package is likely to be announced by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) BSCL has been a sick company and therefore, was referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has appointed Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd. (IIBI) as operating agency (OA) to finalize a revival scheme for BSCL. IIBI recently had a meeting with concerned stakeholders on 10.05.2006 to finalize the draft revival scheme for BSCL.

Exclusion of Castes from SCs List

4152. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of social movement launched by the 'Asprushya Dalit Sarankshyana Surakshaya Samiti' in Orissa for the exclusion of Dewar/Dhibar/Kenta/Kaibowta from the Scheduled Castes list of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any representation in this regard has also been received by the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such representation has been received in this Ministry during 2005-06. Further, Dhibar, Kenta and Kaibowta are not included in the list of Scheduled Castes in Orissa.

Constitution of Autonomous Rail Safety Commission

4153. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute an Autonomous Rail Safety Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) With a view to make the Commission of Railway Safety an autonomous statutory body, Ministry of Civil Aviation proposes to pilot a Bill namely 'The Commission for Railway Safety Bill', which is under inter-Ministerial consultation.

Hike in Freight Charges

4154. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have increased the freight charges for all parcel movement including Agro and Aqua products specifically for 'P' Scale;

(b) if so, whether several welfare associations have sought exemption in freight charges for perishable items being produced by the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Andhra Fruit Growers & Merchants Association, Nuzvid and The Andhra Pradesh Fruit, Lemon, Fish etc., Growers and Exporters Welfare Association, Vijayawada have requested to exempt fruits, seasonal mango, lemon, vegetables, fish, eggs & betel leaves from increase in parcel rates.

(d) In view of the increase in operational cost and losses in parcel services, it is not possible to exempt Agro and Aqua products from increase in parcel rates.

[Translation]

Railway Recruitment Board

4155. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a separate Railway Recruitment Board for Chhattisgarh State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be created?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Development and Maintenance of Protected Monuments in Orissa

4156. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided for development and maintenance of protected monuments in Orissa during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to undertake horticultural activities at Keoli Baikunta and Nailadhari Upabana inside the Jaganath Temple at Puri; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of funds provided for conservation, preservation and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in Orissa during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Funds provided (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2003-04	266.47
2.	2004-05	487.36
3.	2005-06	428.09
4.	2006-07	412.50

(b) and (c) The authorities of Lord Jagannath Temple have approached the Paradip Port Trust for renovation of Keoli Baikunta and Niladhari Upabana inside the temple complex. Archaeological Survey of India has requested

the temple authorities to submit a detailed proposal for its consideration.

Cancellation of Flights in NE Region

4157. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places/cities in the North Eastern Region where Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating its flights;

(b) whether flights of the Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have been frequently cancelled during the last one year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some of the Private Airlines are operating its flights in the North Eastern Region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating flights to Agartala, Aizwal, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Imphal, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong, Silchar and Tezpur in the North East Region.

(b) and (c) During the year 2005-06, 9.84% of the flights out of a total of 6573 flights in North-East were cancelled due to unavoidable reasons. This includes 3.51% of the flights cancelled due to reasons within the purview of Indian Airlines, 1.93% of the flights for reasons not under the purview of Indian Airlines and the remaining 4.40% for consequential reasons.

(d) and (e) Private airlines like Jet Airlines, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan and Kingfisher Airlines are operating their flights to Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Dimapur, Imphal, Agartala, Silchar, Lilabari, Aizwal and Shillong in the North East Region.

Delay of Delhi-Hyderabad Flights

4158. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all evening flights of Indian Airlines from Delhi to Hyderabad have been delayed by a minimum of two hours every day during the last three months; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Indian Airlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three months 22.47% of the evening flights IC-839 (Delhi-Hyderabad) were delayed by more than two hours. This includes 5.62% of the flights delayed due to reasons within the purview of Indian Airlines. Remaining 16.85% were delayed due to consequential reasons beyond the control of Indian Airlines.

(b) All technical delays and cancellations are investigated and remedial action taken immediately. A meeting of representatives of operating departments at the regional level is held daily. At the base station, delays and cancellations are analysed to identify repetitive snags and special maintenance action is immediately taken. At the Headquarters level, the punctuality of services is monitored on a daily basis. Regular meetings are also held with the vendors or manufacturers for brining in improvement in the product and systems.

Scheme for Repertory Theatre Groups

4159. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for supporting the repertory theatre groups in the country;

(b) if so, the number of repertory theatre groups which are being supported under this scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the leading theatre groups have not been receiving the grant for the last two years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture is running schemes for supporting repertory theatre groups (i) Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and

Individuals for Specified Performing Art projects, and (ii) Scheme of Building Grant to Cultural Organisations. A total of 239 repertory theatre groups were supported under these schemes in the year 2005-06.

All theatre groups selected for receiving grants are being given financial assistance regularly and there has been no change in this position in the last two years.

[Translation]

Pre/Post Matric Scholarship Schemes

4160. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance allocated and released by the Government under Pre and Post-matric scholarship schemes for SCs and OBCs students during 2005-06 and 2006-07, State/UT-wise;

(b) the utilization of funds under the schemes during 2005-06, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of students benefited/to be benefited during 2005-06 and 2006-07, States/UT-wise;

(d) whether scholarship being given to SCs and OBCs students is adequate; and

(e) if not, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) State/UT-wise details of Central assistance released and number of students benefited/to be benefited during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of (i) Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes (ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme to the Children of those engaged in unclean occupations (iii) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs, and (iv) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II. No central assistance has been released in the current year.

The details of utilization of funds released during a year is generally received from States/UTs by the month of September of the following year.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir.

*Statement I**Release/Beneficiaries during 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students		Pre-Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations	
		Releases (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries (Anticipated)	Released (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries (Anticipated)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9435.46	399960	262.37	28578
2.	Assam	4490.41	21600	2.10	NA
3.	Bihar	1100.00	37425	Nil	4593
4.	Chhattisgarh	526.00	46356	49.06	24587
5.	Goa	3.00	104	1.56	360
6.	Gujarat	940.12	80141	354.03	226271
7.	Haryana	456.00	18812	Nil	NA
8.	Himachal Pradesh	143.87	5593	Nil	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	136.31	12834	Nil	3260
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	13740	Nil	NA
11.	Karnataka	2652.00	189690	Nil	NA
12.	Kerala	3771.00	88452	Nil	1788
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3064.10	89495	10.50	5894
14.	Maharashtra	8490.95	334441	215.62	74225
15.	Manipur	126.43	3719		
16.	Meghalaya	8.33	1554		
17.	Orissa	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
18.	Punjab	Nil	43370	Nil	8488
19.	Rajasthan	1508.34	120328	31.94	39276
20.	Sikkim	Nil	NA	Nil	NA
21.	Tamil Nadu	6982.18	253803	86.47	45216
22.	Tripura	222.39	9040	7.57	4480
23.	Uttar Pradesh	11087.00	511122	44.16	62853
24.	Uttaranchal	296.13	30608	4.78	1080

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	West Bengal	3279.00	203710	Nil	3201
26.	Daman & Diu	0.50	NA		
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	NA	—	—
28.	Delhi	Nil	443	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	90.00	2519	10.00	2045
Total		54809.52	2498859	1080.16	588895

Statement II*Releases made during 2005-06*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBCs Budget Allocation 1800.00		Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs Budget allocation 2340.00	
		Released	Physical Achievement	Released	Physical Achievement
1.	Andhra Pradesh	457.86	100234	299.02	15454
2.	Bihar	—	—	6.56	1
3.	Delhi	—	—	5.00	55
4.	Goa	—	—	13.89	460
5.	Gujarat	456.65	91000	344.12	13600
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16.50	3500	—	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	61.27	35820	224.24	12812
8.	Manipur	50.00	25000	183.35	11073
9.	Maharashtra	—	—	56.56	1725
10.	Punjab	100.00	24360	138.42	22990
11.	Rajasthan	—	—	235.34	9597
12.	Tamil Nadu	400.00	60000	290.25	2590
13.	Tripura	121.02	55050	111.13	8357
14.	Uttar Pradesh	296.12	901830	640.22	64248
15.	Uttaranchal	11.58	32083	72.53	326
Total		1970.99	1328877	2620.63	163288

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Kin to Martyrs

4161. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite assurance given by the Government the petrol pumps have not been allotted to the kin of the martyrs in the Parliament attack case as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated December 12, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the petrol pumps are likely to be allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government had approved, in December, 2002, under the discretionary quota scheme, allotment of 9 retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) to the dependants of the persons killed in the terrorist attack on the Parliament House in December, 2001. Based on Government's approval, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) had issued Letters of Intent (LOIs) to the allottees. Out of 9 allotments, 4 retail outlets have since been commissioned. Commissioning of the remaining 5 outlets is held up owing to reasons, like non-availability of suitable land/land as per choice of the allottee, non-receipt of 'No Objection Certificate', non-receipt of approval from the Forest Department/National Highways Authority of India, refusal by allottee to accept company-owned-company-operated retail outlets offered by OMCs, etc. OMCs are making efforts to expedite commissioning of these dealerships.

[English]

Establishment of Airport at Kokrajhar

4162. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish an Airport at Kokrajhar and also to revive the erstwhile abandoned Rupsi Airport;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has made an inspection of Kokrajhar area to identify a suitable site for construction of Civil airport in 2002, which was not approved by Ministry of Environment and Forests. Finalization of alternate site is subject to identification of site by Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

There is no firm commitment from any airlines to operate from Rupsi airport. Operationalization of Rupsi airport is subject to firm commitment from airlines operator to/from this airport and availability of funds.

Development of Sites and Places Depicting Indian Culture and Civilization

4163. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the development of sites and places depicting Indian culture and civilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments/UTs under the above scheme during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the Archaeological Survey of India looks after the maintenance and preservation of protected monuments, which are 3667 in number at present and depict Indian culture and civilization. Besides, a National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities is also being set up, which will undertake steps for better management of unprotected heritage sites and antiquities.

[Translation]

Jan-Kerosene Pariyojana

4164. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagpur bench of Hon'ble High Court has stayed the implementation of 'Jan-Kerosene Pariyojana';

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, in a writ petition filed by Kerosene Oil Agent Association, Nagpur and others in the High Court of Maharashtra, Nagpur Bench, the Hon'ble Court has directed the State Government not to finalize the appointment of sub-wholesalers until further orders, if not already appointed.

Further, in the light of diagnostic study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research on the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana (JKP) and representations received from various State Governments on appointment of sub-wholesalers, as envisaged under the scheme, the matter has been reviewed and this Ministry has advised the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)/State Governments in April 2006 to not to insist upon the appointment of sub-wholesalers for distribution of SKO under the JKP, in those States where it has not been possible to appoint them till now.

[English]

Sainik Schools

4165. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for admission of children in the Sainik Schools;

(b) whether Sainik Schools are functioning in all the States of the country;

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

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to open Sainik Schools in those States where no such school is functioning;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Sainik Schools admit boys in classes VI and IX on the basis of merit in an Entrance Examination held once a year. From the academic year 2006-2007, admissions would also be made in Class XI based on Class X Boards results.

(b) and (c) Twenty Sainik Schools are functioning in the country. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from a State Government/Union Territory Administration, agreeing to provide the basic infrastructure, equipment, and facilities. 'In-principle' approval of Ministry of Defence has been accorded to the opening of a Sainik School each in the States of Nagaland (Punglwa) and Mizoram (Chhingchhip).

Statement

Sainik School,
Korukonda,
Andhra Pradesh

Sainik School,
Goalpara,
Assam

Sainik School,
Nalanda,
Bihar

Sainik School,
Gopalganj,
Bihar

Sainik School,
Balachadi,
Gujarat

Sainik School,
Sujanpur Tira,
Himachal Pradesh

Sainik School,
Kunjipura,
Haryana

Sainik School,
Tilaiya,
Jharkhand

Sainik School,
Nagrota,
Jammu (J&K)

Sainik School,
Bijapur,
Karnataka

Sainik School,
Kazhakootam,
Kerala

Sainik School,
Ghorakhal
Uttaranchal

Sainik School,
Satara,
Maharashtra

Sainik School,
Purulia,
West Bengal

Sainik School,
Imphal,
Manipur

[*Translation*]

Clinical Services

Sainik School,
Rewa,
Madhya Pradesh

4166. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

Sainik School,
Bhubaneswar,
Orissa

(a) the expenditure incurred on the health services of soldiers during each of the last three years and funds allocated for 2006-2007 for the purpose;

Sainik School,
Kapurthala,
Punjab

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to provide standard treatment and clinical services to soldiers; and

Sainik School,
Chhittorgarh,
Rajasthan

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Sainik School,
Amaravathinagar,
Tamil Nadu

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The details of expenditure incurred for procurement of medical stores and equipment for Armed Forces Medical Services during the last three years and fund allocated for 2006-2007 are as under:

Nature of Expenditure	Actual Expenditure in 2003-2004	Actual Expenditure in 2004-2005	Actual Expenditure in 2005-2006	Budget Estimates for 2006-2007
Revenue (Rs. in Crores)	258.86	284.87	309.12	330.50
Capital (Rs. in Crores)	82.22	121.00	90.82	110.00

The Armed Forces Medical Services provide comprehensive medical care to the soldiers at allocations.

(a) the time period prescribed to settle the claims by the Railway Claim Department;

[*English*]

Settlement of Railway Claims

(b) the number of cases registered with the Northern Railway Claims Office during each of the last three years; and

4167. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) the number of cases decided during the said period and the number of cases pending as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The time period prescribed to settle different types of claim cases is as under:

(i) Claims for non-delivery of wagons/complete consignments: 6 months.

(ii) Partial non-delivery of complete packages: 4 months.

(iii) Shortage/damage/breakage etc. 3 months.

(b) and (c) The details of the claims cases dealt with in Northern Railway claims office during the last three years are as under:

Period	Opening Balance	No. of claims registered including reopened cases	No. of claims decided	No. of cases pending
2003-04	965	8857	9053	769
2004-05	769	7037	7039	767
2005-06	1003	7398	7358	1043

The total number of cases pending as on 12.5.06 is 550.

Construction in Prohibited Areas of Protected Monuments

4168. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the notification issued in 1992 under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 the construction in the prohibited areas of the Central protected monuments is not permissible;

(b) if so, whether the judgement of Delhi High Court in regard to notification of 16.06.1992 has been reviewed by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) yes, Sir. Under the provision of Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, Rules 1959 and the notification published in the Official Gazette of India S.O. No. 1764 of 16th June, 1992, no construction is permissible in the prohibited area.

(b) and (c) The High Court of Delhi in its judgement dated 23.7.2004 passed in FAO (OS) No. 414 of 2002 and W.P. (C) No. 2635 of 2002 directed the Central Government to review the notification dated 16th June, 1992 within a period of six months from the date of the order.

(d) On 2.9.2004, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while hearing Fatehpur Sikri matter in W.P. (C) 653 of 1994, in Ahmed Sayeed v/s Union of India observed that there is no need to change the limit of prohibited/regulated areas. The SLP (CC) No. 1603-1604/2005 filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Archaeological Survey of India v/s Narendra Anand and others was heard on 18.2.2005 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted stay of operation of the impugned part of the judgement and order of the Hon'ble High Court.

Railway Link Between Bhiwani and Loharu

4169. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is no railway link between Bhiwani and Loharu in Haryana; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide a railway link between Bhiwani and Loharu for the benefit of the people of Loharu and neighbouring Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. there is no direct rail link between Bhiwani and Loharu.

(b) A survey for new line between Loharu and Bhiwani (65 kms.) has been included in the Budget 2006-07.

[Translation]

Beautification of Temples

4170. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposals to the Union Government to enhance the beauty of Temples;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Orissa, so far. In a meeting taken by the Minister for Tourism, IT

and Energy of the Government of Orissa on 17.05.2005 which was attended among others by the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India of Bhubaneswar Circle, the beautification of heritage sites of Bhubaneswar including illumination, fencing etc. was discussed.

[English]

Expansion and Augmentation Plan for NFR Zone

4171. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view that the North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) Zone has registered a growth of 21 percent during 2005-06, the Railways have any plans for expansion and augmentation of goods transshipment and handling capacity for NFR Zone;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost of project; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The details are given in the 'Statement'.

Statement

Expansion of Augmentation of Goods Transshipment and Handling Facilities on North-east Frontier Railway

Works in Progress

Sl.No.	Division	Name of works	Cost (in Rs.)	Prog. %	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Katihar	Dalkhola-Proposed Extension of Shunting neck (BG)	29 Lacs	40	Mar-07
2.	Katihar	Jalpaiguri-Extension of full rake siding to handle FCI food grain rake	29 Lacs	50	Mar-07
3.	Alipurduar	New Alipurduar-Improvement of goods circulating area	28 Lacs	60	Mar-07
4.	Rangiya	Azara: Improvement of coal loading area and approach road	49 Lacs	20	Mar-07

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Rangiya	Goalpara: Improvement of coal loading area and approach road including lighting arrangement	46 Lacs	40	Mar-07
6.	Lumding	Lanka-Development of full rake facility siding & stacking area	9.25 Lacs	20	Mar-07
7.	Lumding	Dimapur-Renovation of surface of goods circulating area with provision of drains	28 Lacs	50	Dec-06
8.	Lumding	Karimganj-Provision of yard lighting arrangement	6.35 Lacs	57	Nov-06
9.	Lumding	New Guwahati: Improvement of yard lighting arrangement	23 Lacs	90	July-06
10.	Tinsukia	New Tinsukia-Improvement of circulating area & lighting arrangement	29 Lacs	70	Aug-06
11.	Katihar	Katihar-2 goods shed lines with circulating area and approach road including yard remodelling	8.50 Crores	30	Mar-08
12.	Lumding	New Guwahati-Extension of shunting neck of FCI siding upto Guwahati	3.62 Crores	70	Aug-06
13.	Lumding	New Guwahati-Goods shed-Improvement of circulating area and approach road.	4 Crores	50	Sept-06
14.	Rangiya	Changsari-Conversion of line No. 3 from MG to BG	3.59 Crores	4	Sept-07

[Translation]

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Facilities at Amreli Railway Station*[English]*

4172. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway station at Amreli district in Gujarat lacks basic facilities;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the railway station clean and to provide basic facilities thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Amreli is an 'E' category station. All the minimum essential amenities like waiting hall, shelter, taps, lavatories & urinals and seats etc. have already been provided as per norms at this station.

Bifurcation of LPG Agencies

4173. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG distributorship commissioned in DGR and Non-DGR categories allowed to bifurcate on compassionate grounds to by the Indian Oil Corporation during the last two years; and

(b) the details of LPG agencies which have applied for bifurcation on compassionate grounds during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) During the last two years, no LPG distributorship commissioned in Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) and Non-DGR categories have been bifurcated on compassionate grounds by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), since the existing policy does not permit such bifurcation.

(b) IOCL had received one request from M/s Aggarwal Gas Service, Jalandhar, Punjab, for bifurcation during the above period. However, the request could not be acceded in view of the extant policy.

[Translation]

New Schemes for SCs

4174. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes/programmes introduced for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce more new schemes for development of SCs;

(c) if so, the details of schemes which are under consideration/preparation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) A new Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste students has been introduced in the last financial year. A total of 1333 fellowships are to be provided to students belonging to Scheduled Castes to pursue higher studies leading to award of M. Phil and Ph. D degree.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Name of Schemes are as under.

(i) Top class education for Scheduled Castes.

(ii) Self-employment scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

(iii) Establishment of Residential School for Scheduled Castes Students.

(iv) Assistance to Meritorious students belonging to Scheduled Castes for pursuing studies in Residential Schools.

Details of the schemes are being finalized.

(d) Since several procedural formalities are involved it is difficult to indicate a time frame.

Setting up of Airforce Station at Madurai

4175. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Air Force Station at Madurai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Kalpi as a Tourist Spot

4176. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of Kalpi Tehsil, the birth place of Maharshi Ved Vyas, in the Jalaun District, as a tourist spot; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Promotion of Machine Tool Industry**

4177. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of machine tool manufacturing centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the estimated production and import/export of machine tools during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the position of HMT in machine tool industry; and

(d) the initiatives taken by the Government to further promote the machine tool industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Major machine tool manufacturing centres in the country are as under:

1. Tamil Nadu—Coimbatore & Chennai
2. Karnataka—Bangalore, Hubli/Dharward
3. Andhra Pradesh—Hyderabad
4. Maharashtra—Mumbai, Pune
5. Gujarat—Rajkot/Surendranagar
6. Uttar Pradesh—Ghaziabad
7. Haryana—Faridabad
8. Punjab—Ludiana/Batala/Jalandhar
9. Delhi—Delhi.

(b) The estimated production and import/export of machine tools during the last three years and the current year (estimated) are as under:

(Value in Rs. Crore)

Year	Production	Import	Export
2002-03	549	451	36
2003-04	797	965	55
2004-05	1089	1821	52
2005-06 (E)	1400	3000	60

(c) HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore continues to be the largest machine tool manufacturing company in India. They account for approximately 20% of the production of machine tools in the country.

(d) Initiatives taken by Government of India to promote machine tool industry include inter-alia:

- (i) Government has set up the National Manufacturing Competitive Council (NMCC) which is reviewing and recommending initiatives for enhancing the competitiveness of manufacturing, including the capital goods sector which includes machine tools.
- (ii) Department of Heavy Industry is in regular consultation and interaction with the Industry Association through Development Council, which discuss and disseminate various problems faced by the industry and highlight them at the appropriate forum for redressal.
- (iii) On behalf of the Department of Heavy Industry, CII is conducting a Study on Capital Goods Sector to suggest steps for its development, which include machine tool sector also.

Indian National Defence University

4178. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to set up an Indian National Defence University;

(b) if so, the details along with the location identified, therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Committee on National Defence University has recommended the establishment of an Indian National Defence University. This will include existing institutes namely National Defence College (Delhi), National Defence Academy (Pune), Institute of Defence Management (Secundrabad) and Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and new institutes namely National Institute of Strategic Studies, College of National Security Policy, Institute for Advanced Technology Studies (Bangalore).

(b) No final decision on location of the proposed university has been taken.

(c) The time by which the Indian National Defence University is likely to be set up cannot be indicated at this stage.

Legislation on Food Safety Standard

4179. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive legislation on Food Safety Standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main points/aspects likely to be covered thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Government has introduced a Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 25.8.2005. The main objectives of the Bill is to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

[Translation]

Use of WDP and WDG Engines

4180. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of WDP and WDG engines in West Central Railway Zones;

(b) whether these engines are being run on the electrified routes; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not using these fuel efficient engines so far on unelectrified route like Itarsi-Jabalpur-Allahabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) All diesel locomotives

working in Indian Railways on Broad Gauge are WDP, WDG or WDM type (W denotes Broad Gauge, D standards for Diesel and P, G & M denote type of service viz. Passenger, Goods & Mixed respectively). West Central Railway has a holding of 105 WDG and 235 WDM locos. However, West Central Railway does not hold any WDP loco.

(b) and (c) These diesel locos are being used on both electrified and non-electrified sections including routes like Itarsi-Jabalpur-Allahabad as per the operational requirement.

[English]

Retail Outlets to Reserved Categories in Rajasthan

4181. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of the public sector oil companies functioning in Rajasthan as on date, company-wise;

(b) the number out of them are allotted to the reserved categories SCs, STs and OBCs category-wise;

(c) whether all the oil companies have advertised for allotment of retail outlet dealerships to reserved category candidates during the last two years to complete the reserved quota for SCs, STs and OBCs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of reserved vacancies of retail outlet dealerships for SCs, STs and OBCs as on date, company-wise; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the oil companies to complete the reserved quota for SCs/STs in allotment of retail outlets dealerships particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2006, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), had 1,931 retail outlet (RO) dealerships in the State of Rajasthan. While there is no reservation of dealerships for persons belonging to

'Other Backward Classes' category, OMC-wise break-up of number of RO dealerships and allotment to the categories reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) is as under:

OMC	Total number (no.) of ROs in Rajasthan		
	Total No.	No. allotted to SC category	No. allotted to ST category
IOC	787	62	46
BPC	453	32	6
HPC	565	34	36
IBP	126	5	12
Total	1,931	133	100

(c) to (e) During preparation of the 'marketing plans' of the OMCs, locations are earmarked in each State/ Union Territory (UT) for various categories, including SC/ ST category, as per the percentage of reservation stipulated in the guidelines of the OMCs for selection of dealerships/distributorships. As per these guidelines, 25% of the dealerships/distributorships are reserved for persons belonging to SC/ST category. The reservation prescribed for various categories is ensured in the Marketing Plans as per a 100-Point Roster for each State/UT. Thereafter, retail outlets are allotted by the OMCs in each State/UT, including the State of Rajasthan, on the basis of such marketing Plans.

During the last two years, i.e., 2004-05 and 2005-06, the OMCs advertised 630 locations in the State of Rajasthan for setting up RO dealerships reserved for SC/ ST category. OMC-wise position is as under:

OMC	No. of locations advertised for SC category	No. of locations advertised for ST category
IOC	144	185
BPC	51	26
HPC	122	91
IBP	6	5
Total	323	307

Details about the number of reserved vacancies of RO, etc., in the State of Rajasthan are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

Dealers Commission

4182. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4345 dated December 22, 2005 regarding commission to Petrol Pump Dealers and state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad which has been engaged to conduct a study to examine the expenditure by oil marketing companies on the marketing set-up and dealers commission has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the salient features of the recommendations made in this regard;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received a report from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad on 'Study on Dealers Commission & Marketing Expresses'. They have been asked to examine the report and furnish their recommendations.

No Fly Zones

4183. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'No Fly Zones' in the country at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to declare some places as 'No Fly Zone' areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are five prohibited areas (No Fly Zones) in the country at present which are notified in schedule 1 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Processing Units for Quality Packaging

4184. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities available for processing and packaging of perishable commodities for domestic and export market;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more processing units for quality packaging of perishable commodities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance for overall development of the Food Processing industry including for setting up of packaging centers. The financial assistance under Plan schemes is in the form of Grant in aid and is upto 25% in general areas and upto 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crores in case of Food Parks; Rs. 2.00 crore in case of Packaging Centres; Rs. 75 lakhs in case of Cold Chain facilities; Rs. 4.00 crore in case of Modernized Abattoirs. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own.

Black Marketing of Kerosene

4185. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that 39 per cent of kerosene oil meant for poor people through public distribution system (PDS) is being sold in black market;

(b) if so, the number of cases of black marketing of kerosene oil came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(c) the quantum of kerosene oil seized from black market during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to check black marketing of kerosene oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December 2004 the first-ever comprehensive study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER in its report has estimated the total leakage/diversion of kerosene meant for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) as 38.6%.

(b) and (c) Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution system (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of their SKO dealers and take action against the defaulters under Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(d) In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place.

Government have also approved a pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to this cap reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs. The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 413 blocks in the country from 2nd October, 2005.

With a view to checking diversion/pilferage of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting kerosene under the Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), the Government have advised the OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on the tank trucks carrying kerosene under JKP in phased manner. The essential features of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

Rail Freight Corridor

4186. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Chief Minister of West Bengal for setting up of rail freight corridor from Delhi to Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereon?

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

(b) A request has been received for extending the Freight Corridor to Howrah.

(c) In view of the representation from the Government of West Bengal and also considering the possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of proposed deep sea port, it has been decided to extend Eastern Corridor to this proposed port in Kolkata area.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds under Scheme of Hostels for SCs

4187. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released under scheme of hostels for those belonging to scheduled Castes have been fully utilized by the respective State Governments during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of utilization of funds by the State Governments under the said scheme particularly Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(c) the number of hostels constructed and the pending plans of construction of hostels during the said period, State/Union territory-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Hostels for SC Girls and Boys, Central assistance is released to provide hostel facilities to SC Boys and Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities. A statement showing Central assistance released and number of hostels sanctioned to State Government/UT Administrations under the schemes during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed.

The Scheme envisages that the hostels will be completed within a period of 5 years from the date of release of Central assistance.

Statement

Central assistance released and number of hostels sanctioned to State Governments/UT Administrations under the scheme of Hostels for SC Girls and Boys during 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Boys Hostel				Girls Hostel			
		2004-05		2005-06		2004-05		2005-06	
		CA Released	No. of Hostels	CA Released	No. of Hostels	CA Released	No. of Hostels	CA Released	No. of Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	2	516.2029	44	675.00	54	125.00	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chattisgarh	171.6	4	242.875	12	26.30	2	96.90	4
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	60.00	1
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	951.8261	12	0	0	955.7005	15
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	6.39	Arrear	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	103.47	6	111.441	9	103.47	6	111.441	9
12.	Karnataka	447.68	24	0	0	150.1525	9	0	0
13.	Kerala	24.00	1	0	0	128.21	1	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	106.00	4	0	0	153.12	6
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	96.75	3
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1275.75	80	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	100.00	1	151.89	1	78.835	1	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	169.575	3	0	0	226.10	4
27.	Uttaranchal	95.81	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	50.00	Arrear	242.52	Arrear
Total (State/UT)		2243.31	121	2258.00	85	1191.97	73	2067.53	52

CA-Central Assistance

Allocation of Funds under Minority Welfare Programmes

4188. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to States for Area Intensive Programmes under minorities welfare programmes during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of achievements made under the scheme during the said period State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernization Programme (AIMMP) is being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the States under this programme during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) As reported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development the achievements under the area intensive scheme is as below:

Full/part grants given for opening/construction of buildings for 3010 Primary/Upper Primary/Secondary schools;

Seven residential Higher Secondary Schools for Girls.

Construction of additional 3972 Class rooms.

Up-gradation of 79 Primary schools to Upper Primary Schools and High Schools to Higher Secondary Schools.

Construction of 31 Hostel buildings for Girls Higher Secondary Schools.

Construction of Toilets/Urinals in 2540 schools.

Provision of teaching-learning-material in 1303 Primary/Upper Primary Schools and provision of Library books, almirahs and furniture etc. in 849 Primary/Upper Primary/Secondary Schools. Provision of drinking water in 113 Primary/Upper Primary Schools. Electrification of 1230 Primary/Upper Primary/Secondary Schools. Provision of Science rooms/laboratories in 102 Primary/Upper Primary Schools and provision of 214 computers.

Details of Madarsa Modernisation Programme are not maintained by the Central Government.

Statement

Details regarding Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernization Programme (AIMMP)

Amount Released (Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4
A. Infrastructure Development			
Andhra Pradesh	958.00		1000.00
Haryana	998.62	450.00	

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh		57.28	
Uttar Pradesh	270.90	1229.72	634.87
B. Madarsa Modernisation			
Andhra Pradesh	68.04		35.20
Bihar	79.92		79.92
Chandigarh		00.72	
Jammu & Kashmir	61.68		
Orissa	168.00		168.96
Madhya Pradesh		421.56	384.00
Maharashtra			3.16
Tamil Nadu		00.72	
Uttar Pradesh	245.88		235.23
Tripura	48.96	45.72	45.72
Total (A+B)	2900.00	2205.72	2646.12

*[English]***Export Status to ATF**

4189. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to treat Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) supplies to long distance flights of international carriers as exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Indian Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The Oil companies supply ATF, FO, LDO, HSD etc. to foreign going aircrafts and foreign going vessels at various airports and sea ports for which foreign convertible currencies/repartable rupee are received. As such, these supplies represent sales to foreign customers. By definition, such supplies are deemed exports. Oil companies are already claiming duty drawback on such supplies under Customs Act. They have now requested for advance licence benefit for such supplies. The Ministry has recommended the proposal of oil companies to DGFT for appropriate amendments in Foreign Trade policy.

Amendment to Indian Railway Act

4190. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS will be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make amendments in the Indian Railways Act to solve a large number of theft cases pending in the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

[English]

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made in the said Act?

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

(b) Nil.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Plant-Level Advisory Committee

4191. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether plant Level advisory Committee has been constituted for the development of ancillaries for the Central Public Sector Undertakings in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the dates on which meetings of IBP Company Limited, took place and the purchase orders placed during the last three years alongwith the amount involved in each purchase order?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Trains

4192. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways run Special Trains during summer season and other festive occasions;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to introduce special trains during this summer season to cater to the needs of passengers;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the originating and terminating stations thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to give due publicity of these special trains for the convenience of general public?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) Adequate and wide publicity is given to the traveling public about the summer special trains through electronic and print media. Besides, a summer special time table is also published every year which contains the details i.e. train no., destinations, stoppages enroute, accommodation, frequency etc. to facilitate the traveling public. Further, regular announcements are also made at stations about these trains.

Statement

The details of Summer special running during this summers are as under:

Sl.No.	Train No.	Destination	Frequency	Period	Total trips
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	0971/0972	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad	Tri-weekly	9.5.2006 to 16.6.06	56
2.	4846A/4846A	Ahmedabad-Bandra (T)-Ahmedabad	Tri-Weekly	10.04.06 to 29.06.06	70
3.	0949/0950	Ahmedabad-Dhanbad-Ahmedabad Superfast	Weekly	15.04.06 to 26.06.06	22
4.	0955/0956	Ahmedabad-Varanasi—Ahmedabad	Weekly	21.04.06 to 02.07.06	22

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	0905/0906	Bandra (T)-Jammu Tawi-Bandra (T)	Weekly	01.04.06 to 25.06.06	26
6.	0919/0920	Ahmedabad-Bandra (T)-Jaipur-Bandra (T)	Tri-weekly	10.4.06 to 29.6.06	32
7.	0975/0976	Bandra (T)-Okha-Bandra (T)	Weekly	17.04.06 to 06.06.06	14
8.	0984/0985	Porbandra-Bandra (T)-Porbandar	Weekly	17.04.06 to 06.06.06	16
9.	0965/0966	Bandra (T)-Jodhpur-Bandra (T)	Weekly	12.04.06 to 29.06.06	24
10.	0979/980	Bandra (T)-Ajmer-Bandra (T)	Weekly	14.04.06 to 01.07.06	24
11.	0637/0638	Bangalore-Emakulam-Bangalore	Tri-weekly	16.04.06 to 01.07.06	60
12.	0689/0690	Bangalore City-Hubli-Bangalore City	Weekly	07.04.06 to 02.07.06	24
13.	0647/0648	Bangalore City-Nagercoil-Bangalore City	Tri-weekly	15.04.06 to 20.06.06	28
14.	0684/0683	Bangalore City-Chennai-Bangalore City	Weekly	14.04.06 to 25.06.06	10
15.	227A/228A	Bhubaneswar-Chennai Central-Bhubaneswar	Weekly	04.05.06 to 23.06.06	12
16.	0635/0636	Chennai Central-Trivandrum-Chennai Central	Daily	01.04.06 to 11.06.06	142
17.	0601/0602	Chennai Central-Mangalore-Chennai Central	Weekly	07.04.06 to 11.06.06	142
18.	0657/0658	Chennai Central-Dadar (T)-Chennai Central	Weekly	01.04.06 to 26.06.06	26
19.	0639/0640	Chennai Central-Ajmer-Chennai Central	Weekly	07.04.06 to 24.06.06	22
20.	0653/0654	Chennai Central-Jodhpur-Chennai Central	Weekly	24.04.06 to 28.06.06	20
21.	0605/0606	Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil-Chennai Egmore	Bi-weekly	03.04.06 to 30.06.06	52
22.	0613/0614	Chennai Egmore-Madurai-Chennai Egmore	Bi-weekly	02.04.06 to 24.06.06	50

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	0603/0604	Chennai Egmore-Tuticorin-Chennai Egmore	Weekly	04.04.06 to 28.06.06	26
24.	139/140	Dadar (T)-Varanasi-Dadar (T)	Daily	25.05.06 to 01.07.06	174
25.	165/166	Dadar (T)-Emakulam-Dadar (T)	Weekly	01.04.06 to 02.07.06	28
26.	167/168	Dadar (T)-Mangalore-Dadar (T)	Weekly	05.04.06 to 29.06.06	26
27.	2051A/2052A	Dadar (T)-Mangalore-Dadar (T)	Weekly	19.04.06 to 29.06.06	23
28.	0416/0415	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rajendranagar-Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Daily	16.04.06 to 01.07.06	152
29.	0641/0642	Emakulam-Bangalore-Emakulam	Bi-weekly	03.04.06 to 29.06.06	52
30.	0659/0960	Gandhidham-Mumbai Central-Gandhidham	Tri-weekly	11.04.06 to 16.06.06	58
31.	524.523	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur	Daily	02.04.06 to 15.07.06	206
32.	526/525	Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur	Weekly	17.04.06 to 12.07.06	22
33.	204/203	Guwahati-Mumbai CST-Guwahati	Weekly	14.04.06 to 27.06.06	22
34.	202/201	Guwahati-Bangalore City-Guwahati	Weekly	02.04.06 to 28.06.06	26
35.	0231/0232	Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah	Tri-weekly	01.05.06 to 18.06.06	40
36.	0233/0234	Howrah-Dehradun-Howrah	Weekly	05.05.06 to 18.06.06	12
37.	0337/0338	Howrah-Bikaner-Howrah	Weekly	02.05.06 to 18.05.06	12
38.	0349/0350	Howrah-Gorakhpur-Howrah	Bi-weekly	04.05.06 to 16.06.06	24
39.	2860A/2859A	Howrah-Mumbai CST-Howrah	Weekly	07.04.06 to 02.07.06	26

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	745.746	Howrah-Hyderabad-Howrah	Weekly	17.04.06 to 14.06.06	18
41.	748/747	Hyderabad-Vishakhapatnam-Hyderabad	Weekly	15.04.06 to 18.06.06	18
42.	789/790	Hyderabad-Bangalore-Hyderabad	Weekly	24.04.06 to 10.06.06	14
43.	0992/0991	Indore-Bandra (T)-Indore	Bi-weekly	09.04.06 to 28.06.06	48
44.	0988/0987	Jaipur-Pune-Jaipur	Weekly	09.04.06 to 03.07.06	26
45.	0401/0402	Kathgodam-Dehradun-Kathgodam	Weekly	15.04.06 to 30.06.06	22
46.	149/150	Kolhapur-Nagpur-Kolhapur	Weekly	08.04.06 to 25.06.06	24
47.	0208/0207	Kolkata-Guwahati-Kolkata	Weekly	19.04.06 to 30.05.06	14
48.	143/144	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi-Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Tri-weekly	01.04.06 to 03.07.06	80
49.	157/158	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Muzaffarpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Weekly	04.04.06 to 29.06.06	26
50.	159/160	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Darbhanga-Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Weekly	07.04.06 to 02.07.06	26
51.	109/110	Mumbai CST-Karwar-Mumbai CST	Daily	01.04.06 to 01.07.06	182
52.	0403A/0404A	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi	Tri-weekly	18.04.06 to 05.07.06	66
53.	153/154	Pune-Gorakhpur-Pune	Weekly	04.04.06 to 29.06.06	26
54.	0196/1095	Pune-Ahmedabad-Pune	Weekly	06.04.06 to 30.06.06	26
55.	0412/0411A	Puri-Howrah-Puri	Weekly	04.05.06 to 23.06.06	16
56.	0414A/0413A	Puri-Howrah-Puri	Weekly	07.05.06 to 26.06.06	16
57.	0243/0444	Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri-Sealdah	Bi-weekly	03.05.06 to 17.06.06	24

1	2	3	4	5	6
58.	717/718	Secunderabad-Rajkot-Secunderabad	Weekly	19.04.06 to 19.06.06	18
59.	719/720	Secunderabad-Bikaner-Secunderabad	Weekly	16.04.06 to 15.06.06	18
60.	791/792	Secunderabad-Patna-Secunderabad	Weekly	22.04.06 to 12.06.06	16
61.	0889/0890	Tata-Yashvantpur-Tata	Weekly	21.04.06 to 03.07.06	22
62.	0711/0712	Tirupati-Vishakhapatnam-Tirupati	Weekly	16.04.06 to 12.06.06	18
63.	0997/0998	Valsad-Patna-Valsad	Weekly	12.04.06 to 30.06.06	24
64.	0911/0912	Valsad-Gorakhpur-Valsad	Bi-weekly	15.04.06 to 27.06.06	44
65.	0913/0914	Valsad-Mangalore-Valsad	Weekly	13.04.06 to 02.07.06	24
66.	225A/226A	Vishakhapatnam-Nizamabad-Vishakhapatnam	Weekly	02.05.06 to 21.06.06	16
67.	0674/0673	Yashvantpur-Ajmer-Yashvantpur	Weekly	02.04.06 to 28.06.06	24
68.	155/156	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur	Weekly GS special		24
69.	169/170	Allahabad-Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Weekly GS special		24
70.	2071A/2072A	Madgaon-Mangalore-Madgaon	Weekly	13.04.06 to 29.06.06	23
Grand Total					2668

Ceiling Cost on Hostels for SCs

4193. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ceiling has been fixed on the cost of construction of hostels for Scheduled Castes under the centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present construction cost of hostels in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the ceiling cost in view of the high cost of construction and building material and the difficulties of undertaking construction work in the far flung regions of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cost of construction of hostels is worked out on the basis of State PWD/CPWD schedule of rates.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Karipur Airport

4194. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded the national status to Karipur Airport in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of facilities proposed to be provided at this airport;

(c) whether considering the heavy traffic from the Gulf countries, the Government would consider to introduce more flights to Karipur Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The airport at Calicut (Karipur) has already been given status of international airport.

(b) Expansion and modification of international and domestic terminal buildings works are in progress at an estimated cost of Rs. 89 crores and likely to be completed during 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Recommendations of Krishnamurthy Committee

4195. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Krishnamurthy Committee on 'Synergy on Energy' have been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government;

(c) the recommendations which have not been accepted by the Government alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the accepted recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Electrification and Doubling of Railway Lines

4196. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway lines under the Western railway for which survey for electrification and doubling of railway lines have been completed; and

(b) the time by which electrification and doubling of railway lines works would be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Survey for doubling and electrification of Udhna-Jalgaon section has been completed. However, existing single line of the section is already electrified.

(b) No time frame can be given at this stage as work is not approved.

Roadshows for Auction of Oil Blocks

4197. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Government delegation has made road shows in London, Houston and Perth for auction of oil blocks;

(b) if so, the achievements made by the said delegation during their such visits; and

(c) the details of the business expected by the Government from such auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes Sir. A high level Government delegation led by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas to London and Houston and another led by Minister of State of Petroleum & Natural Gas to Perth visited these locations to hold road shows to promote 55 blocks offered by the Government under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI). The main objective of the promotional road show for NELP-VI was to create interest amongst Exploration & Production companies and other potential investors by highlighting the geology of the blocks and attractive contract and fiscal terms offered by the Government under NELP-VI, persuade them to visit data rooms for data review and finally participate in the bidding process. One-on-one meetings achieved the objective of clarifying queries of the companies to convince them, particularly E&P companies, to bid in NELP-VI.

(b) The road shows at London, Houston and Perth attracted a very encouraging response from exploration and production companies and other potential investors. Many oil majors participated in the road show and held one-on-one meetings with the delegations and expressed their interest in participating in NELP-VI bidding round. Some of the major companies which participated in road shows and/or held one-on-one meeting with the delegations were Exxon Mobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, Petrobras, BHP, ENI, Conoco Phillips, BG, Total, Statoil, Maersk, Encana, Repsol, Woodside etc.

(c) As a result of interest generated amongst prospective bidders, as on date, data of about Rs. 39.61 crores for NELP-VI have been sold. This figure will further increase by the bid closing date of 15.9.2006.

Earnings from Panna, Mukta and Tapti Gas Fields

4198. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploration works on Panna, Mukta and Tapti gas fields are going on as per expectations;

(b) if so, the total amount of revenues earned by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and joint venture partners from Panna, Mukta and Tapti gas fields since the joint venture project started commercial production, year-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Exploration programme committed in Panna, Mukta and Tapti fields Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have already been completed.

(b) GAIL is not a party to the PSCs for Panna, Mukta and Tapti fields (PMT) and hence does not earn any revenue under the PSCs. Gross revenue flow to the PMT Joint Venture since inception under the PSCs are given at Annex-I.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Commercial Production of Oil in Barmer Basin

4199. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently given its clearance to M/s. Cairn for executing its Field Development Plan (FDP) in the highly prospective Rajasthan basin (block RJ-ON-90/1);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely Production of oil/natural gas per day therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the company will start commercial production of oil in Barmer basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In the block RJ-ON-90/1 located in the Barmer district of Rajasthan, Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., the operator, has submitted Field Development Plan

(FDP) in respect of four commercial discoveries namely Mangala, Aishwariya, Saraswati and Raageshwari. The FDP is yet to be approved.

(c) The FDP submitted by the operator envisages peak oil production @ approximately 112,000 Barrels per day and gas production at approximately 19 MMSCFD. The gas produced would be consumed for internal use.

(d) The commercial production from Barmer basin is likely to start by late 2008.

Indo-Uzbekistan Cooperation In Hydrocarbon Sector

4200. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Uzbekistan have signed any agreement for cooperation in hydrocarbon sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the National holding company, UZBEKNEFTEGAZ of Republic of Uzbekistan was signed on 28th April, 2006.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The areas of cooperation envisaged in the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Uzbekneftegaz are as follows:

- (i) promote cooperation between the Indian and Uzbek companies in undertaking E&P initiatives with subsequent development of newly discovered oil and gas fields and production of petrochemical products in Uzbekistan and bidding by Uzbek companies in various NELP rounds for participation in the Indian E&P sector;
- (ii) encourage bilateral cooperation for undertaking joint exploration and production initiatives for oil and natural gas resources in third countries;

(iii) encourage execution of large engineering and construction contracts including oil and gas pipeline projects by Uzbek and Indian companies;

(iv) encourage taking up of LPG and LNG Refinery projects by Uzbek and Indian companies in Uzbekistan, India and third countries;

(v) encourage cooperation on basic and applied R&D;

(vi) encourage designing, construction commissioning operation and maintenance as well as engineering and management in the area of oil and gas related industries;

(vii) encourage cooperation for manufacture, upgrading and supply of drilling rigs and petrochemicals processing units;

(viii) encourage training of specialists, sharing of expertise and technical assistance;

(ix) exchange environmental protection including oil spill emergency response systems.

The memorandum provides for the setting of a Joint Working Group at official level to identify and pursue these areas of cooperation.

Health Care facilities to Railway Employees

4201. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of health care facilities available to Railway employees in West Bengal;

(b) the details of places in the State where health care units like hospitals, dispensaries etc are proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Comprehensive Health Care facilities are being provided to Railway Employees of the State of West Bengal, both serving and retired (only those who join Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme), and their family members through thirteen (13) Railway Hospitals viz. Two (2) well equipped Zonal Head

Quarter (Central) Hospitals, Six (6) Divisional Hospitals, Two (2) Sub-divisional Hospitals, One (10) Production Unit Hospital, Two (2) workshop based Hospitals and Seventy-Four (74) Railway Health Units located all over the State. Multi-speciality facilities are available at the Zonal Head Quarter Hospitals. Help is also taken from State Government hospitals. Railways have also recognised three (3) specialised private hospitals for providing medical treatment to the railway employees.

(b) At present there is no proposal for setting up of more Railway Hospitals and Health Units during the Tenth Five Year Plan in the State of West Bengal. However, there is a proposal for major upgradation of B.R. Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, Kolkata.

(c) Railway Hospitals and Health Units are set up on need basis as an ongoing process.

Rehabilitation of Oustees

4202. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people displaced following the establishment of the Badmal Ordnance Factory in Orissa;

(b) whether those displaced persons have been rehabilitated;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the displaced persons; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) 1030 families were displaced following setting up of Badmal Ordnance Factory in Orissa.

(b) to (e) The Displaced Families have been provided with free land for residential accommodation with house building assistance. Ten colonies have been constructed with facilities like Tube wells, Tank, Village roads, Primary School, Middle School, High School, Community Center, Health Center etc. Further, 994 persons have been given employment.

Employment could not be offered to balance 36 persons due to the following reasons:

(i) Non-availability of documentary evidence as per the report of the Collector, Bolangir (22 cases).

(ii) Non-acceptance adoption cases (7 cases).

(iii) No claimants (3 cases).

(iv) No bonafide claimants (4 cases).

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

4203. SHRI BAPUHARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a backlog of reserved posts of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

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

(c) whether any special drive has been launched to fill the reserved posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to fill the reserved posts?

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

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

Requirement of Crude Oil by Oil Companies

4204. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the annual requirement of crude oil by the Public and Private Sector Oil Companies, sector-wise;

(b) the details of the requirement fulfilled through indigenous production and import; and

(c) the average value of crude oil assessed during the year 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The actual quantity of crude oil processed by the oil refineries during 2005-06 and the details of its fulfillment, sector-wise, was as under:

	Crude Oil Processed	Mode of fulfillment	
		Indigenous	Import
Public Sector	96.5	29%	71%
Private Sector	30.5	Nil	100%

(c) The average price of crude oil (Indian basket) during the year 2005-06 was US\$ 55.72/barrel.

[English]

Acquisition of Land for Preservation of Monuments

4205. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any land is being acquired by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Karnataka for better preservation of monuments;

(b) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the land acquisition process; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. 233.27 Acres of land is being acquired by Archaeological Survey of India at Hampi for better preservation of monuments.

(b) and (c) The land is being acquired through the Land Acquisition Officer, Hospet under the Karnataka State Land Acquisition Act. The acquisition proceedings are underway.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of 1st and IInd AC Coaches from trains

4206. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to withdraw 1st AC and IInd AC coaches from the trains as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated March 23, 2006;

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

(c) whether any assessment has been made in regard to decrease in the earnings from these coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Heritage Tourism

4207. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments for development of heritage tourism during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government to develop heritage tourism in their respective States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development of tourism is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Department of Tourism prioritises tourism projects, including heritage tourism projects, in consultation with

State/UT Governments and central financial assistance is extended to them for implementation of these projects, subject to *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. A

statement showing the financial assistance provided to States/UTs for heritage tourism projects during the last three years and the current year is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Heritage Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the last three years and the current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	800.00	800.00	797.47	637.98	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	151.27	151.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	954.42	861.89	304.17	249.91	768.12	614.50	0.00	0.00
4.	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	397.91	318.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	708.81	692.81	0.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	801.56	717.56	485.06	387.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	500.00	400.00	00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	735.00	735.00	752.91	640.00	1283.95	1027.15	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	1027.12	720.20	1598.50	1278.80	332.71	266.17	0.00	0.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	640.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	199.80	199.64	1213.12	950.19	2908.23	2326.22	0.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	784.33	784.25	537.26	429.80	2000.72	1600.54	0.00	0.00
13.	Nagaland	300.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	1229.18	957.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Punjab	81.00	23.30	290.58	245.99	943.09	754.47	0.00	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	1122.74	1044.66	1059.43	746.66	2576.87	2074.40	558.39	446.70
17.	Tamil Nadu	795.92	645.60	437.91	350.92	2510.39	1917.71	0.00	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	614.22	545.41	760.18	598.94	1756.67	1404.60	0.00	0.00
19.	West Bengal	295.06	276.50	0.00	0.00	500.00	400.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Delhi	2000.48	1972.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Daman and Diu	265.07	239.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		10927.99	9957.14	10363.69	8192.60	17889.56	14518.57	558.39	446.70

Army Help to Counter Naxalism

4208. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army is providing advice and training to counter the rapidly growing naxalism menace as reported in *Times of India*, dated April 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have opened counter terrorism schools with the help of Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) As reported in the Times of India dated the 21st April 2006, the Army is providing aid to civil authority to counter the naxalite menace. This includes training of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jharkhand Police and Chhattisgarh Police personnel in basic tactics and various facets of counter naxal operations as well as advice on procurement of specialist counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) equipment. The Army is also assisting the States in acquiring the services of retired Service personnel for counter naxal operations. The Chhattisgarh State has opened Counter Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College, Kanker, with the help of Army. Qualified Army Officers and Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) were attached for providing assistance in raising of the institute. This institute is headed by a retired Brigadier of the Indian Army.

Jamnagar Airport

4209. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Jamnagar Airport as an International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be upgraded as an International Airport?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Old Planes for Cargo Use

4210. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) proposes to convert its old planes for cargo use;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred by IA in conversion of these planes;

(d) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the IA in handling cargo; and

(e) the time by which IA is likely to start its cargo service in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines proposes to convert five B-737 aircraft, at present operated by Alliance Air to freighter aircraft at an average conversion cost of approximately USD 1.5 million per aircraft. Indian Airlines plans to operate these freighter services with Nagpur as a hub and Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai (via Bangalore & Hyderabad) as originating stations.

(d) With the operation of freighters, Indian Airlines would be able to expand its cargo business and also offer dedicated cargo service during the night time.

(e) No definite time frame for start of the cargo service has so far been finalised.

Modernisation of Hyderabad Airport

4211. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has chalked out the modernization plan of Hyderabad International Airport with the Joint-Venture partnership of the Private Companies, Airports Authority of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh as reported in The Hindustan Times, dated March 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure expected to be incurred on the said project; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan at present to modernise existing Hyderabad International Airport. However, the Government has approved a proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up a Greenfield International Airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad through Joint Venture Route with Public Private Partnership.

(b) The Greenfield airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad is being developed with Public Private Participation (PPP), as a Joint Venture (JV) project wherein AAI has committed an equity contribution of 13%, which has been capped at Rs. 50 crores. Based on a competitive bidding process, consortium led by M/s GMR Infrastructure Limited with Malaysian Airport Holding Berhad (MAHB) have been selected as the strategic joint venture parties holding 74% equity in the JVC and 13% equity is being held by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The following project agreements have been executed:

(i) Concession Agreement (ii) State Support Agreement (iii) Land Lease Agreement (iv) CNS/ATM Agreement (v) Airport Operation & Management Agreement (vi) Financing Agreement, and (vii) EPC Agreements.

(c) The estimated expenditure expected to be incurred on the project is to the tune of Rs. 1761 crores.

(d) The completion time for the Project is 36 months from the date of Financial Close (FC). FC has been achieved on 22nd August 2005.

[Translation]

Circuit Development Scheme

4212. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for circuit development scheme from the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Identification of places of tourist interest/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of central financial assistance every year for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and subject to availability of funds under the respective head during a specific year.

During the 10th Plan period, the following amounts have been sanctioned for development of tourism projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	801.23
2003-04	670.06
2004-05	1547.19
2005-06	3047.39

[English]

AI Express

4213. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of setting up of Air India Express have been achieved;

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the objectives thereof; and

(c) the details of the fleet strength of AI Express at present?

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

Express was introduced primarily to cater to the price sensitive markets and also to take advantage of being the first mover before the entry of other low cost carriers into the Indian Market. Air India Express has been received favourably by the travelling public and has achieved a seat factor of 80% approx. during the previous financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air India Express, presently, has a fleet of 5 aircraft.

Naxalite Attacks on Trains

4214. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YAKSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS will be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the naxalite attacks on the trains, railway stations and other railway property particularly in the naxalite prone states in the recent months;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the current year;

(c) the loss of lives and property due to naxalite attacks during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen the security in trains and to protect railway property from such attacks?

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

(b) 21 cases have been reported during the current year.

(c) Due to naxalite attacks, 5 lives were lost and property worth Rs. 1,85,00,600 was damaged.

(d) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railway. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

The Government Railway Police (under the State/ Union Territory. Governments) co-ordinate the security arrangements as per the requirements and levels of security threats, their nature etc. The Railways actively assist in aspects pertaining to the Railways in order to facilitate smooth train operations and transportation of passengers, parcels and goods in such situations. However, the Ministry of Railways have taken following steps to strengthen the security in trains and to protect railway property from such attacks:

Railway Protection Force is providing on average 1,217 escort parties in affected trains in vulnerable areas, in co-ordination with the State Governments, for which an average of 3,712 staff are deployed. 480 stations on the average are also given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2,705 personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on trains and the railway premises, in order to further strengthen the security. The offenders apprehended by RPF staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action.

The Railways have also taken steps to modernize the Railway Protection Force (RPF) who have been equipped with additional road vehicles numbering 48 Buses, 152 Jeeps and 119 Motor Cycles, communication equipments numbering 3142 (5 Watt Walkie Talkies, 123 25 Watt VHF and 2500 Bullet Proof Jackets and an equal number of Bullet Proof Helmets). Besides compact & effective weapons (5.56 mm INSAS rifles numbering 1000, carbines numbering 7336 and pistols numbering 17236 have been provided.

Valuation of Assets of AAI

4215. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total valuation of assets of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on April 1, 2005;

(b) total valuation of assets of Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(c) whether such valuation is based on the report of any official agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The value of the gross block of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 1st April, 2005 was Rs. 5265.35 crores.

(b) The value of the gross block of Delhi Airport as on 1.4.2005 was Rs. 847.22 crores for Delhi Airport and Rs. 911.47 crores for Mumbai Airport.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The value stated above is as per the books of accounts of AAI.

[Translation]

Discovery of Gas by GSPC

4216. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) has struck gas in its Tarapur oil block in Anand district;

(b) if so, the anticipated reserves therein;

(c) whether some foreign oil companies have shown interest in developing the said gas block;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which gas production is likely to start from the said block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, M/s. GSPC has made a gas discovery in a pre-NELP block CB-ON/2. The discovery is under appraisal.

(c) and (d) M/s. GSPC has proposed to offer 20% participating interest in the block CB-ON/2 to M/s. GeoGlobal Resources—Barbados, a foreign company.

(e) The discovery is under appraisal and thereafter only the commercial potential will be known.

[English]

Fire Incidents at Airports

4217. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some fire incidents at Delhi and other Airports in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the fire incidents reported during the current year alongwith the causes thereof;

(c) the details of losses incurred on each incident thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been three incidents of fire at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi and one incident at Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport, Mumbai. The above incidents occurred at IGI Airport on 22.1.2006, 2.2.2006 and 24.4.2006 due to electrical-spark/short-circuit. The incident at CSI Airport occurred on 27.4.2006 due to welding.

(c) The loss due to fire on 22.1.2006 was Rs. 10 lacs approximately, on 2.2.2006 was Rs. 0.50 lacs approximately and on 24.4.2006 was Rs. 20.50 lacs approximately. However, there was no loss in the fire incident at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport on 27.4.2006.

(d) The following steps are taken from time to time to ensure that such incidents do not recur:

- (i) Monthly inspection of various types of fire extinguishers placed in all terminals and offices.
- (ii) Quarterly inspection of fixed fire installation and fire alarm detection system.
- (iii) Fire dampers in A/C ducts are checked once in every quarter.

- (iv) Random inspection to check the use of unauthorised appliances and other fire hazards, if any, in the offices of the airlines/agencies.
- (v) Fire officials keep monitoring the welding work.
- (vi) Familiarization of the terminal building of all fire staff is done periodically to enable them to have easy access to the various terminal building areas and to reach the sources of the fire promptly.

Railway Projects

4218. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railway projects which were scheduled for completion in 2007 have not been sanctioned so far;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to sanction/complete railway projects without any further delay?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The targeted works are being monitored regularly for the progress and necessary funds are being provided.

Recovering of Training Cost from Pilots in AI

4219. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the training cost is being recovered from the new pilots in Air India (AI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Air India and Air India Express are accepting post dated cheques of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 16 lakhs, respectively, from the pilots joining these airlines, which will be encashed in case the pilot does not serve the airline for a period of five years.

Grants to Muslim Minority Educational Institutes

4220. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received representations from various Muslim minority educational institutes from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh for grant-in-aid under Maulana Azad Education Foundation;

(b) if so, the details and names of such educational institutes; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), an autonomous organization, has received applications for financial assistance from minority educational institutions of Aligarh.

(b) and (c) Details of action taken by MAEF given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of action taken by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), on applications for financial assistance received from educational institutions in Aligarh are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Organisation	Grant-in-Aid	
		Sanctioned	Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Shabbir Memorial Education Society, Dhoerra, Aligarh	6.00	6.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Anjuman Tameer-e-Millat, Dodhpur, Aligarh	15.00	15.00
3.	Kulsoom Educational Society, Dodhpur, Aligarh	0.20	0.20
4.	Iqra Educational Foundation, Aligarh	30.00	30.00
5.	Shabbir Memorial Educational Society, Dhoerra, Aligarh	15.00	15.00
6.	Nadir Education Society, Atrauli, Aligarh	5.00	2.50
7.	All-Barkat Educational Society, Jamalpur, Aligarh	20.00	14.00
8.	Rafi Educational Development Society, Aligarh	Declined	
9.	All India Muslims & Rehabilitation Education Society, Anoopshahar Road, Aligarh	Declined	
10.	Alig Education Scientific and Welfare Socceity, Jamalpur, Aligarh	Declined	
11.	Habib Memorial Public School Shiksha Samiti, Barla, Aligarh	No decision taken.	
12.	Crescent Charitable Trust, Dodhpur, Aligarh	No decision taken.	
13.	Alwaha Educational Society, Diggi Road, Aligarh	No decision taken.	

*[Translation]***Expenditure on Railway Projects**

4221. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway have made any assessment regarding the expenditure to be incurred on the on-going and pending railway projects;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost escalation therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken for timely completion of projects in order to avoid cost-and-time overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 1.4.2006 the throw forward of ongoing projects under the Plan heads New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan projects is about Rs. 53946 crores. Ongoing railway projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standards in the absence of assured availability of matching funds at the time of taking up of a project, time and cost overrun is not feasible to be evaluated.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. These included funding through National Projects, Defence funding, Public Private Partnership, State sharing and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. For the early completion of new line and gauge conversion projects taken up on socio-economic considerations, Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has been announced. With these initiatives, it is expected that the ongoing projects would get completed in a period of about 5 years.

Release of Spectrum

4222. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spectrum is released by the Defence Services for the use of Cellular operators thus compromising with the security of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the security of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the requirements of Defence Services and security aspects are not affected adversely?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The spectrum is released by the Defence Services for use of cellular operators on case to case basis keeping in view the requirements of Defence Services and also the needs of the Telecom Industry without adversely affecting the security aspects of the country.

[English]

Rock Cave Paintings

4223. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India proposes excavation and preservation of the Rock Cave Paintings, findings of the Muragurta Valley Civilization, the Chousat Yojini Temple, the Rahipur-Jhariol Group of Temples and Jumlagarh Fort in Kalahandi and Naupada districts of Orissa for cultural prosperity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to undertake excavation, restoration and preservation of unearthed artifacts found at various archaeological sites along the Mahanadi and Talvalley in Kalahandi and Naupada districts in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated therefor during 2006-2007?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has no proposal for excavation at any of these sites in the current field season. Of the above sites, the *Chousath Yogini* temple, District Bolangir (Orissa) is a centrally protected monument which is preserved and maintained as per archaeological norms.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Question does not arise.

Package for Revival of HMT Ltd.

4224. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI KRISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared a Rs. 835 crore package for the revival of five units of HMT Limited in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the higher levels of performance by these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not taken a final decision on the proposed revival package of HMT (Machine Tool) Ltd.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An MoU shall be signed with the company after approval of its revival package to monitor the desired level of performance.

Upgradation of Infotech System

4225. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Military Engineer Services (MES) has sought assistance of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to upgrade its Infotech System infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Military Engineer Services (MES) is in the process of establishing a Wide Area Network (WAN) for all its Chief Engineers, Command Works Engineers and Garrison Engineers spread all over the country. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) was requested to assist in the upgradation of Infotech System infrastructure of MES by providing technical expertise and initial start up services. In this regard a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the ONGC and the MES on 26th April 2006. As per the MOU, the ONGC shall provide the following services to MES for their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation.

- (i) Project Management Services for SAP (System Application and Products for data processing) solution based ERP implementation in MES.
- (ii) Hosting Services in their existing Data Centre for MES Development Landscape ERP solution.
- (iii) Post implementation/Helpdesk Support for the ERP system.

These consultancy services are being provided by ONGC free of cost.

Doubling of Guwahati-Tinsukia Broad Gauge Line

4226. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any decision on doubling the Tuwahati-Tinsukia broad gauge line and also think in terms of railway electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress achieved so far regarding the conversion of the hill section's Lumding-Badarpur (Barak Valley) meter gauge into broad gauge?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Lumding-Badarpur gauge conversion is part of Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Baraigram gauge conversion project. On this project, land acquisition, earthwork, bridges and tunneling works are in various stages of progress and the overall physical progress is about 34%.

Bajpe Airport

4227. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has declared Bajpe airport in Karnataka as a customs airport;

(b) if so, whether this airport will be able to handle flights to international destinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Whenever any airlines plan to operate International flight, they can operate their International flights from Bajpe airport. So far, no airlines has filled the schedule to operate international flight from this airport.

Agreement with USA

4228. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with United States of America (USA) in Civil aviation sector as reported in the Statesman dated May 4, 2006.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which India is likely to be benefited by such agreement?

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

(b) and (c) This Agreement will provide the framework for seeking assistance of the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) in developing the civil aviation infrastructure in managerial, operational and technical areas, as and when required.

Thalassery-Mysore Railway Line

4229. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI PANIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any Memorandum from the members of Parliament demanding a new Thalassery-Mysore railway line under the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A survey for new line from Mysore to Tellicherry (Thalassery) was completed during 1997-98. For this proposed line, two alternatives passing through Coorg and Kanjikode & Waynad were also studied. The survey report had revealed that the route length of the proposed line via Coorg would be about 298 kms. including 138 kms in Ghat section and would cost Rs. 864 crore while the alternative line via Waynad would be about 241 kms and would cost Rs. 754.28 crore. The Rate of Return (ROR) in both cases would be negative being (-) 3.66% via Coorg and (-) 3.43% via Waynad. In view of unremunerative nature of the line and acute

resource constraint with the Railways, the proposal could not be considered.

GoM on Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports

4230. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Empowered Group of Ministers headed by Defence Minister have decided about bidding for upgrading Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if so, whether this empowered Group has given its final decision to re-examine the entire process;

(c) if so, whether any delay in this regard is likely to affect the development of the above airports; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Acquisition of Companies by BHEL

4231. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited proposes to explore opportunity to acquire companies both in India and abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals mooted and the amount proposed to be invested therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has not finalized any proposal for Government approval.

Reward in Averting Rail Accidents

4232. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy in the Railways to reward the person who helped in averting rail accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rail accidents averted due to public alertness during the last three years; and

(d) the reward given to the persons who helped in averting these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Any outsider, who helps in averting rail accident is suitably awarded by the Zonal Railway as per the extant policy.

(c) and (d) During the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, 23 persons have been awarded cash amount ranging up to Rs. 5000 for helping to avert 21 accidents.

Clean Train Station System

4233. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations where 'Clean Train Station System' has been implemented in the country; and

(b) the names of the stations identified where this system is likely to be implemented during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The name of the stations where "Clean Train Station System" has been implemented are:

- (i) Bhusaval/Central Railway;
- (ii) Asansol/Eastern Railway;
- (iii) Vishakapatnam/East Coast Railway;
- (iv) New Jalpaiguri/Northeast Frontier Railway;

(v) Guwahati/Northeast Frontier Railway;

(vi) Jhansi/North Central Railway;

(vii) Ratlam/Western Railway;

(viii) Ahmedabad/Western Railway.

(b) This system is planned to be provided at the following 17 stations during the current year (2006-07):

Railway	Station	No. of Stations
Central	Sholapur	1
East Central	Mughalsarai, Barauni	2
East Coast	Bhubaneswar	1
Northern	New Delhi, Moradabad, Lucknow	3
North Eastern	Gorakhpur, Chhapra	2
North Western	Jaipur	1
Southern	Erode	1
South Central	Vijayawada	1
South Eastern	Rourkela, Kharagpur	2
South East Central	Bilaspur	1
South Western	Hubli	1
West Central	Itarsi	1
Total		17

Identification of Fractures on Railway Tracks

4234. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Frontier Railway is ill-equipped to search and identify fractures on the railway tracks;

(b) if so, whether modern equipments are not available with the Railways for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to provide modern equipment to the North Frontier Railway and North Bengal for identification of fractures on the railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) equipment for testing of rail tracks is available with Northeast Frontier Railway in adequate numbers.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) During January, 2005, Northeast Frontier Railway was given approval for procurement of two Nos. of ultrasonic Rail Flaw Detector with advance technology and data logger as a pilot project to identify inherent flaws in rail as preventive measure for rail fracture. The purchase order for aforesaid equipment has already issued on 3.3.2006 by Northeast Frontier Railway. With this arrangement ultrasonic testing potential of rails on Northeast Frontier Railway will be enhanced even further.

[Translation]

Facilities to Pilgrims at Vaishno Devi

4235. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims visited Vaishno Devi during each of the last three years; and

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Government for further development and providing more facilities to the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of tourists visiting Vaishno Devi for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total Arrivals
2003	5400296
2004	6109895
2005	6451998

(b) Identification of places of tourist interests/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However the Department of Tourism Government of India, provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grants of Central Financial Assistance every year for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultations with State Governments/UT Administrations and subject to availability of funds under the respective head during a specific year.

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 125.00 lakh for Construction/Improvement of Drainage in Katra during 2003-04.

[English]

Implementation of PWD Act, 1995

4236. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disabled persons are being ignored and discriminated in the matter of their basic needs, education and job opportunities despite the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether all States have implemented the basic provision of the Act;

(d) if not, the names of those States which have not implemented the basic provisions of the Act;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the initiatives being taken by the Government for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The basic provisions of the persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 are under implementation in all the States/Union Territories.

(f) The following initiatives have been taken for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities:

- (1) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) have been set up in 126 districts for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services.
- (2) Public institutions and voluntary organizations are being provided financial assistance, technical and administrative support to extend rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities throughout the country.

Prices of Food Items in Trains/Stations

4237. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that prices of food items available in trains and at stations is very high;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for fixing the prices of food items; and

(d) the measures taken by the Railways for availability of food items at affordable prices, not under weight and supply of good quality food items in trains and at stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The tariff of Tea/Coffee, Breakfast and Standard meals fixed by the Ministry of Railways is considered reasonable. While fixing the same, Ministry of Railways takes into consideration the cost of various inputs like, raw materials, fuel, staff cost, packaging etc.

(d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and Zonal Railways conduct inspections and surprise checks at stations and on trains with a view to ensure that good quality food is supplied through Railway Catering Services. Efforts are also made that licensees do not overcharge for food and do not serve underweight food to the passengers. Measures like, Imposition of fine, issuing warning and even termination of contract, are taken in the event of licensees found at fault.

Child Sex Tourism

4238. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Child Sex Tourism is being encouraged at various tourist centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to curb it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Law and order is a subject which falls under the purview of the concerned

State Government/Union Territory. The Department of Tourism has not received any complaints regarding child sex tourism. However, in order to curb illegal activities and to ensure safety and security, the Department of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist centers. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, etc. have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

Special Commissions/Committees on Rail Accidents

4239. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up special Commissions/Committees to find out the reasons/causes of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details of such Commissions/Committees set up by the railways during the last three years;

(c) the recommendations given by such Commissions/Committees and implementation status of their recommendations;

(d) the Commissions/Committees which are yet to submit their reports; and

(e) the time by which these Commissions/Committees are likely to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, only one High Level Committee was constituted on 4.9.2004, under the Chairmanship of Justice UC Banerjee, Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India, to inquire into the incident of fire in train No. 9166 Sabarmati Express on 27.2.2002 at Godhra station under Western Railway.

(c) The Committee has submitted its final report on 3rd March, 2006 and the further action on the report of the Committee has been stayed by Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Development of Stations of Assam

4240. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposals for developing Kamakhya Station and other stations in Assam and in other North-Eastern States, especially those of special tourist interest, into Model Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress in implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) With a view to provide upgraded passenger amenities, 14 stations in the State of Assam and other North-Eastern States have been nominated as model stations. These are Dibrugarh, Gasaigaon, Guwahati, Jorhat Town, Kamakhya, Kokrajhar, Lumding, New Bongaigaon, New Tinsukia, Rangiya Jn., Silchar, Srirampur, Dimapur and Dharmanagar.

(c) Out of the 14 stations, one station Guwahati has been fully developed as Model Station. Remaining 13 stations are targeted for development by March 2008 as per norms.

[Translation]

Motibagh Narrow Gauge Workshop

4241. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Motibagh Narrow Gauge Workshop, Nagpur into Broad Gauge Workshop due to increase in gauge conversion works;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be converted?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Complimentary Railway Card Passes

4242. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Complimentary Railway Card Passes issued as on April 1, 2006, category-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether such card passes have been issued for life or are subject to renewal at a specified interval or subject to check against misuse; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) To check against possibility of misuse, complimentary card passes are issued to various categories with validity of one year or a maximum of two years at a time to be renewed thereafter. In case of complimentary card passes issued to ex-Minister of Railways, ex-Minister of State for Railways, ex-Deputy Minister of Railways, Bharat Ratna Awardees, Rasoolan Bibi, widow of Late Abdul Hamid Param Veer Chakra Awardee and Shri Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Padam Shree, the validity is for life time.

Spiritual Tourism

4243. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing awareness among the public on 'Spiritual Tourism';

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to boost spiritual Tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development of tourism including Spiritual/Pilgrimage Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned. Department of Tourism extends central financial assistance to the States/UTs for implementation of tourism schemes, including Spiritual/Pilgrimage Tourism, based on prioritization of such projects in consultation with them, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Foreign Tourists

4244. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited various Southern and North Eastern States during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for various projects for development of tourism in those States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further boost tourism in these States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Statement-I showing the

number of foreign tourist visited various Southern and North eastern States during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) The amount sanctioned by the Department of Tourism for various tourism projects for States/UTs, including the Southern and North Eastern States during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The Department of Tourism has adopted a multi pronged strategy for development of tourism in States/UTs, which include development of infrastructure, marketing and publicity, human resource development and capacity building of the service providers.

Statement I***Foreign Tourist visits in Southern and North Eastern States during the last years***

Sl.No.	State	2002	2003	2004
I.	Southern States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210310	479318	501019
2.	Karnataka	59545	249908	530225
3.	Kerala	232584	294621	345546
4.	Tamil Nadu	804041	901504	1058012
II.	North Eastern States			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	187	12	269
2.	Assam	6409	6610	7285
3.	Manipur	221	257	249
4.	Meghalaya	3146	6304	12407
5.	Mizoram	259	279	326
6.	Nagaland	657	743	1084
7.	Sikkim	8566	11966	14646
8.	Tripura	2602	3196	3171

Statement II**State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	946.50	896.44	16	2827.19	2240.68	7	2,615.81	1,700.00
2.	Assam	3	313.46	313.06	8	986.03	766.22	10	2,140.00	1,698.45
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1044.60	700.00	9	1325.50	927.96	10	2,240.16	1,655.21
4.	Bihar	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.43	1527.71	3	1,212.23	722.49
5.	Chattisgarh	6	1005.00	364.00	6	1117.94	897.93	7	1,775.59	1,436.54
6.	Goa	2	36.76	34.76	3	110.00	38.00	1	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14	5	2,011.58	1,169.04
8.	Haryana	16	1215.38	879.23	6	693.55	513.64	7	639.71	515.77
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	182.32	85.00	12	2680.00	2161.00	6	1,845.00	921.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	895.00	895.00	5	819.25	699.04	22	6,656.01	5,320.31
11.	Jharkhand	2	1109.00	774.60	2	945.91	756.72	5	1,227.27	697.96
12.	Karnataka	14	932.66	792.51	12	2461.76	1937.37	8	1,706.52	1,001.21
13.	Kerala	6	608.50	564.15	10	2283.63	1820.33	13	4,858.88	3,889.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	621.90	394.51	11	1595.19	942.21	12	3,047.39	1,419.54
15.	Maharashtra	10	931.83	914.58	10	1620.62	925.30	9	2,075.04	1,662.99
16.	Manipur	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00	2	49.80	39.84
17.	Meghalaya	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91	1	5.00	4.00
18.	Mizoram	5	567.70	186.75	6	1086.35	382.38	10	2,273.41	1,687.29
19.	Nagaland	4	711.00	220.80	7	2250.69	1413.40	9	2,528.97	1,873.17
20.	Orissa	5	419.55	138.50	8	1320.74	1059.38	10	2,309.61	1,586.44
21.	Punjab	2	96.00	12.30	7	724.68	581.47	5	1,437.67	1,150.13
22.	Rajasthan	14	1644.81	1414.25	13	2516.61	1375.07	7	2,591.87	2,086.40
23.	Sikkim	8	1151.09	681.49	8	660.81	531.33	14	2,844.56	2,213.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Tamil Nadu	14	1339.82	850.53	7	1308.92	705.83	19	4,264.82	3,007.68
25.	Tripura	6	450.17	135.16	1	20.00	16.00	3	716.26	569.43
26.	Uttaranchal	4	230.44	203.94	7	2199.98	1750.73	13	2,738.00	2,193.18
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1115.80	916.26	9	1044.93	831.19	18	3,905.23	3,126.03
28.	West Bengal	10	717.44	384.34	10	513.04	407.43	5	989.35	792.48
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	1	6.25	5.00
30.	Chandigarh	2	10.00	8.00	3	467.00	373.60	1	13.70	13.70
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	2	29.79	25.92
32.	Delhi	17	3316.28	3222.13	8	628.85	511.00	2	20.00	17.00
33.	Daman and Diu	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00	4	262.28	208.61
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00	2	469.39	375.51
Total		207	24185.84	18073.76	217	37663.83	27371.97	253	61,316.96	45,793.76

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

[Translation]

Facilities at Atari Railway Station

4245. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to formulate a scheme to provide facilities of international level at Atari Railway Station which connects India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent by the Railways on implementation of the said scheme?

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

(b) to (d) Details are under finalisation in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Use of Hydrogen Blended CNG In Automotive Vehicles

4246. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has taken up any demonstration projects using hydrogen-blended Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in automotive vehicles;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has undertaken demonstration project using Hydrogen CNG blend in automotive Vehicles.

(b) IOC have set up a Hydrogen-CNG dispensing station at IOC, R&D Centre for dispensing H₂-CNG blends for test vehicles. Trials at present are being conducted

on a passenger car and three-Wheeler using up to 10% H₂ in CNG, without doing any engine modification. In order to have the optimum performance with use of H₂-CNG, blend ratio needs to be optimized for which experiments are envisaged to be conducted up to 30% H₂ with the help of vehicle manufacturers.

(c) IOC, R&D has tied up with vehicle manufacturers to take up the necessary modifications in the engines for using higher percentage of H₂ with ultimate aim of reducing NO_x emission and improving energy efficiency.

[English]

Punctuality and Safety in Railways

4247. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to take some important measures with the help of the State Governments to improve the punctuality and safety in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railways have also identified the sensitive Railway Zones which are more prone to disruptions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments have agreed to help and assist the Railways in implementing the schemes proposed for the said purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Meetings are held with State Governments as and when required.

(c) and (d) Following railway zones are affected with the activities of left wing extremists/terrorist:

East Central Railway, East Coast Railway, South Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway, Southeast Central Railway, Eastern Railway, Northern Railway and North East Railway.

(e) and (f) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a state subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways have to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

The Government Railway Police (under the State/ Union territory Governments) co-ordinate the security arrangements as per the requirements and levels of security threats, their nature etc. The Railways actively assist in aspects pertaining to the Railways in order to facilitate smooth train operations and transportation of passengers, parcels and goods in such situations. However, the Ministry of Railways have taken following steps to strengthen the security in trains and to protect railway property from such attacks.

Railway Protection Force is providing on an average 1,217 escort parties in affected trains in vulnerable areas, in co-ordination with the State Government, for which an average of 3,712 staff are deployed. 480 stations on the average are also given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2705 personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on trains and the railway premises, in order to further strengthen the security. The offenders apprehended by RPF staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railways Police with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action.

During the year 2005, 4616 persons involved in Alarm Chain Pulling/Hose Pipe disconnection were arrested for prosecution by the Railway Protection Force.

Stoppage of Bikaner Express at Satnali Station

4248. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Gram Panchayats of 35 villages for stoppage of Bikaner Express at Satnali railway station in Haryana; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under examination and the action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

[Translation]

Compilation and Publication of Janta Geet

4249. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent the proposal of Shri Ramanand Saraswati Pustkalya Jokhara, Ajamgarh regarding grants/assistance for compilation and publication of 'Janta Geet' to the Government with recommendations;

(b) if so, the date on which this proposal was received by the Union Government and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which the grants/assistance as per the proposal is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was received in August 2005 and was placed before the Expert Committee on 14.10.2005. The Committee did not recommend the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Alleged Irregularities in Tenders for LPG Gas Tankers

4250. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from the public representatives about the alleged irregularities in the tenders for LPG gas tankers by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Northern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) This Ministry have received references from two Members of Parliament namely Shri Brajesh Pathak and Shri Rajesh Kumar Verma complaining against irregularities in the matter of Bulk LPG Transportation Tender 2005-08 floated by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the Northern Region.

(c) to (e) In pursuance of the above, the report from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has been obtained and the same is under examination.

[English]

Amendment to Rules and Procedures

4251. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by the former Civil Aviation Secretary has submitted a report recommending certain changes to facilitate stringent checking of pilots, aircraft and documentations;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(c) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the said Committee;

(d) if so, whether the Government has decided to make amendments in rules and procedures to ensure effective solution of pilots and aircraft and to improve safety standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The Committee set up under the chairmanship of Shri M.K. Kaw has submitted its report recommending inter-alia, streamlining of functions and procedures for licensing of pilots, certification of aircraft and documentations etc. The recommendations are wide ranging and are being examined in consultation with various authorities and Ministries concerned.

*[Translation]***Reservation for SCs/STs in Private Sector**

4252. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
 SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
 SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI:
 SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
 SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
 SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
 SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
 SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
 SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers has submitted its report to the Union Cabinet on the reservation of jobs for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in private sector;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether the Government has also taken the views of private sector in this regard;

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

(e) the further action being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The private sector is not in favour of legal provision for reservation in private sector.

(e) Future course of action cannot be indicated at this stage.

Corruption in Parcel Booking Offices

4253. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
 SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corruption is rampant in the parcel booking offices of the Railways;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during each of the last two years, Zone-wise; and

(c) the number of officers found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However some cases of corruption in parcel booking offices of Zonal Railways have been detected in the past.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached. Suitable disciplinary action has been taken against officials found responsible for irregularities.

Statement

Zonal Railway	Complaints received		No. of officials against whom disciplinary action has been taken	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway	31	13	5	1
Eastern Railway	7	2	0	0
Northern Railway	56	27	2	3
North Eastern Railway	2	9	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
North East Frontier Railway	0	0	0	0
Southern Railway	8	9	0	0
South Central Railway	21	6	4	0
South Eastern Railway	3	3	2	0
Western Railway	3	1	2	0
East Central Railway	10	4	1	0
North Western Railway	6	5	3	0
North Central Railway	15	10	6	8
West Central Railway	12	18	1	3
South East Central Railway	0	0	0	0
East Coast Railway	1	4	0	0
South Western Railway	1	2	0	0

**Incurring of Wasteful/Unproductive Expenditure
by Airlines**

[English]

4254. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances/cases of wasteful/unproductive/avoidable expenditure incurred by the public sector airlines have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) As ongoing process, the Statutory Auditors/Government Auditors through their reports, bring from time to time, to the Airlines'/Government's notice, cases of avoidable expenditures incurred. Audit observations are carefully examined and detailed comments are furnished to the Audit. Corrective action/steps are taken, wherever necessary, to prevent recurrence under intimation to Audit.

Model Stations in Jharkhand

4255. SHRI RAGHUVRAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for selecting the Model Stations;

(b) the details of amenities provided at the Model Stations;

(c) the names of the railway stations in the country particularly Jharkhand which have upgraded as Model Station so far and have been identified as Model Stations;

(d) the expenditure incurred by the Railways thereon; and

(e) the steps taken for timely completion of works at the identified railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The criteria for selection of model stations is as under:

- (i) Stations serving State and Zonal Railway Headquarters,
- (ii) Stations dealing with large number of passenger traffic falling under the category 'A' & 'B', and
- (iii) Stations of historical/tourist/cultural/religious/educational importance.

(b) Model Stations are to be provided with 'Desirable Amenities' such as retiring room, waiting room with bathing facility, cloak room, enquiry & computer based announcement, national train enquiry system, interactive voice response system, public address system, book stalls/other stalls of essential goods, refreshment room, parking/circulating area, train indicator board, public phones & internet, water coolers, standardized signages, modular catering stalls, pay & use toilets, self printing ticketing machines, unreserved ticketing system, circulating area lights etc. However, provision of various amenities would depend on the category of the station.

(c) 327 stations in the country have so far been identified as model stations out of which 12 stations are located in Jharkhand which are Baidyanathdham, Bokaro Steel city, Chakradharpur, Daltonganj, Dhanbad, Hatia, Jasidih, Koderma, Madhupur, Parasnath, Ranchi and Tata Nagar. Out of 12 stations, one station Dhanbad has been fully developed as Model Station. A list of 327 stations is enclosed as statement.

(d) Upgradation of stations as Model Station are done under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities". The expenditure incurred under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" during 2005-06 is Rs. 245.01 crore (Net) approximately.

(e) The railways have been directed to develop all the identified Model Stations by March, 2008.

Statement

List of 327 stations identified as Model Stations

Railway	Name of Station
1	2
Central (17)	Akola, Bhusaval, Chandrapur, Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus (Kolhapur), Dadar, Gulbarga, Jalgaon, Kalyan, Kurla (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus), Malkapur, Mumbai CST, Nagpur, Nasik Road, Pune, Solapur, Thane, Wardha.

1	2
Eastern (41)	Andal Jn., Asansol, Baidyanathdham, Bandel, Barasat, Bardhaman, Baruipur Jn., Basirhat, Bhagalpur, Bidhannagar Road, Bolpur, Bongaon, Budge Budge, Canning, Dankuni, Dhakuria, Dum Dum, Durgapur, Garia, Ghutlari Sharif, Howrah, Jamalpur Jn., Jasidih, Krishnagar Road, Kulti, Labpur, Madhupur, Madhyamgram, Malda Town, Murshidabad, Nabadwip Dham, New Farakka, Ranaghat Jn., Raniganj, Sainthia, Sealdah, Sonarpur, Sultanganj, Tarakeswar, Tollyganj, Ultadanga.
East Central (32)	Akshayawat Rai Nagar, Ara, Buxar, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Bettiah, Daltonganj, Danapur, Darbhanga, Dhanbad, Dehri-on-Sone, Gaya, Hajipur Jn., Janakpur Road, Khagaria, Koderma, Mokama, Motihari, Mughalsarai, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nayagaon, Narkatiaganj Jn, Nawadah, Parasnath, Patna, Sagauli Jn, Sasaram, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sitamarhi, Sonapur Jn.
East Coast (17)	Badakhandita, Bhadrak, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Byree, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Golanthra, Jaipur-Keonjhar Road, Kapilas Road, Khurda Road, Puri, Rahama, Sambalpur, Suria Road, Titlagarh, Visakhapatnam.
Northern (40)	Ambala Cantt., Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Ayodhya, Baghpat Road, Baraut, Bareilly, Bhatinda, Beas, Chandigarh, Dehraudn, Delhi, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Dhuri Jn., Faizabad, Faridabad, Firozpur, Garhmukteshwar, Ghaziabad, Hardiwar, H. Nizamuddin, Jullundur City, Jammu Tawi, Kalka, Kathua, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Meerut City, Moradabad, Nangloi, New Delhi, Panipat Jn., Pathankot, Patiala, Prayag, Rae-Bareilly Jn., Saharanpur, Shimla, Varanasi.

1	2
North Central (10)	Agra Cantt., Agra Fort, Aligarh, Allahabad Jn., Etawah, Gwalior, Jhansi Kanpur Central, Mathura Jn., Tundla.
North Eastern (16)	Badshah Nagar, Ballia, Basti, Chhapra Jn., Deoria Sadar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Izzatnagar Jn., Kathgodam, Katra, Lucknow, Manduadih, Mau Jn., Pilibhit, Rawatpur, Siwan Jn.
Northeast Frontier (32)	Alipurduar Jn., Alubari Road, Araria Court, Coochbehar, Dalkolha, Dharmanagar, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Ghum, Gosaigaonhat, Guwahati, Harischchandrapur, Jalpaiguri, Jorhat Town, Kamakhya, Katihar, Kishanganj, Kokrajhar, Lumding, Maal Bazar, New Alipurduar, New Bongalgaon, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, New Mal Jn., New Tinsukia, Purnea Jn., Raiganj, Rangia Jn., Silchar, Siliguri Town, Srirampur.
North Western (9)	Abu Road, Ajmer, Bikaner, Hissar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Rewari, Sri Ganga Nagar, Udaipur.
Southern (31)	Alwaye, Arakkonam Jn, Calicut, Cannanore, Chengannaur, Chengalpattu, Chennai Beach, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Emakulam Jn., Erode Jn., Kanniyakumari, Katpadi, Kayankulam, Kottayam, Madurai, Mambalam, Mangalore, Palaghat, Pondicherry, Quilon, Rameswaram, Salem, Tiruchchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruttani, Trichur, Trivandrum Central, Tuticorin, Varkala
South Central (14)	Dharmavaram Jn., Guntakal, Guntur, Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Kakinada Town, Nanded, Nellore, Raichur, Rajahmundry, Secunderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Warangal.

1	2
South Eastern (21)	Adra, Bagnan, Balasore, Bishnupur, Bokaro Steel City, Chakradharpur, Contai Road, Garbeta, Hatia, Jhargram, Jharsuguda, Kharagpur, Kolaghat, Mecheda, Midnapore, Ranchi, Rourkela, Santragachi Jn., Tamluk, Tatanagar, Uluberia.
S.E. Central (3)	Bilaspur, Durg, Raipur.
South Western (8)	Bangalore Cantt., Bijapur, Hospet, Hubli, Mysore, Shimoga Town, Torangallu, Vasco-de-gama.
Western (24)	Ahmedabad, Anand Jn., Bamnia, Bandra Terminus, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Chittaurgarh, Dadar, Dharangaon, Dwarka, Gandhidham, Gandhigram, Indore, Mumbai Central, Navsari, Nimbahera, Okha, Rajkot, Ratlam, Surat, Ujjain, Vadodara, Valsad, Vapi.
West Central (11)	Bhopal, Damoh, Habibganj, Guna, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Katni Jn., Kota, Pipariya, Satna, Sawai Madhopur.
KRCL (1)	Madgaon.

Re-mapping of Bay of Bengal

4256. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has re-mapped the entire Bay of Bengal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy is also to re-draw 94 navigational charts for the islands and the Eastern Seaboard; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The remaping and updation of navigational charts is an on-going and continuous process.

The Indian Navy maintains 39 navigational charts pertaining to Bay of Bengal including the mainland with Eastern Seaboard and 38 navigational charts pertaining to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These charts are re-mapped and updated periodically in a phased manner.

Conservation of War Monuments

4257. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

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

(a) whether a Central team visited border towns of Punjab recently to study about the kind of financial and technical assistance required to conserve war monuments there;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A team of officials of Chandigarh Circle of Archaeological Survey of India visited border towns in Ferozepur District in response to the request from the Commissioner, Ferozepur Division. The team visited the Saragarhi Memorial and the monuments which are related to the Anglo-Sikh wars at Mudki, Subraon, Ferozshah and Mishriwala to assess their present state of conservation. These monuments at present are State Protected and their ownership rests with the Government of Punjab.

Renovation of Airstrips

4258. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 400 airstrips in the country are lying idle for many years as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated April 22, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has advised the State Governments to renovate the airstrips in their States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the records available with Airports Authority of India (AAI), there are 454 Airports/airstrips in India out of which 170 airports are non-operational. Of these, 34 non-operational airports belong to AAI, 87 to State Governments, 44 to Defence and 5 are private airports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Expansion of Business by IOC

4259. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has expanded its business network in collaboration with any foreign company in the country and abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has ventured into following business in collaboration with foreign companies:

Liquidified Natural Gas (LNG) Sales Purchase Agreement

(i) IOC has signed an LNG Sale Purchase Agreement with the National Iranian Gas Export Company, Iran for 1.75 MMTPA of LNG. IOC has also submitted pre-qualification bid documents in collaboration with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Exmar NV Belgium, for providing LNG shipping services to Kochi Terminal of Petronet LNG Limited.

Exploration & Production

- (ii) Collaboration with Premier Oil, UK for Block CR-ON-90/1, Cachar, Assam.
- (iii) Collaboration with Marvis Pte Ltd., Singapore for Block Shakthi Onshore Gobon. Collaborations for Commercialization of in-house technology.

Collaboration for Commercialization of In-house technology

- (iv) Collaboration Agreement with ABB Lummus Global INC. (LGI), United States of America (USA) for joint marketing/licensing of Indmax Technology.
- (v) IOC-Interact, USA, joint venture project on FCC Catalyst and Additive Manufacture.

Joint Ventures

- (vi) Avi-Oil Indian Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company formed between IOC, Balmer Lawrie and NYCO SA, France for blending, manufacturing and selling synthetic, semi-synthetic and mineral-based lubricating oils, greases and hydraulic fluids, related products and specialties.
- (vii) Indian Oiltanking Limited, a joint venture company formed between IOC and Oiltanking GmbH, Germany, to build and operate terminalling services for petroleum products.
- (viii) Indian Oil Petronas Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company formed between IOC and Petronas, Malaysia, for constructing and operating facilities for LPG import at Haldia and for engaging in parallel marketing of LPG.

Setting up of Engineering and Medical Colleges

4260. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have considered to establish and run engineering and medical colleges exclusively for the children of Railway employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

International Flights at Bangalore Airport

4261. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of international flights which have been arriving Bangalore International airport everyday;
- (b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to arrange the arrival timings in such a way as to provide better service to passengers and cut unnecessary delays; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Bangalore International airport belongs to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) where Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave for operations of civil flights, 13 International flights are arriving at this airport everyday.

(b) and (c) Arrangement of arrival timings of flights depends upon flight schedule filed by the concerned airlines and availability of slots as well as operations of defence flights. Recently, no specific request for arrangement of arriving timings is received.

Aircraft Safety Rules

4262. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many private airlines had recently flouted aircraft Safety rules and the Cabin Crew Safety Manual by allowing untrained cabin crew on Board;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) during the last year and the current year;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the airlines found guilty; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Waiver of Demurrage Charges

4263. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Fare and Freight Committee had recommended in 1993 that waiving of demurrage should be an exception and in March 1995, the Railway Board stipulated that normally more than 25 per cent of accrued amount should not be waived and the reasons for waiver of demurrage about 10 per cent should be recorded;

(b) if so, whether there have been cases of waiver upto 95 per cent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Railways during the last three years;

(d) the action taken by the Railways thereon; and

(e) the steps taken to strictly enforce the recommendations of the Railway Fare and Freight committee and the instructions issued by the Railway Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Fare and Freight Committee had recommended in 1993 that waiver of demurrage should be an exception. The letter issued in March 1995 was not a rule. The clarification issued subsequently enunciated the correct principles for waiver of demurrage charges, which did not put 25% restriction on waiver of demurrage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The request for waiver of demurrage charge have decided keeping in view the merit of the case by the concerned officer of Zonal Railways in accordance with the policy instructions issued by Railway Board from time to time.

Ministry of Railways do not maintain percentage-wise details of the cases of waiver of demurrage charge.

(e) The rules of waiver of demurrage have been reviewed comprehensively in October 2004 wherein it has been prescribed that powers of waiver should be exercised judiciously keeping in view the merits of each case and reasons for waiver should be recorded whenever the waiver exceeds 50% of the powers conferred on an officer.

Development of Chilka Lake

4264. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing flow of foreign as well as domestic tourists to Chilka lake in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to develop infrastructure at the Chilka lake and its adjoining areas to attract the tourists; and

(c) if so, the central assistance proposed to be provided for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Identification of places of tourist interest/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance every year for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and subject to availability of funds under the respective head during a specific year.

An amount of Rs. 389.05 lakh has been sanctioned during the year 2005-06 for the development of Chilka Lake (Districts Puri and Ganjam) in Orissa as a Tourist Destination. This development work also includes adjoining places like Satpada, Nalabana, Barkul and Rambha.

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Hubs by IOC

4265. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is setting up petro-chemical hubs in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States where these are likely to be set up;

(d) whether private enterprises are also being included in the special purpose vehicle formed to develop the hubs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has envisaged to set up a petrochemical hub at Panipat, Haryana based on the feed stock available from IOCL's Refinery and Petrochemical Complex. For this purpose, IOCL and Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (HSIDC), a nodal agency nominated by Haryana Government have decided to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). As per the understanding, the above SPV may also include private enterprises.

Operation of Private Airlines from Bhubaneswar

4266. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private airlines have requested the Government for permission to operate its flights from Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airlines are free to operate to anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. Presently, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Sahara Airlines and Air Deccan are operating to/from Bhubaneswar. Recently King Fisher Airlines had requested for allotment of two parking bays at Bhubaneswar, which have been approved by Airports Authority of India.

Doubling of Railway Lines in Gujarat

4267. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of Railway Line Jamnagar-Rajkot-Surendranagar-Viramgam-Mehsana (not via Ahmedabad);

(b) the progress made so far on the project;

(c) the amount released and actually spent on the project, till date; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such work is sanctioned.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Retail Outlets by ONGC

4268. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has decided to set up about 500 retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the break-up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Government have authorized ONGC to set up 1100 Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country vide authorizations dated 27th May, 2002 and 28th May, 2003.

(b) The tentative break-up of the ROs proposed to be set-up by ONGC in various States/UTs is as under:

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of ROs.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100
2.	Assam	10
3.	Goa	20

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	100
5.	Himachal Pradesh	10
6.	Karnataka	380
7.	Kerala	90
8.	Maharashtra	346
9.	Rajasthan	12
10.	Tamil Nadu	10
11.	Uttaranchal	12
12.	Pondicherry	10
Total		1100

(c) The proposed ROs would be set up in a phased manner as per the marketing plan of ONGC.

Production by Ordnance Factories

4269. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various products produced for civil domestic trade and for exports by the Ordnance Factories;

(b) the details of target fixed and achieved by Ordnance Factories for civil domestic trade and export during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006;

(c) whether Ordnance Factories are making efforts to boost marketing of their products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Major products of Ordnance Factories for civil domestic market are:

1. Non-Prohibited Bore Arms and Ammunition.
2. Aluminium Alloy Extrusions.
3. Explosives and chemicals.
4. Steel Forging and castings.
5. Brass Ingots.
6. Para sails.
7. Tents & clothings.
8. Opto-Electronic Devices.

Major products of Ordnance Factories for export market are:

1. Arms and Ammunition.

2. Parachutes.

3. Explosives and chemicals.

4. Transport vehicles.

5. Arctic tents and Apparels.

(b) Indentor	Value of Sales		(Rs. Cr.)	
	2004-2005		2005-2006	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved (Prov.)
Civil Trade	250	243	266	309
Export	125	50	15	13

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some of the major efforts made in this regard are as follows:

1. Participation in various Trade Fairs and International Defence Exhibitions.
2. Periodical advertisements in national newspapers and International Defence Review Magazines.
3. Registration with foreign procurement offices.
4. Creation of OFB's own website.
5. Extensive use of internet/e-mail for online response and electronic transmission of technical data on products and brochures.
6. Direct periodic interaction with the target customers.

Disaster Assistance Plan for Aircraft Accident Victims

4270. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India proposes to have an effective disaster management and family assistance plan for the aircraft accident victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the arrangement is proposed to be entrusted to a private firm; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India already has a Contingency Plan for disaster management since 2000 and revisions have been made to it periodically. The Emergency Committee as per the plan directs rescue, medical and matters concerning co-

ordination within the Company or outside the Company. This Committee meets once in a year to review and update the procedures and if necessary, carries out mock drills etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Presently M/s. Kenyon has been contracted to provide disaster management and family assistance plan for the aircraft accident victims in the United States only. This plan may be extended to cover all on line stations of Air India.

Development and Conservation of Buddhist Centres

4271. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has agreed to provide funds for conservation of Bodhgaya, a world Buddhist centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop and conserve Buddhist centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. UNESCO has not provided any fund for the conservation of Bodhgaya.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Tourism Department is extending central financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure for various Buddhist sites in the country and has spent Rs. 93.47 crores between 8th-10th plan till date. In addition to the above, the Department of Tourism is also mobilizing external funding from Japan for development of infrastructure at major Buddhist sites and is coordinating with relevant ministries to improve and develop road, rail and air connectivity.

The Department of Culture is granting financial assistance for preservation and development of Buddhist art and culture in the country. It also extends budgetary support to Buddhist institutes and provide full funds for three autonomous central institutes at Leh, Samath and Nalanda which impart education in Buddhist religion and philosophy etc.

The centrally protected Buddhist sites in the country are maintained on a day to day basis and structural repairs of special nature are taken up as and when required. Preservation of structures and sculptures is also taken up besides environmental development to present the monuments in a befitting manner.

Flight from Guwahati to Delhi

4272. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demands for the Members of Parliament of North eastern States for introduction of evening flight from Delhi to Guwahati and morning flight from Guwahati to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines is unable to introduce evening flight from Delhi to Guwahati or morning flight from Guwahati to Delhi as the aircraft available with Indian airlines fleet are fully committed for operation of services as per the existing schedule and spare capacity is presently not available for operations.

Supply of Petrol/Diesel to Bangladesh

4273. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to supply more diesel/petrol from Indian oil's refinery at Haldia in West Bengal to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) As per understanding between Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), IOC is exporting high sulphur High Speed Diesel (HSD) from Chennai Petrochemicals Limited to BPC. Sometimes IOC also exports (HSD to BPC ex-Haldia refinery depending upon the surplus availability of high sulphur HSD from Haldia.

[Translation]

Entertainment Facilities in Trains

4274. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide some entertainment facilities in trains as appeared in the *Dainik Jagran* dated March 5, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the trains in which such facilities are to be provided and the time by which the same is likely to be extended in other trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to provide entertainment facilities like televisions, music channels, etc. in trains in addition to the facilities already existing.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Agreement between ONGC and Transparency International

4275. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has entered into any agreement with the Transparency International to bring transparency in its working as reported in *Dainik Jagaran* dated April 18, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual payments to be made to the said company by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC and Transparency International (TI) have signed Memorandum of Understanding to successfully implement the integrity Pact Programme.

(b) The details in this regard are as follows:

(i) The Integrity Pact (IP) tool was developed in 1990 by TI, in order to bring more transparency in business processes and remove corruption.

(ii) The IP document is based on the Berlin airport reconstruction project.

(iii) IP document was vetted by solicitor General of India Shri G.E. Vahanvati and approved by the Executive Committee of ONGC on 29.6.2005.

(iv) The IP document presigned by ONGC officers is part of the tender documents and bidders have to sign it and submit it with their bids. Non submission of IP document can be a ground for rejection of the bid.

(c) ONGC is not obliged to make any payments in this regard to any one.

[English]

Preservation and Excavation of Sites in Orissa

4276. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The funds allocated for preservation and excavation of New Archaeological sites in Orissa, during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) The steps taken to develop the Buddhist Tourism Circuit in Cuttack, Kendrapara and Balasore districts in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The funds allocated for undertaking excavations of archaeological sites in Orissa during the last three years, and the current year, is given below:

Year	Funds Allocated for Excavations (in Rs.)
2003-04	25.50 lacs
2004-05	11.20 lacs
2005-06	06.53 lacs
2006-07 (Current year)	26.50 lacs

(b) A Master Plan for Orissa to develop the Buddhist Sacred Sites as a Tourist Circuit has been prepared by the Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Orissa; Bhubaneswar, and amount of Rs. 740.67 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the Buddhist sites of Udaigiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri under this Buddhist circuit development programmes.

Misuse of Advertising Power

4277. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the gross misuse of advertising powers for their substandard products by certain companies to mislead the consumers as reported in the Hindustan Times dated May 2, 2006;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism in place to check such misleading advertisements;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any plan to clamp down heavily on the companies that resort to misleading advertisement for their products that are substandard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Government has introduced a Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 in the Lok Sabha on 25.8.2005 and an enabling provision has been proposed to have a check on advertisements of food which mislead the consumers. However, existing provisions under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA Act, 1954) and Rules made thereunder administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides mechanism for checking misleading advertisements of food. Offenders are prosecuted as per the provisions of PFA Act 1954 and Rules made hereunder.

Purchase of Crude Oil by IOC

4278. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has sought permission from the Government to buy and sell crude oil on the high seas on the lines of Reliance Industries and pool its purchases with neighbouring countries to bring down procurement costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government in this regard?

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

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

Evasion of VAT by CONCOR

4279. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) has been found evading Value Added Tax (VAT) and fined Rs. 1.5 crore;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the CONCOR do not maintain records about containers booked for the parties;

(d) if so, whether the containers seized by the VAT officials have not been claimed by any person;

(e) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Stoppage of Matsyagandha Express

4280. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have received any memorandum from the North Goa Konkani Action Committee for a stoppage of Matsyagandha Express at Thivim in North Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Request from North Goa Konkani Railway action Committee has been received to provide the stoppage of 2619/2620 Mangalore-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Matsyagandha Express at Thivim station.

(c) Examined but not found operationally feasible.

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

4281. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to launch a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities;

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

(c) the time by which the said mission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has been proposed with a view to document the antiquarian and monumental wealth of the country.

The main objectives of the Mission are as under:

- (i) Mission would develop a comprehensive database for unprotected built heritage, sites and antiquities.
- (ii) Selected unprotected monuments will be taken up for conservation in a sustainable manner.
- (iii) Mission would inculcate and promote awareness on built heritage and antiquarian wealth among the masses.
- (iv) Mission would initiate capacity building among State Archaeology Departments and NGOs in heritage protection and preservation; and
- (v) Initiative would be taken to strengthen communication and dissemination levels of information through popular literature and publications.

The work of the mission will be taken up on a project mode by involving State Departments of Archaeology and Museums. Professional Organisations/Institutions, Universities, NGO's etc. The proposed National Mission is for a period of five years starting from 2006-07 to 2010-11 with a total budgetary outlay of Rs. 90.00 crores.

(c) The Expenditure Finance Committee has already met on 7.3.2006 and recommended the Mission for approval. Mission is now under consideration of the Government for final approval, on receipt of which the Mission activities will be launched.

Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

4282. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities provided to the ex-servicemen;

(b) the rules regarding re-employment of ex-servicemen in the Government Department;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen re-employed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the ex-servicemen are not getting respectable employment; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide suitable employment to ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (e) Ex-servicemen are provided various facilities for their re-settlement and welfare. Resettlement facilities include training to improve their re-employability, reservation in Government jobs, loan assistance through self-employment schemes, formation of ex-servicemen Coal Transport Companies, allotment of oil product agencies, allotment of army surplus vehicles, etc. Important welfare measures for them are canteen facilities, Ex-servicemen Contributory Health scheme, Prime Minister's Scholarship scheme for higher education for their wards, financial assistance from Raksha Mantri Discretionary Fund and travel concessions.

Details of ex-servicemen re-employed during the last three years, state-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

The Central Government has reserved 10% of vacancies in Group 'C' posts and 20% in Group 'D' posts for Ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5% reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5% in Group 'D' posts with them. Besides 10% vacancies of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for Ex-Servicemen 100% posts are reserved for ex-servicemen in Defence Security Corps.

Because of shrinking job opportunities in civil sector, it has not been possible to provide re-employment to all the ex-servicemen who seek re-employment assistance. Therefore, efforts are continuously made to explore new employment opportunities in private sector. Besides ex-servicemen are engaged to take up self-employment ventures through financial assistance provided by nationalised banks, Khadi & Village Industries Commission, SIDBI, etc.

Statement

As per the Information made available by various Rajya Sainik Boards, the State-wise details of Ex-Servicemen Re-employed during the last three years are as under

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132	114	66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	00
3.	Assam	46	54	42
4.	Bihar	95	298	75
5.	Chattisgarh	31	14	69
6.	Goa	20	11	06
7.	Gujarat	2071	1692	38
8.	Himachal Pradesh	121	199	49
9.	Haryana	81	62	29
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	33	63	40
11.	Jharkhand	00	05	02
12.	Karnataka	281	159	376
13.	Kerala	604	809	668
14.	Madhya Pradesh	149	89	136
15.	Maharashtra	542	511	454
16.	Manipur	00	00	05
17.	Meghalaya	03	03	07
18.	Mizoram	00	13	00
19.	Nagaland	04	11	30
20.	Orissa	37	40	111
21.	Punjab	1327	1270	1197
22.	Rajasthan	654	654	654
23.	Sikkim	25	29	01
24.	Tamil Nadu	103	86	54
25.	Tripura	03	17	02

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1189	889	1014
27.	Uttaranchal	205	99	668
28.	West Bengal	198	170	159
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	00	00	00
30.	Chandigarh	18	33	74
31.	Delhi	00	00	00
32.	Pondicherry	12	02	00
Total		7984	7396	6026

In addition to above, ex-servicemen re-employed in Central Ministries/Departments, Nationalised Banks, Para Military Forces, Defence Security Corps etc. of which State-wise distribution is not possible is as under:

Year	No. of ex-servicemen re-employed
2003	3704
2004	3543
2005	3866

[English]

Abolition of Inter-Ministerial Committees

4283. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to abolish all the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Standing Committees that formulate the strategy on pricing and quantities of crude oil to be imported every year; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government is examining various aspects of the policy for import of crude oil including enhancing the autonomy of oil PSU Boards by delegating authority for authorization of strategy and carrying out functions of Empowered Standing Committee (ESC), on

commercial and economic considerations subject to government guidelines.

Manufacturing of Sukhoi-30 MKI Fighters

4284. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) to speed up manufacturing of Sukhoi-30 MKI fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of delivery schedules fixed by HAL for such fighters; and

(d) the steps taken for timely manufacturing of said fighters by HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sanction of the Government has been conveyed to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for compression of the delivery schedule of SU-30 MKI aircraft from 14 years to 11 years.

(c) and (d) The aircraft would be delivered in 11 years. To meet the delivery schedule, the rate of production of aircraft is increased with the help of collaborators.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists visited Delhi

4285. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited Delhi during each of the last three years; and

(b) the funds sanctioned and released for the development of tourists spots in Delhi during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The estimated foreign tourist visits to Delhi during the last three years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 6.94 lakh, 8.40 lakh and 15.12 lakh respectively.

(b) Funds are allocated to State Governments every year based on project proposals received from State Government, and keeping in view the inter-se priority, and availability of funds. Central Financial Assistance sanctioned by Department of Tourism to Delhi during the last 3 years under its various schemes of infrastructure development etc. is as follows:

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rupees in lakh)	Amount Released (Rupees in lakh)
2002-03	504.00	484.60
2003-04	3323.68	3229.53
2004-05	628.85	519.00
2005-06	20.00	20.00

[English]

Development of Tourists Sites in Andhra Pradesh

4286. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of new tourist sites during the last three years; and

(b) the decision taken by the Union Government on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Identification of places of tourist interest/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of central financial assistance every year for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and subject to availability of funds under the respective head during a specific year.

A list showing the projects sanctioned by the Department of Tourism for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Projects sanctioned during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Scheme Sanctioned	Amount
1	2	3	4
2003-04			
1.	Development of CDS on Tourist Destination	Information & Technology	24.00
2.	Rural tourism at Konaseema Village, East Godavari District	Rural Tourism	50.00
3.	Development of Nagarjunasagar under Buddhist	Circuit	500.00
4.	Development of VISTA Software for online Software	Circuit	22.50
5.	Integrated Development of Amravati under Buddhist Circuit	Circuit	300.00
6.	Development of Pochampalli, Nalgonda District as a Rural Tourism Destination	Rural Tourism	50.00

1	2	3	4
2004-05			
1.	Development of Bhadrachalam as Tourist Destination, Khammam	Destination	434.50
2.	Celebration of Kuchipudi Festival	Festival	3.92
3.	Celebration of Lumbini festival	Festival	5.00
4.	Introduction of Southern India Tourist Train in Andhra Pradesh, LRG Project, Feasibility Report	Large Revenue generating	15.00
5.	Sea Cruise between Visakhapatnam Port Blair-Chennai under LRG-Preparation of Feasibility Report	Large Revenue generating	15.00
6.	Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex in AP under LRG preparation of Feasibility Report	Large Revenue generating	5.00
7.	Development of Village Shrikalahasti, District. Chittoor, AP under Rural Tourism	Rural Tourism	50.00
8.	Integrated Development of Kumool Tourism Circuit	Circuit	800.00
9.	Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit, Hyderabad-Nalgonda-Khammam	Circuit	797.47
10.	Destination Development of Bhavani Island, Krishna Dist, AP Development of Bhavani Island, Vijayawada	Destination	500.00
11.	Setting of Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex	LRG	62.50
12.	Development of Puttaparthi, Ananthpur District as a Rural Tourism Destination	Rural Tourism	49.50
13.	Development of Chinchinada, East Godavari Dist. As a Rural Tourism Destination	Rural Tourism	50.00
14.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Pochampalli, Nalgonda District	Rural Tourism (SW)	20.00
15.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Srikalahasti, District Chittoor	Rural Tourism (SW)	20.00
2005-06			
1.	Destination Development of Singur Dam, Andhra Pradesh	Destination	433.96
2.	Destination Development of Night Bazaar, Shilparamam, Hyderabad	Destination	500.00
3.	Integrated Development of Lower Krishna Valley Buddhist Circuit	Circuit	800.00
4.	Integrated Development of Araku-Vizag Tourism Circuit	Circuit	771.86

1	2	3	4
5.	Development of Eco-Commerce Portal for IT Scheme	Destination	75.00
6.	Celebration of Hyderabad Carnival and Kalinga festival	Festival	20.00
7.	Celebration of Konaseema Festival in East Godavari	Festival	15.00

Permission to Foreign Airlines

4287. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign airlines which have granted permission by the Government to operate their flights to and from the international airports of India;

(b) whether some more foreign airlines have requested for permission to operate these flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 66 foreign airlines have been granted permission by the Government to operate their scheduled services to/from India.

(b) to (d) No request from any foreign airline which has been designated as per the terms of Air Services Agreement, for operation of services to/from India is pending.

[Translation]

Construction of ROB on Level Crossing

4288. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Railways for construction of ROB at Bapupeth crossing level No. 43 and Rajura crossing level no. 96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time limit fixed for the construction of ROB by allocating required funds; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Proposal for construction of Road Over bridge (ROB) in lieu of Rajura level crossing No. 96 was received from State Govt. This work has been sanctioned during Works Programme of 2006-07. No proposal, however, has yet been received for replacement of Bapupeth level crossing no. 43 from State Govt. Railways construct bridge proper across the track and approaches are constructed by State Government. Hence completion of work depends upon completion of approaches by State Government. However, Railways make all out efforts to complete their portion of work before or simultaneously with the work of approach. No time limit can be fixed at this stage. Rs. 10 lakh have been allocated during 2006-07 for work of ROB at Rajura level crossing.

Appointment of Armed Forces Officers in Governmental and Non-Governmental Organization

4289. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has approached the various Governmental and non-Governmental organizations for appointment of senior and middle level officers of armed forces in their organizations;

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

(c) the response of the Government and non-Governmental organizations thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A Committee set up by the Government to address the twin problems of high age profile and cadre stagnation of the officers in the three Services had inter-alia, recommended deputation of officers to Governmental and non-Governmental organizations. These recommendations encompass a wide spectrum of service related issues which involve consultation with such organizations. In this connection consultations have been initiated with various Ministries/Departments and other Organisations.

Foreign Visits of Minister

4290. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of official foreign visits undertaken by the Minister of Civil Aviation during the last two years and the purposes thereof;

(b) the expenditure incurred on those visits;

(c) whether the Minister of Civil Aviation has signed any bilateral aviation agreements with any country during the foreign visits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of official foreign visits undertaken by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation during last two years along with the purpose and the expenditure incurred thereon

Sl. No.	Date	Country/ City visited	Cash Allowance [US\$]	Contingencies Allowance (Rs.)	Entertainment Allowance (Rs.)	Airfare (Rs.)	Purpose of visit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	21-24/ 07/2004	London	225	600	Nil	282815	For attending Farnborough Airshow & to discuss matters of Bilateral interest in Civil Aviation with UK Civil Aviation officials
2.	12-16/ 01/2005	Washington (USA)	375	800	7500	453584	Aviation Negotiations with USA.
3.	28/30/4/ 2005	Abu Dhabi	—	—	—	Met by Air India Ltd.	Inaugural flights to Abu Dhabi from Trivandrum
4.	15-18/ 05/2005	Birming- ham and London (UK)	375	800	7500	Met by Air India Ltd.	To Birmingham in connection with inaugural flight of Air India on 15th May, 2005 and to London to review AI's performance at London on 16-18 May, 2005.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	10/11/ 06/2005	Netherlands	225	400	7500	237796	To discuss future co-operation in the Civil Aviation sector between India and Netherlands
6.	12/19/ 09/2005	London & New York	675	1200	Nil	555711	(i) To review Air India's operations on 12-13 Sept. 2005. (ii) To attend inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative from 15-17 September and also to participate in India Aviation Day on 19 September, 2005.
7.	23/27/ 10/2005	UK & USA	450	1000	Nil	482632	(i) To review Air india's Trans-Atlantic operations; (ii) To participate in US-India Transportation Infrastructure Conference in Washington and to review Air India's operations in USA.
8.	20-24/ 11/2005	UAE (Dubai)	337.5	1000	Nil	Own means	To participate in 9th International Aerospace Exhibition-Dubai, 2005
9.	19-20 02/2006	Singapore	150	600	7500	89016	To participate in Asian Aerospace 2006 and in the IATA Symposium.
10.	15-16/4/ 2006	Bangkok	112.5	1200	Nil	Met by Indian Airlines Ltd.	Inaugural flight of IAL from Nagpur to Bangkok

*[Translation]***Managerial Autonomy to PSUs**

4291. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit making public sector undertakings have been given managerial autonomy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):
(a) and (b) The profit making PSEs have been given enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers under the Navratna and Miniratna schemes. The powers so enhanced are in respect of incurring capital expenditure,

entering into technology joint ventures and strategic alliances, establishing financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries, merger and acquisition and administrative powers like approval of foreign tours of functional Directors and personnel & human resource management of below Board level employees. Other profit making PSEs, which are not Navratna or Miniratna, have also been delegated enhanced powers for incurring capital expenditure and approval of foreign tours of functional Directors.

*[English]***Procurement of Sleeping Bags**

4292. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the procurement of defective sleeping bags from France has been completed;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government has handed over the case relating to the procurement of defective sleeping bags from M/s Moncler SA, France for thorough investigation to the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI). CBI has registered a Preliminary Enquiry in the case.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Earth Movers Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4267/06]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4268/06]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4269/06]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4270/06]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2006-07.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4271/06]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Pahalgam, for the year 2004-05, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Pahalgam, for the year 2004-2005.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4272/06]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4273/06]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 2004-2005.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4274/06]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4275/06]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4276/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): On behalf of Shrimati Meira Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4277/06]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4278/06]

- (5)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4279/06]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4280/06]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4281/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4282/06]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4283/06]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, under section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4284/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:-

NINTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. LV Seventh Session, 1991
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4285/06]

TENTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XLI Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4286/06]
3. Statement No. XXXVII Ninth Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4287/06]
4. Statement No. XXI Sixteenth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4288/06]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. XXXVII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4289/06]
6. Statement No. XXXV Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4290/06]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

7. Statement No. XXXIV Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4291/06]
8. Statement No. XXXV Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4292/06]
9. Statement No. XXX Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4293/06]
10. Statement No. XXXVIII Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4294/06]
11. Statement No. XXXVI Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4295/06]
12. Statement No. XXIII Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4296/06]
13. Statement No. XXI Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4297/06]

14. Statement No. XVIII Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4298/06]

15. Statement No. XVI Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4299/06]

16. Statement No. XIV Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4300/06]

17. Statement No. XI Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4301/06]

18. Statement No. X Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4302/06]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

19. Statement No. VIII Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4303/06]
20. Statement No. VI Third Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4304/06]
21. Statement No. IV Fourth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4305/06]
22. Statement No. III Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4306/06]
23. Statement No. II Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4307/06]
24. Statement No. I Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4308/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of Fare) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 165(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2006, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 4309/06]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4310/06]

- (4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against Vacancies Reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion categories on the Railways for the year ending 31st March, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4311/06]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4312/06]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Container Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Railways, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4313/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4314/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4315/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4316/06]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4317/06]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—4318/06]

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report a message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th May, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2006."

12.04³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Statements

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:—

12.04¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to lay a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:—

- (1) 10th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) 11th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

- (1) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Seventh Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- (2) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in Eighth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Labour (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations/observations contained in Sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Eighteenth to Twenty-first Reports

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Rural Development:-

1. Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).
2. Nineteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).
3. Twentieth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).
4. Twenty-First Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Hundred and fifty-fifth to Hundred and sixty-first Reports

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

1. 155th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology.
2. 156th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

3. 157th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology.
4. 158th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Ministry of Ocean Development.
5. 159th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
6. 160th Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.
7. 161st Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Department of Space.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Fourth Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, on behalf of my senior Cabinet colleague, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I rise to make the following statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on the Rural Development pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It is being made in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The 4th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 19th August 2004. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2004-05.

*Placed in Library, See No. LT 4319/06.

[Shrimati Suryakanta Patil]

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development on 15th December 2004.

There are nine recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to Staff strength, allocation of funds for capacity building and training of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Constitution of District Planning Commission, allocation of funds according to the recommendations of 11th Finance Commission, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.08 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in Twelfth Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Patil, you may lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, I am laying this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 12th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on the Rural Development in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th April 2005. The Report relates to

examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2005-06.

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development on 17th August, 2005.

There are 18 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to Staff strength, allocation of funds for capacity building and training of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, constitution of District Planning Committees, allocation of funds according to the recommendations of 11th Finance Commission, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.09 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) **Re: Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry Report on the demise of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the situation arising out of tabling of Justice Mukherjee Commission Inquiry Report on the demise of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. We will devote only fifteen minutes to it.

[Translation]

Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar: Sir, I have also given a notice.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):

Sir, kindly allow me for one minute to give certain information, through you, to the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You kindly wait. Shri Sumanji kindly take your seat for a minute.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you I would like to inform and request the House that to facilitate, as much as possible, the continuation of the Legislative Business before 2.00 p.m., let us not recess for the Lunch, of course, subject to the agreement of the House.

Secondly, with regard to Item No. 22, where the Agriculture Minister was to reply to the debate today, I would like to inform the House that the Minister is pre-occupied in the same debate in Rajya Sabha. So, the reply will be given on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply will be on Monday and there will be no Lunch.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Lastly, if time permits, Item No. 20 of today's List of Business can start before 2 o'clock. If time does not permit, it can start after the earlier Item is over.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): At what time would the Minister of Agriculture make a reply?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be on Monday.

[*English*]

The House has agreed to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the misconceptions surrounding the death of Subhash Chandra Bose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly be short, several other Members too want to speak on it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The country and the world want to know the facts surrounding his death. For this a Commission was set up on 14th May, 1999, under the Chairmanship of Justice Mukherjee. Its terms of reference covered five points: Whether netaji was alive or not; Did he die in the plane crash whether the remains kept at Renkaji Temple in Japan are those of netaji; did he die at some other place and in a different manner; and in case, if he is alive, where is he? The Commission was mandated to investigate these five aspects. After such a long period, Justice Mukherjee Commission concluded that netaji did not die in plane crash. And the remains in the Renkaji Temple are not those of netaji. The newspapers have published the interview of his driver, Nizamuddin. He quoted netaji that he was not present in the plane that crashed. And that he had talked to netaji after that. It is a very serious matter. The Government rejected this report out rightly without taking the House in confidence and ignoring the facts. The House wants to know the reasons and the facts, on the basis of which the Government rejected the Commission's Report. The House should discuss this threadbare. How the Government can summarily reject the Commission's report without going into the facts. It is my demand that the report of the Mukherjee Commission be discussed in the House and the Government should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members who wish to associate themselves with this way kindly send their slips.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I associate myself with this demand. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has already come on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given notice for a discussion under Rule 193 on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The Government has rejected that Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, let the Minister speak. After that I will give all of you a minute or two to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly first let the Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Government has no objection to discuss this matter on the time permitted by the Speaker either in this Session or in the next Session, whichever time is convenient. We have no problem if a discussion is held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your leader is speaking. Kindly sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It is a very serious matter. You said we would have a full discussion on it. I would be happy if the discussion takes place in this session itself. To reject the Mukherjee Commission's Report in this manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why did the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visit Renkoji temple and pay tributes to the ashes? ...*(Interruptions)* You come out with a truth and tell why did your former Prime Minister go there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the speech of Shri Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Regarding this issue, the Congress Party. ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party expelled Subhash Chandra Bose.

[English]

He was expelled from the Congress Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: His death continues to be shrouded in mystery. ...*(Interruptions)* How did he die? Where did he die and what was the reason of his death? These questions require a debate. It is shameful. It is a great injustice to Shri Subash Chandra Bose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There should be full discussion on this report. The Congress Party should be ashamed for rejecting this report. The mystery surrounding the death of Shri Subash Chandra Bose should be cleared. Russian archives should be accessed and truth should be found out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the speech of Shri Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Was he imprisoned in Russia? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Where is politics involved in it? Report will be discussed. What are they saying?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is the view of all the parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There is nothing wrong in having a discussion. We have said that we would have a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dasmunsi, at least you should address the Chair.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I just wanted to say that we have no problem in having a discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Was he not allowed to come to India? Was he held captive in Russia? Does the Russian archives hold a clue to this mystery? It should be found out. This is wrong and objectionable. We condemn it. It is highly shameful for the UPA Government. It should be extended to ascertain all the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, at least you should respect the Chair and speak with the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly give me two and a quarter minutes time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His, as well as your name is included in the list. It is not possible for me to allow every one to speak at the same time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, if my name is not there, I will not speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is there in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I call all the people at the same time? Your name is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly sit down. Your name is included in it then why are you creating noise?

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In this way, you are wasting the time of the House. Your name is included in this list.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can not allow everyone to speak at the same time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I would like to submit that if the hon. Members are interested we are ready to have discussion right now. You can have the full discussion, instead of making these types of off the cuff comments. Let there be a structured discussion if the hon. Members want to have a discussion to take place, even today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I have given a notice to the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a lot of business today. We would allot some other day for this.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if the House so desires, then all the other business can be deferred and you can start the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): He can have a discussion. But what would be the topic of the discussion. The Government has already reject the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What does he mean? Does he not want a discussion? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: But, what would be discuss?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It means he does not want a discussion on it.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, when this Commission was established, the Government itself had

rejected the two earlier Commissions, namely the Shah Nawaz Commission and the Khosla Commission and that is why this Commission was established. There are umpteen number of cases where the reports of the Commissions have been rejected by the Government. Here is nothing new. All these points will come for discussion. I would like to most respectfully submit that we will like to have a structured discussion. Please have a structured discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: That was done at the instance of a decision of the Calcutta High Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Shri Tripathy, you may be a very knowledgeable Member, but you do not know many facts. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, most respectfully I would say that let them make their submissions and view points in a structured manner and then let the Government respond. That is the way the Parliament can function. Let them not just get up and make a comment and then run away. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Nobody is running away from the discussion. We have also asked for a structured debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion cropped up suddenly today. It has appeared in today's papers that the Government has rejected the Mukherjee Report on netaji Shri Ramji Lal Suman has given an adjournment notice on this. I also gave a notice on this issue. I do not want to discuss netaji and his achievements. Netaji is held in high esteem by the entire country. Today, we all are here due to the endeavours of stalwarts like Netaji. The entire House today is here due to people like him. His death continues to be shrouded in mystery even so many years after independence. Commissions have been constituted to inquire into his death. According to the information available with us so far, Netaji was going on a helicopter which met with an accident. His remains are kept there. This Report has revealed that all this is not true. Netaji did not meet with any accident. It was published in several magazines and papers that he is living as Gurnami Baba some where in Uttar Pradesh. This has been the subject of continuous discussion in the papers. But, till today, it has not been established whether Netaji is dead or alive. If he is dead, then how did he die? To reject the Report

in this manner, without placing it on the Table of the House gives rise to suspicions. We will ask the Government to table the report and have a detailed discussion. If you run away from it then it would certainly create doubt. I just want to say that much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give a proper notice in this regard, and the Hon'ble Speaker would take a decision on it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, may I conclude now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already made your point.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I thank you and take my seat.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the very purpose of raising this issue during Special Mentions, after the Question Hour, is to draw the attention of the House to this serious emotive issue. This issue has already been raised. I need not go into the details of the Report of the Mukherjee Commission. But I want to make it very clear that this Commission was established only by the then NDA Government because of the direction of the Kolkata High Court and after the unanimous Resolution passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. It had a special mandate to go into the details of the disappearance. The Commission has also, in its three volume Report, stated that Netaji is no more. How have they come to the conclusion is a debatable point which we would like to discuss. I should tell you why should we discuss it.

The issue is that the Commission was not allowed to go into the archives of the Russian Government. It did not get that much support of the Japanese Government and this is the only Commission which went to the Formosa Island, Taipei where the air crash had supposedly occurred. The Shahnawaz Khan Committee was appointed. But it did not give a unanimous report. Shri Suresh Bose was also a member of that Committee. He had given a dissenting note. But the general impression is that, since 1956, it was a unanimous report. Of course, G.D. Khosla Commission also gave a unanimous Report and had given its conclusive findings. The Government should come out with the details. Just saying that they did not accept the version of Mukherjee

Commission does not suffice. Rather it creates more confusion. That is the main reason as to why we want a structured discussion. I have given notice so that we can have a structured discussion on this issue. We have hardly three to four days before the Session to conclude. The P.A. Minister is here. We should have a structured debate in this Session itself. Otherwise, we can defer it to the Monsoon Session.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Sir, I thank you for allotting some time for the hon. Members to raise this matter at this time. I would like to thank hon. Member, Shri Suman and Prof. Malhotra for raising this matter. I think hon. Members from all sides of the House will wholeheartedly support me in their action on this issue.

Sir, the Mukherjee Commission has reached two very conclusive findings in the Report which have been submitted and detailed reasons for reaching those conclusions have been explained in the Report given by the Mukherjee Commission. The Government had taken more than six months to study the Report and give their Action Taken Report. The Action Taken Report on this very important issue is merely of one page and there is only one sentence which really causes concern. The Government have a cryptic manner said that it does not agree with the findings of the Commission that Netaji did not die in the air crash and the ashes kept at Renkoji temple in Japan do not belong to Netaji. The Government has not given any reasons. Today, the Government, in a cryptic note, has given its views. They did not even think it was necessary to give enough time and thought in this very important matter.

I think, in a matter like this, the Government should have allotted time on their own for a detailed discussion on the subject.

I crave your indulgence, Sir, in saying a few more words on this issue. I happen to be a member of Netaji's family. Netaji is my uncle. But I know that Netaji does not belong to one family. He belongs to the whole of India. Whether he is physically alive or dead today does not matter. But he lives in the heart of every Indian today and it is, therefore, incumbent on this House to have a detailed discussion on this issue. Respected Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you are the Presiding Officer today. You may ensure that a very detailed discussion takes place in this Session itself.

[Shri Subrata Bose]

Sir, the hon. Leader of the House for whom I have great personal regard has very kindly said that he does not mind to have a discussion right now but it is not found in the List of Business for today. So, we have not come prepared for a detailed discussion. I would like to humbly submit that a full day's discussion should be allowed on this issue. If necessary, the Session should be extended by one day to have a full day's discussion on the subject.

The situation has been created by the Government itself because as per the statutory provision of the Commission of Inquiry Act, this Report and the Action Taken Report should have been placed before the House on 11th May itself. It was not done. So, it is the Government which has created this situation.

Therefore, I hope that hon. Members from all sides of the House will agree with me wholeheartedly for a full day's discussion on this matter in this Session itself and if necessary, to extend the Session by a day for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret that during the last 60 years different kind of rumours have been spreading among the people of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh regarding indisputably tallest leader of our freedom struggle, Shri Subhash Chandra Bose. Our Government have not conducted any proper enquiry into this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, long back I read an article published in a widely circulated Magazine of Pakistan called Urdu Digest, which was written by a Major General of the 'Azad Hind Fauz', who had settled there and had come from the eastern Uttar Pradesh wrote that when he was coming to Delhi by Dehradun Express, he saw a person standing on the Faizabad Railway Station. That person was wearing the attire of Hindu saint, had beard, white hair, neatly and cleanly dressed and his hairs were combed and not uneven. I recognized him as I had been with him for years. I alighted from the train immediately and no sooner, I tried to approach him, he saw me and quickly left the station. As I followed him out of station. The train whistled at that very moment and I boarded the train again. He further wrote that he can say with guarantee that the saint was none other than Netaji himself. But inspite of all this, the Government took no notice of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after some time I read in a newspaper in Lucknow that a 'Gumnami' Baba had died in the night who was none other than Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose himself. At that time, I did not pay due attention to this news as I thought that what is the need for Netaji to stay in hiding in a Free India? The Indian people are ready to give him outmost respect and a place in their heart. People say that our Government have entered into an agreement with the British Government that the prisoners of war of freedom struggle have been declared war criminals and he will have to be apprehended and handed over to the British Government. Therefore Netaji while being in India lived in hiding.

It is not a trivial issue. Subhash Chandra Bose is the only indisputed leader of the people of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh even today and there is no other indisputed leader. It is very unfortunate to reject the report regarding him in this manner.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the past several years, the rumours and discussions regarding the death of the Super Hero in the History of Indian freedom struggle, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose are going on. The country wants to know the truth. Time and again news items appeared in the newspapers. Some times it was reported that he died in plane crash, some times the news came that he is alive, which is currently being discussed in this House. A Commission was constituted to know the facts that Mukherjee Commission has submitted its report to the Government. Before rejecting the report, the Government should have placed the reasons before the country for rejecting the report. The Government did not intend to do so and it is natural that when today such a news came then there is a feeling of resentment, not only in the House, but also in the whole country and among the people. This matter should be discussed in the House and that report must be tabled in the House.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is customary that when an enquiry commission is constituted, the Government explain its future course of action on the report while tabling the report in the House. The Government has expressed their opinion on which we have serious objections. I just want to submit that a state of confusion is prevailing in the country due to the opinion expressed by the Government and a public opinion has formed against the Government. I have given a notice under rule 193 to conduct a detailed discussion on this issue so that the Government may clarify their position

before the House. Otherwise the public opinion about the Government has been adversely affected and people are angry. Therefore, I would like to request you that the House should express their views on this report to pacify the people.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of Prof. Basudeb Barman and Shri Hiten Barman are also associated with this matter.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Before I take up my subject, I associate myself fully with the demand made by our esteemed colleague, Shri Subrata Bose and by others.

What I want to say is that as a result of the various developments, schemes and projects. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Right now, please stick to his matter only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am making a demand that a full-fledged debate under rule 193 be made. I fully associate with the demand made by all sections of this House and the demand made by Shri Subrata Bose and others.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I agree with him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am on a very important issue, I believe. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

The other matter would be taken latter.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Okay, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views of the hon'ble Members who have expressed their sentiments regarding Mukherjee Commission and it has become absolutely necessary because facts emerging from this discussion in the House has raised the curiosity of crores of people. People want to know the truth. It is not fair to create doubt and to keep crores of people in the dark. Therefore, a discussion has become absolutely necessary in this matter.

Therefore, a detailed discussion should take place on this issue may be under rule 193. It is necessary to have a debate and discussion on this matter. I support it so that people may become aware of the facts and the doubts of the people may clear, it has become quite necessary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Acharia ji, do you also want to speak on the same issue or some other matter?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the Mukherjee Commission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal has already spoken on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I also want to speak on the same issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, you also speak.

[English]

You are the most senior hon. Member.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, Mukherjee Commission was appointed five or six years back. That Commission took at least five or six years to submit a report. They visited a number of countries and places. They presented the report to the Government but what we have seen yesterday, the report of the Mukherjee Commission and Action Taken Report both were placed before the House. What we have seen that Government has rejected the recommendations of Mukherjee Commission. Sir, we are disappointed. So, there is a need for a full-fledged discussion in this House. Tomorrow is Friday and then Monday and Tuesday, and then the House will be adjourned on 23rd May.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will decide that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I demand that if it is possible, within these two days, a full day discussion may be allowed. You may take it up on Monday itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will decide it tomorrow. We will decide it in the Leaders' Meeting.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You decide it tomorrow and it should be discussed under Rule 193 and enough time should be given. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be decided in the Leaders' meeting.

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item no. 18. Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. That will form part of the proceedings.

- (I) Need for widening of alternate road from Barthlagundu to Kodaikanal via Vadipatti—Thadiyankundu—Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu is regarded as a health and summer resort. People from all over the world come here throughout the year. It has got a very abundant flora and fauna and huge lake which is appreciated for boating. It has got a good chill climate liked by all and this Kodaikanal is situated in Dindigul District.

There is a roadway that turns from Kodai Road to Kodaikanal. There is another road which is smaller in width and it is used exclusively as an alternate road during the rainy season. This road is water-logged and during rainy season rocks and trees are falling obstructing the road resulting in blocking the traffic. Hence there is a need to expand the alternate road from Barthlagundu to Kodaikanal via Vadipatti, Pattiveeranpatty, Ayyambalayan, Chittur, Perumparai, Thadiyankundu and Kodaikanal. The distance will be approx. 60 Kms and if the road is widened to 50 ft. it will be by and large useful to the tourists and also to agriculturists especially coffee growers who use this alternate road daily to market their products.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Highways, to bestow his immediate attention to broaden this road on a priority basis.

- (II) Need to take steps to clear the pending draw of lots in Cooperative Housing Societies in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Sir, the fate of 80 Cooperative Housing Societies in Delhi is hanged in balance due to inaction of registrar. No society has been given clearance for draw of lots for more than last two years. As a result, about 16000 families, mostly the Government servants are compelled to live in rented houses despite spending lakhs of rupees of their earnings. These people have taken loans from banks and other institutions and they have tired in paying its installment. I urge upon the Union Government that high-level inquiry should be conducted in this matter and clear these societies for draw as early as possible so as to give relief to these people.

- (III) Need to provide reservation for Nomadic tribes alongwith OBCs in higher educational institutions

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, today agitation is going on in the whole country against the reservation for O.B.C. and now people belonging to O.B.C. have also come forward in favour of reservation. The Mandal Commission had submitted its report and recommended to provide reservation in higher educational institutions like medical and engineering colleges. The Government has accepted this report. Not only this the Supreme Court had also given its verdict in this case and Indira Sahani case was also seriously considered and it was decided to provide 27 percent reservation in higher educational institutions as per recommendation of the Mandal Commission.

Anti-reservationists believe that reservation should be on the basis of merit not on castes. This matter was also discussed seriously throughout the country 25 years ago. Now it is not correct to raise this matter afresh. When our country got independence, the founders of our constitution made a provision for reservation in constitution to eradicate the difference between Upper Caste and lower caste. It is a good effort to provide level playing field to all people. When anti-reservationists talk about merit they say that provision of reservation in higher

educational institutions should be made for O.B.C. I believe that when poor children will get better education they would themselves come in merit and that day we will have to remove reservation but today if reservation policy would be removed, students belonging to 15 percent of Upper Caste will occupy 70 percent seats and we will fail to bring equality.

When the whole country follow the order of Supreme Court for 50 percent reservation, this problem will not be solved by increasing number of seats. We should accept that when there are 200 seats, 100 seats are for backward classes. It is natural that when we will increase number of seats there would be 25 per cent increase in reservation of backward classes.

I would request the Union Government that do not increase the number of seats. It should also provide reservation for denotified and Nomadic tribes alongwith O.B.C.

(iv) Need to withdraw Import duty on cement with a view to check its soaring price

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, due to unprecedented increase in cement prices at present the construction work has been adversely affected. This increase has made the objective of the Government impossible to provide houses to all and this may stop the infrastructural development of the country. If this increase is not checked in time, it will make it difficult to construct houses for the people of middle class and lower class. I demand the Government should withdraw import duty on cement with a view to check increase in its prices and should put a ban on its export totally.

(v) Need to broadcast DD-2, Metro Channel in Katihar district, Bihar

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Sir, a high power transmission centre of Doordarshan is already functioning with its full capacity in Katihar district of Bihar State. The most powerful transmitter of Northern Bihar is installed here which is totally based on a new technic. In today's era of development there is a need to broadcast programmes of DD-2, Metro Channel in this area so that maximum people could get the benefit through knowledge, science and entertainment oriented programmes. Katihar is a very backward area of North-East Bihar which is surrounded by Ganga, Kosi and Mahananda rivers. This border area also touches the borders of Bangladesh and Nepal. Keeping in view the cultural, social, professional,

geographical and basic things there is a need to set up a studio and P.G.F. so that the people of this border area could get maximum benefit from this regional telecast. After connecting this area through development programmes this area will play an important role in the State as well as nation building.

(vi) Need to provide employment allowance to unemployed youth in the country

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, unemployment is increasing in our country. Crores of unemployed youths registered with the employment exchanges get their unemployment card renewed every year in the hope of getting employment but Government is unable to provide them employment. In the last budget, Government had promised to create employment for one crore youths but it could not be fulfilled. Textile industry has suffered badly. Textile mills are either closed or are sick. Handloom and powerloom have stopped working. Lakhs of weavers have become jobless and their rehabilitation has become a problem itself. In such a situation how can employment be created in textile industry?

Due to lack of employment youths are involving in terrorist and naxalite activities. As youths are unable to get employment, they are expressing their wrath by joining anti-social elements. The Government should give priority to provide employment to unemployed youths of the country. To create new employment opportunities in rural and urban areas of the country, there is a need to provide adequate facilities of industry, business, self-employment at local level and unless the unemployed youths get any proper employment, Government should provide unemployment allowance to them. Government should take remedial steps immediately on priority basis so that youths of the country could not get frustrated due to unemployment.

(vii) Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose land has been acquired for Air Force Project in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Sir, in my constituency, 47,299 acres of land of villages Motaer, Ghadhsur, Dheerdesher, Banaser and Bangasar in Rawatsar tehsil of Hanumagarh District, Sriganganagar has been acquired by Air Force for the purpose of Air to Ground Project. The land was acquired in 1991 for which award had also been made but the farmers have not been given compensation for the same so far. The farmer

[Shri Nihal Chand]

cannot till his land also. The Government of Rajasthan has sent the proposal regarding acquisition of land to the Union Government. But the Union Government has not taken any action so far. The farmers are disturbed due to this. I, through you Sir, would like to request the Government to immediately release the compensation amount for the land acquired from the farmers.

(viii) Need to set up industries based on Manganese/silica sand in Rewa Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHY (Rewa): Sir, there are abundant manganese reserve available in Samaria in my Parliamentary constituency Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. This is taken to Bihar and Jharkhand by illegal mining at large scale. If the Government of India takes initiative for setting up of industries based on manganese around Samaria, then it can not only elevate unemployment from Rewa parliamentary constituency but from Rewa region also and it can also help the unemployed youth who are being misled, to adopt a path towards the creative direction. Similarly there is abundance of silica sand near Damorha. An industry for making slate can be set up over there. There are two cement factories located in Rewa district alone because of the abundance of lime stone there and these are not only running into huge profits but are also contributing towards the industrial development of Rewa.

Therefore, it is my humble request to the Government of India to kindly take necessary action for taking some effective and concrete steps in this direction.

(ix) Need to withdraw new catering policy outsourcing the entire catering of Railways to private parties with a view to protect the interests of commission vendors

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I rise to draw the attention of the Minister for Railways to a matter of serious concern involving livelihood of hundreds of Commission Vendors. Following adoption of Catering Policy 2005, the Railway has decided to outsource the entire catering to private parties having a minimum annual turn over of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum to Rs. 5 Crores per annum with licensing fee of 12 per cent of estimated turnover. Aiming to this our sourcing, the Railways have already terminated some 30 vendors in Northern Railways, who are above 60 years of age. For others, the Railways have proposed

to absorb the vendors in class IV posts. According to Railways, this is in accordance with a verdict from Apex Court, given in 1983. For non-compliance of the court's verdict in time, the vendors of the age group of 40 to 60 will be deprived of terminal benefits. Thus, majority of the vendors and their family members will virtually loose their daily bread. On the other hand the common passengers will have to pay a hefty amount for a cup of tea or Samosa to the Food-Plaza holders, since they will not run the plazas at no profit no loss basis. I demand withdrawal of Catering Policy forthwith and restoration of earlier policy.

(x) Need to clear the proposal to bring forth public bonds of REC and NHAI for the benefit of investors

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, in this year's budget a proposal regarding two bonds of REC and NHAI was made and the property dealers were to reinvest ten percent of the profit earned from property dealings into these bonds but due to slackness of Finance Ministry and Central Board of Direct Taxes, lakhs of investors were unable to reinvest into these bonds because even after passing of one month and a quarter the Government had not flagged off the issue of those two bonds announced during the budget, in which people could have saved 10 percent tax by investing their profit. This rebate is granted under section 54 EC of Income Tax Act.

I would like to request hon'ble Minister of Finance to immediately take some appropriate step in this regard.

(xi) Need to implement the recommendations of Rangarajan Committee on 'Petroleum Products' and peg the tax rate at 20 percent to check price rise

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, during the last few months the prices of crude oil in international market had come down to 51 dollars per barrel. Demands were made throughout the country that since the crude oil prices had come down in international market, the prices of petrol and diesel etc. should also come down in the country. But the Government gave a plea that it has constituted a Committee under C. Rangarajan and its report would be submitted before the budget for the year 2006-07 is presented and only then the prices of petroleum products would be decided. The report of C.

Rangarajan Committee was received before February 2006. Hon'ble Finance Minister had stated in this Budget speech that the forthcoming policy would be formulated with due deliberation on this report. On the basis of news published in news papers, it was stated in the Rangarajan Committee Report that the present sale price, policy which is based on import prices must be changed and along with this there is a need to reduce the prices of petroleum products to make it justifiable with the taxes imposed on them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the tax being levied by the Government on petroleum is more than its production cost. It is being published in newspapers that the Government are going to increase the prices of petroleum products, in my opinion it is dishonesty to think of increasing the sale price of petroleum products prior to implementing the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to publish the Rangarajan Committee Report and on the basis of this report it should do away with the present policy of determining the sale price, and to make the taxes justifiable, it should immediately announce that the maximum tax would not be more than 20%.

- (xii) **Need to take a realistic approach to fulfil Railway Budget proposals instead of taxing passengers with indirect extra charges**

[English]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Railways have a vast reach benefiting the masses in a big way as it is still cost effective. But now, rail passengers have been made to pay more for their journey, though no hike was announced in this year's Railway Budget. Enhancement of charges have been effected without formal proposal or announcement. Even cancellation of reserved tickets have become costly now. Long distance passengers are being denied telescopic fares and they are made to pay to different or more reservation charges and super-fast charges.

Number of super-fast trains have increased without modifying the stoppages or running time or the coaches. Catering services are also going in for an increase with rail passengers caught as the captives. There is a tendency on the part of the Railways to ignore duly announced Budget proposals like laying off railway line

between Velankanni and Nagapattinam for which the pilgrimage shrine has paid to the Railways more than a crore of rupees. The gauge conversion between Nagoor and Thanjavur is still incomplete beyond Thiruvavur. I urge upon the Union Railway Minister to take a realistic approach to fulfil Budget proposals and not to fleece passengers without Budget proposals and Parliament's approval.

- (xiii) **Need to send a Central team to Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh to review the implementation of centrally sponsored rural development schemes**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Sir, district Sitapur under my Parliamentary constituency Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh is one of the backward districts of the region and after being declared as backward district Union Government sent crores of rupees and foodgrains for my district through State Government under the ambitious schemes—Food for work scheme, Assured Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Uniform Development Scheme etc. But the funds and foodgrains allocated under the above said schemes have been put to gross misuse in the district Sitapur.

The foodgrains allocated under the scheme 'Food for Work' has not been distributed in the district. Crores of rupees of Union Government have been misused in district Sitapur in the name of drains digging and drains cleanliness. Similar irregularities have been committed in the works to be undertaken under other central schemes for which a detailed investigation is necessary.

I, through this House, request the Union Government that at least three Members enquiry Committee from Ministry of Rural Development should make technical investigations separately of different works done under the central schemes during the last five years in the district Sitapur and take action against the guilty persons before the monsoon sets in.

- (xiv) **Need to conduct a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities committed by Power Grid Corporation in tender procedure for setting up 765 KV project in Maharashtra**

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Sir, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the shortfall of

[Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil]

electricity which is adversely affecting the development of our country. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. floated a tender of 765 KV Project to mitigate the shortage of electricity in the country and when the firm to which the officers of Power Grid Corporation of India wanted the tender to be allotted, did not get the tender then they discontinued the tender process itself. Asian Development Bank who had been financing the project objected to this step taken by the officers and denied to provide funds because of not following the tender process in accordance with the rules, as a result the project could not be started.

Through this House Sir, it is requested to the Union Government that CBI inquiry should be conducted in this matter.

(xv) Need to Include Bargarh district of Orissa under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which came into force on 2nd February 2006 is having a perceptible impact in the districts where it is being implemented properly. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is an important step towards realizing the right to work, which is included in our Constitution as one of the Directive Principle. This scheme is being implemented in 200 of the poorest districts. But unfortunately, Bargarh Distt. in Orissa which is one to the poorest districts has not been included in the scheme in the first phase. More than 75% of the cultivable land in the district is non-irrigated, particularly, the Padampur sub division and Ambabhona, Bhatti, Bijepur, major portion of Barpalli and part of Bargarh and Attabira blocks Bargarh district are still without irrigation facilities. The whole of Padampur Sub division which is adjacent to the KBK Districts is a drought prone area and every year thousands of common villagers living below the poverty line and also small farmers migrate to other States to earn their livelihood because natural calamities like drought which is a common phenomenon there. No industry exists in the area nor any major or medium irrigation project is operating. In spite of this harsh reality, Bargarh Distt. has been excluded from the NREGA. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to bring Bargarh Distt. under the coverage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the first phase.

(xvi) Need to finalize the process for privatisation of ESI hospitals in Kolhapur and Pune for the benefit of labour force

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur): The Government of India has established many hospitals all over India, under the Employees State Insurance Scheme. This scheme is implemented under both Central and State Governments.

Employees State Insurance Corporation has built three hospitals at Kolhapur, Pimpri-Chinchawad and Bibewadi in Maharashtra. These hospitals were built in 1996 at the cost of Rs. 25 crores and should have been handed over to State Government of Maharashtra for starting hospitals. However, State Government of Maharashtra has expressed its inability to take over these hospitals. This inability was conveyed in the year 1994 and again in 2001. The workers in the areas filed a suit in High Court of Mumbai insisting on immediate starting of hospitals. However, ESIC submitted a proposal to the court on 8.10.2001 to privatise and start the hospitals. This was with due approval of ESIC Board. The case before the Court was disposed of accordingly.

However, till today despite Government of Maharashtra's willingness and a tender for privatisation in Times of India Dated 27.5.2001, the final action to handover hospital to approved private party has not been taken and it is learnt that the entire case has been referred to legal cell of Labour Ministry and in the meanwhile Government of India has recovered 9 crore rupees from Government of Maharashtra by way of rent even without handing over the hospital buildings. The entire expenditure and non-starting has been objected to in CAG report in 2002.

I urge upon the Labour Minister to finalise the process of privatisation and start the hospital in the larger interest of labour force in Kolhapur and Pune in Maharashtra.

(xvii) Need to implement the recommendations of National Farmers Commission for the benefit of farmers in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Sir, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of 4 States Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh was held with Union Minister of Agriculture on April 10 last. They were of the view that the farmers of only these States are compelled to commit suicide due to the burden of debt but in reality the agriculture has become unbeneficial

not only in these States but also in the whole country it has become useless. Today on an average a farmer in the country has debt of Rs. 12,585. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana, the food provider States of the country, are also burdened under the debt. In Punjab the average debt is Rs. 41576 while a farmer in Haryana has an average debt of Rs. 26,007. It has been revealed by a recent survey that 40% of the farmers are willing to quit farming. The more they talk about development in agriculture the more the debt burden is increasing. Public Sector banks should have provided 18% loans for agriculture under primary sector but they provided only upto 12% loans. As a result the farmer had to go to seek help from private sector lenders and they charged an interest at the rate of 24% to 36%. The condition of farmers has deteriorated due to Government policies also. We signed agreements under World Trade Organisation, made the agriculture sector open for international market. Europe, America and Japan are giving their farmers subsidies up to 1 billion dollars and we are talking about imposing taxes on agricultural income. The Government is taking steps to reduce subsidy. The National Farmers Commission has made suggestions in August 2005 to improve the condition of farmers and their lives and we are nearing next August. The recommendations of the Commission are gathering dust.

I urge upon the Government to implement a scheme to provide relief to farmers on the basis of the above mentioned recommendations and agriculture should be recognized as a profitable work.

(xviii) Need to check displacement of people in Jharkhand due to implementation of various projects in the absence of concrete rehabilitation policy

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Sir, through this House, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that due to various industries, 6550972 people have been displaced in Jharkhand State which include 25,50,000 people displaced by mining sector, 1700000 by major irrigation projects, 1200000 by industries and 1150972 by wild life sanctuaries and other sectors. Approximately over one thousand villages of the State have been displaced by Tata Iron and Steel Company and the subsidiaries of Tata Group, HEC Swarna Rekha River Project, ECL, BCCL, CCL, Bokaro Steel Plant, Tenughat Dam Project and wild life sanctuaries, Netarhat Firing Range, large and small scale industries and various mining projects. One forth of the total population is suffering from the

anguish of displacement. I regret to say that mere 30 per cent of the displaced people have been rehabilitated and provided employment and regarding the remaining 70 per cent displaced people, no information is available either with the Union Government or with State Governments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, no other states than Jharkhand have suffered such a large scale displacement so far. Still Jharkhand Government is entering into MoU for the establishment of industries in the State. So there is widespread resentment among the people of this State.

So, through you, I would like to request the House that a complete moratorium should be put on the displacement unless and until a full guarantee of land for land and house for house, economic rehabilitation and employment is given under the displacement policy.

(xix) Need to check increasing price of cement in the country

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Cement is one of the main material used in construction, constituting about 13% of the total cost. Cement prices were stable at around Rs. 125 to Rs. 145 per bag between 2003-2005 period. However, it started its upward price movement from the end of December, 2005 and reached to Rs. 225/-per bag on 31st March, 2006. This near 100% increase in cement price shall not only wipe out contractors' profit but shall also result in huge losses. This would also result in cost overrun for all Infrastructural works affecting employment. There has been no increase in Excise Duty, royalty on limestone, VAT, railway freight or demand growth warranting such steep price increase. However, there has been marginal increase in road transportation cost due to recent Supreme Court Order prohibiting overloading in trucks. The obvious reason for such unprecedented price increase appears to be cartelisation.

(xx) Need to implement the recommendations of Mahajan Commission's Report on border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka with regard to the status of Belgaum

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, it is heartening to note that the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra is coming up again. This is creating lot of problems to the common people living in

Bills as Passed by Rajya Sabha

[Shri M. Shivanna]

the border areas. Some months ago the Municipal Council of Belgaum had created problem in this regard. Later, that Council was dissolved by the State Government. Recently the Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution stating that Belgaum should be merged with Maharashtra State. Maharashtra Government is also planning to discuss this matter with the Union Government.

The Union Government of India constituted Mahajan Commission at the request of Maharashtra Government. The commission gave its report thirty years ago. If this recommendation is implemented it will put an end to all these problems. I therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Home Minister to implement Mahajan Commission's report in toto without any further delay.

12.42 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Assam Rifles Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2006."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the National Institute of Fashion Technology Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2006."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of the sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I

am directed to return herewith the Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Assam Rifles Bill, 2006 and the National Institute of Fashion Technology Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 2006.

12.43 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(ii) **Re: Reported Grenade attack by militants in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir on 17th May, 2006**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the same incident happened again in Doda on which an adjournment motion was brought in the House and after adjournment motion the hon'ble Minister had assured that all the arrangements have been put in place there in Doda and such incidents will not reoccur there. Once again grenade was heralded on the persons, sitting at that very place in Doda district who were demanding security for moving to their respective areas; which subsequently left 15 lac people injured. In entire incident 32 people were killed and thereafter 15 people were injured and again two people lost their lives. Again yesterday, the same incident happened there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these incidents happening there constitute the part of conspiracy against the Hindus to compel them to migrate from that place and the Government is taking no action to check such incidents. The whole might of the nation is with us. We have more than 50 lac military and paramilitary forces; we have a savarm of police and in spite of having all these things grenades were thrown on headquarters after the threats and warning. All these arrangements turned out to be of no use. So, I would like to urge that the Army should be given a free hand there. There are several restrictions there on the Army; hence they cannot take any action. That's why the terrorists are putting the people to death openly. They should be armed with the identical weapons which the terrorists have i.e. AK 47. At the same time,

I have one more request to you that around 30 thousand armed forces, which have been withdrawn should be redeployed there. Let the army move to that place, and they may be given a free hand. Otherwise the incidents being perpetrated in Doda will lead to the total migration of the Hindus from the entire Jammu and Kashmir. All the people of this area will be coerced to migrate and for which the Government will be responsible. If the Government does not have any hand behind these incidents, it should take prompt action in this regard; so that reoccurrence of such incidents may be avoided. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, there should be debate over this matter and there should also be zero hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Zero hour will be conducted in the evening.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may please be allowed to speak on this matter. The Hindus are being killed one by one in Doda. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It should be conducted in the evening.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, we have said that we are ready for a debate. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, somebody from the Government should assure that they are ready to take action. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, they want a response from the Government. I am giving the Government's response. Let them listen to me first. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Please listen to what I want to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, the hon. Home Minister will be here when the debate takes place. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, grenade was thrown in Doda, in which 15 persons are injured. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hindus are being killed in Doda. The debate takes place here on that matter and once again grenade was thrown to kill them, which injured more than 15 persons. Please tell me what action you have taken in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): How have you been the custodian of Hindus? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, nothing is going on record. There is no use of what are you speaking. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are walking out in protest as no answer was given in this regard by the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

12.49 hrs.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, me too have given a written notice to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be conducted in the evening.

12.50 hrs.

UNION DUTIES OF EXCISE (ELECTRICITY) DISTRIBUTION REPEAL BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up item no. 19. Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

The Central Government had imposed excise duty on generation of electricity through the Finance Act, 1978 under the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. Subsequently, in terms of the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission, the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 was enacted to provide for the payment of sums equal to the net proceeds of the union duties of excise on electricity to the States.

The Eighth Finance Commission, in its Interim Report, recommended for the existing arrangement to continue provisionally during the financial year commencing on 1.4.1984.

The Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 was amended in 1984. In the Budget 1984-85, the Finance Minister proposed to abolish the excise duty on electricity effective from 1.10.1984. After Budget Proposals were approved by the Parliament, the Department of Revenue, by notification dated 1.10.1984, exempted electricity from the whole of duty of excise.

In view of this, the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 has become obsolete and needs to be abolished from the Statute Book. The P.C. Jain Committee has also recommended the repeal of this Act. Hence, I am moving this Bill to repeal the Act.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Repeal Bill, 2006 has been brought before this House. It again seems to be a very minor thing and as the hon. Minister said, there has been no collection for the State Exchequer from this Act. Therefore, the Government wishes to repeal this Bill.

I would support this because any obsolete law that needs to be changed to make matters more efficient, timely and updated should be done. We all support this. But there is a point that needs to be reminded and the Government has to take into consideration and that is the issue of States that produce electricity. States like Orissa, Bihar and other States, which produce electricity, which have vast amount of coal and other reserves, they are the States which suffer. It is in the sense that till now whatever electricity was being produced by NTPC and other Government companies that was transferred out of the States which produce the electricity and was sold in different neighbouring States.

For instance, electricity produced in Orissa was being sold in Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Karnataka and many other places. It was given to the Grid and also we had a direct line, one of the longest transmission lines is from Talcher, which is part of my district, up to Karnataka. The pity is that the Government has never in the past considered the plight of the States, which produced electricity, which contributed the coal, which suffered from pollution. All that those States got in return was a meagre amount, which was given as a royalty for the coal that was used.

I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government, it is time electricity is bothering this Government a lot, for which we suddenly had George Bush come here and all efforts made, they changed colour and said that America is God, America is loving us like

nobody else has ever loved us, we want to go in for nuclear energy. They started giving facts or factoid, as the world today is, which is half truth and half imagination that nuclear energy will solve the problems of this country.

So, when you are concentrating on energy, when you are concentrating on creating new sources of energy to enable the India of future to stand on its own legs, you also have to think of States which produce electricity and the suffering those people go through because of pollution and because of destruction of land.

In return, in the past, you have not done it. Now with this Repeal Bill, we will have to see what happens. We will have to see whether the excise duty that is collected from the States which are consuming electricity, will be transferred or shared along with the State that is producing electricity. This is something which I would like to underline and draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance. It should be taken note of.

The second point, and the last point, is that wherever electricity is being produced, the pollution and damage is so intense that it is necessary that apart from sharing the duties, you also take to task the organisations like NTPC that they come up with a handsome amount of money each year for peripheral development wherever they are producing. This is of prime importance and I would like to draw the attention of the Government, please do not neglect this and take care of this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, would you like to say something?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I would just like to respond briefly. Shri Tathagata Satapathy has raised issues which go far beyond the scope of this Bill. I think when the electricity is produced in a State where there are coal reserves, it is not correct to say that the State does not benefit at all. Royalties are given; a portion of the electricity generated is allocated to that State. If the demand for electricity in that State increases, surely the first right to electricity produced in that State would go to that State. The answer is not to complain about rise in demand elsewhere but to look at your own State and stimulate demand for electricity. If more industries are set up, if more households are electrified, if more investment takes place, the demand for electricity will pick up and electricity will be consumed in that State. The Centre does not discriminate between State and State in the matter of electricity. The Central electricity

organisations like NTPC have done a yeoman job in this country. It is one of the most competitive and most effective. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): His point is different. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have understood his point. You have not understood his point. I will explain it. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the State does not benefit. The question is this. Are we levying an excise duty in the consuming State? The answer is: 'No'. We are not levying any duty on electricity. When we levied that duty, we had to pay that money to the State concerned. When we are not levying the duty since 1984, the question of paying to the State where the coal reserves are does not arise. Therefore, since 1984, duties of excise on electricity have been abolished. This law is obsolete by 22 years. Therefore we are repealing this law.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, it is not right. His point is that they are collecting duties from the electricity consuming States. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My learned friend should not say what is half correct. I have met his point. We are not levying any excise duty.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The State is suffering. What are we getting? We are consuming our own electricity. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please consume more electricity. Who is preventing the States from consuming more electricity? But you must have demand for that electricity. ...(*Interruptions*)

It is not your coal. The coal belongs to the country. It happens to be located there.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: That belongs to our State. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not agree with that proposition.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You are not providing us with financial package. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, please ask the Member to resume his seat so that I can reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me make it very clear that I do not concede the proposition that coal belongs to any State. Coal belongs to the country. It happens to be located in some States. Other States have other natural resources.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Coal belongs to State. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is his point of view. But he should not interrupt me and forbid me from stating my point of view. Coal belongs to this country. Coal is located in some States. Iron ore is there in some States. Other States have got other natural resources. The natural resources of this country have to be used for the benefit of the whole country.

13.00 hrs.

If coal is there in one State, it is used for producing electricity, and the electricity is distributed throughout the country. *...(Interruptions)* Please do not interrupt me.

I have already said about the benefit which a State gets. If the State has a demand for greater benefits, there is a mechanism by which that can be pressed. We are not levying excise duty on electricity. The question of compensating for that duty does not arise. The States are levying tax on the consumption of electricity. That is under the State List—List 2 of the Constitution. That is a power given to the State. The answer is, for the State where electricity is produced, to increase the consumption of electricity and benefit from the consumption of electricity. We cannot take a perverted view of matters. Increase the consumption of electricity and your State will benefit.

Sir, I request that this Act may be repealed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They have supported you thoroughly.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thank you, Sir.

13.02. hrs.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item no. 20—Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move the motion:

"That the Bill to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, will there be lunch break today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be no lunch break today.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, it was decided that this Bill would be introduced and there would be a lunch break. At two o'clock we shall take up the Discussion on the situation arising out of communal violence in different parts of the country. After that, we shall again take it up. Sir, we will sit late today. Let there be a lunch break now. I am requesting you, Sir. Please do not dispense with lunch break. Kindly see the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, there is a lot of business to be transacted. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I know that there is a lot of business. The Government is curtailing the number of days of the Session and says that there is a lot of business. We will sit late today. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Actually, we want to pass the Bills today. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am not raising the issue of quorum. Let the hon. Minister move that the

Bill be taken into consideration. We will discuss it after Lunch. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, let us have Lunch Break now. Let the hon. Minister move that the Bill be taken into consideration. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already moved that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair*]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-Sixth Report

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a proposal was moved in the morning with the concurrence of entire House that the lunch break will be adjourned to discuss the Bill and the debate will continue till 14 O'clock. After that discussion on communal situation will be taken up. After that we will resume the discussion on the Bill and pass the same. But for some reasons we have taken lunch break. Therefore, I request the House through you that the discussion on the Bill

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

will be completed within one hour. After that debate on communal situation will be started and continue till it concludes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is from Bengal and is speaking in Hindi. So, I will also speak in Hindi. We do not have any objection to that. We support the hon'ble Minister's suggestion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we wish to congratulate them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your Members to be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let the discussion under rule 193 start at 3 P.M. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We shall extend our full cooperation because we want this discussion to take place early. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you all co-operate with me. I will try my best to finish it before three O'clock.

14.08 hrs.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2005—*Contd.*

(Translation)

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, as you know, I had introduced SMED BILL, 2005 in this House on 12th May 2005. At present the term "small industry" finds mention in only two clauses of the Industrial Development and Regulation Act 1951. Barring these two clauses there is no legal structure available for this progressive and vibrant sector of the economy in the country. Various expert groups or committees appointed by the Government from time to time as also the small sector itself have laid emphasis on the need of an appropriate and comprehensive central legislation for facilitating small industries' smooth growth and development of this sector.

At present, globally the importance of enterprises has increased vis-à-vis industry. Apart from this it is being increasingly felt that policy based support for the small enterprises should be expanded so that they are capable to developing into medium scale enterprises and adopting improved technology in order to make them competitive in the fast scenario of globalisation and development. At the same time we are in favour of expansion of micro enterprises. Therefore, as is the case with the developed and many developing countries it is necessary that in India also the entire micro, small and medium enterprises should be given attention to in an integrated way and single legal structure be made available for this sector.

Under these circumstances object of the Bill is to make the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises smooth and to increase their competitiveness as also to provide for some other objectives. Basically we have set forth eight objects in this Bill. Firstly, there is a provision for legal definition of micro, small and medium enterprise. Then a provision has been made for setting up of a high level forum in the form of National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Board for reviewing policies and programmes for development of those enterprises as also to make recommendations thereon. It contains provisions to empower the Union Government to classify the enterprises into micro, small and medium enterprises on the basis of allocations for plant and machinery or equipment and to provide for setting up an advisory committee to make recommendations on the subjects related to their all round development as also Union to notify the progress, guiding principles and instructions in order to increase competition and to create any funds by the Government. The provision has also been made to ensure timely inflow of credit in order to reduce sickness among micro, small and medium enterprises in accordance with the guiding principles and instructions of the Reserve Bank of India relating to them and to make provisions for enhancing competitiveness of such enterprises, to empower the Union Government and the State Governments to notify the policies relating to the goods produced and services provided by the micro and small enterprises so as to procure the products so produced on priority basis by Ministries and departments, to further amend Interest Act, 1993 on delayed payments to micro small scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings and to make that act a part of the proposed legislation, and to empower the Union Government to formulate a scheme within one year of coming into effect of this Act in order to ensure simplification of the procedure of

closure of such micro and small units which are not companies under the Companies Act.

Sir, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bill 2005 was introduced in the House on 12th May, 2005 and thereafter it was referred to the department related Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and report. After having detailed discussion with the representatives of all concerned, the Committee presented its report on 4th August, 2005. Accordingly a decision was taken by the Group of Ministers to amend this Bill. Based on the recommendations of the GOM and suggestions made by other hon'ble Members. I would like to briefly tell about 66 proposed amendments in the Bill.

Sir, in the first important amendment there is a provision for giving a distinct definition to micro enterprises for giving them a prime position in the bill as also a prime position in the nomenclature of the Bill. 37 out of 66 amendments relate to this only.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Since it is a new Bill, please listen me with patience.

Sir, the third important amendment relates to the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises mentioned in clause 7 (1). These are being defined as different industries. Sir, with your permission, I would say in brief that this is a historical Bill. I would request this august House to pass this Bill unanimously. Keeping in view the economic scenario of the country and the poor entrepreneurs engaged in small enterprises and in their best interest, I would request again that this Bill should be passed unanimously. This is what I have to urge upon the august House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness

of small and medium enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

If you agree I have to make this request that we should speak in brief whatever we have to say and pass this Bill soon unanimously.

[English]

It will be better.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara); I am the lead speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As the request has come from the Government, if you give suggestions in two minutes each, it will be better.

[English]

You should be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it will not be proper to pass this bill in haste and without having a debate on it. Small enterprises at this time are in worst condition so, this matter should be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have misunderstood it. I can not call all at one time. Your name is with me in the list. I will give you an opportunity, too. You are losing your temper for nothing. My request is that hon'ble Members should speak in brief. I do not intend to stop you from making your speech. I know the Members who want to speak.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I stand to speak on the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005. The Minister has made a long statement just now. I thought that it was just an introduction, but he has tried to explain what this Bill envisages. I do agree to the Minister and he does not have to be disappointed as we will be supporting this Bill.

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh]

Let me start by saying that this is a very important Bill to the extent that in the era that we are in, in the changed times that we are in, in the era of WTO that we are in, it is very important that the SMEs, small and medium enterprises, are encouraged. They have been there in India for a long time, but this sector was neglected to a large extent. This Bill, I am sure, will look into and address all the problems that the SMEs are having for the last three or four decades. It is very important in the era of competition that we are in.

There was a time when the SMEs, small and medium enterprises, were given a job that this is the sector for you, this is what the other industries will not enter into, and the competition will be only amongst themselves, the small and medium enterprises. Time have changed. In the era that we are in, in the globalisation that we are in, today there is no reservation as such. People are entering into this market. Big industries are also making the same thing that the small and medium enterprises are making. If we want to have the growth of eight per cent in the GDP, if we want this country to really develop and become a super economic power, as people have been saying, it should be like this. The Minister must have read Goldman Sachs report on BRIC.

He says that India is going to be a super-economic power by 2025, and will be in the top three by the year 2050. It would be a race between America, China and India. Therefore, if we have to attain that height, then it is most important that the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) are encouraged and developed. It is very very important.

Let us look at the history of all the nations that have really become developed nations. Allow me to take the example of Japan. Japan came up so fast and became a developed nation in such a short time after the Second World War. It could attain this height only because of the encouragement given to the SME. I feel that they must be encouraged in India also. Otherwise, we will lag behind.

14.21 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

Today, the automotive sector in India is really growing. It is the SME that have taken this up, and we have made a big name for small parts in the automotive

sector in the world. It is all because of this sector. But having said all this, let me also talk about the woes of the SME. Nobody has been looking into the problems of working capital. They still have a lot of *inspector raj* going to them, and troubling them. If all this happens, then we will not be able to really give encouragement and development about which the Minister was talking about a little earlier.

There is a mention about a Board. What is the Board? The Board would look into the policy framework, and the Board would look into the problems of this sector. Who are the Members of this Board? This is a very important point. I would like the Minister to look into it. The Chairman of this Board, and all the Secretaries are going to be there. Therefore, I agree that you would need to have co-ordination, but those people have never run an enterprise themselves. They talk about enterprise sitting in their beautiful air-conditioned office, and they do not really know about the woes of these SME. There are also two eminent Members in it. Those eminent Members would be from big industries, and they will not be from SME. I feel that more representation should be given to the SME.

Why are the Members of Parliament not included in it? Why cannot you have the Members of Parliament in this Board? Why is it without the Members of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

You should note it down for sure that the office of Member of Parliament will not be office of profit. You think that it will amount to an office of profit, but there is nothing like this being an office of profit.

[*English*]

Please ensure that at least two Members from the Lok Sabha and two Members from the Rajya Sabha are made members of this Board.

[*Translation*]

This is not the point. Yet you are saying 'yes', now but if you had treated it so, earlier, I would not have said anything. Sir, say 'yes' now.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I will inform you in the reply.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Let me also mention that we had the provision of a Small Industries Development Board of India (SIDBI), and it was very encouraging. They have done a great job, but still this Board, I am sure, would look into many SMEs, which have gone into the red or which have closed-down for various reasons.

Let us also have a person who wants to start a SME. Madam, it is very important that to encourage small and medium enterprises to flourish and to mushroom in this country, we must also have some sort of a single window system where it does not take such a long time to get the land, where it does not take such a long time to get all the NOCs, and you can start an enterprises. To start an enterprise is a big long wait.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam Chairman. I am the first speaker who is speaking on this subject.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are nine speakers and not one.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I am speaking on behalf of BJP. I am not beating about the bush.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You mention only the points.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I am making points only. I am the only speaker.

[English]

What I was saying is that you must have a single window clearance for these small and medium enterprises. You have also put in that the labour laws will be different in these small and medium enterprises than in the bigger industries. What sort of framework are you going to have?

Are you going to have a different policy insofar as these small and medium enterprises are concerned?

May I mention that a country advances not with the small and medium enterprises coming up in very big cities. But it is really in rural areas where they have to be really promoted. If they are promoted in the rural areas, then the nation advances, and that sort of a policy has to be framed. What is the encouragement that you are going to give to the SMEs coming up in the rural areas *vis-à-vis* those coming up in the big cities or in the periphery of big cities. That has to be looked into.

I think, I have said a lot. I congratulate you, Mr. Minister, for taking up this issue of SMEs. I must also say that you must have a Board which comprises not just the Secretaries, but also people who understand this subject. The Secretaries have been doing this work for a long time. They never ran a small and medium enterprises. If you ask them to run an SME, they will say that they never ran one. You should also have Members of Parliament on the Board.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Madam, I rise to support this landmark piece of legislation under the nomenclature of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005 with all its amendments, including insertions and substitutions, and put precisely, without having an iota of reservation. After a lot of dilly-dallying and hibernation, the Government has proposed this Bill. The NDA Government had promised a comprehensive legislation on small and medium sector, but it has not seen the light of the day. As someone said: "It is easy to promise; alas, it is easy to forget!" I think, this is most applicable to the then NDA Government.

The salient feature of the Bill, Madam, is to offer statutory recognition to micro, small and medium enterprises. The small-scale sector in India has been clamouring, over the years, for this recognition, and this Government has offered that recognition.

It has been done in the last two years in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme which stated that the most important and intensive sector of small and medium enterprises has suffered extensively. What was promised by this Government has been translated into action. Therefore, I must appreciate this Government and the hon. Minister also for bringing forward this piece of legislation.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

As we all know, job absorption in the agricultural sector has been on the decline. In the large industrial sector also jobless growth has been registered. So, it is incumbent upon the SME sector to absorb more employment. Therefore, the Tenth Plan has assigned the task of 12 per cent growth for absorbing 4.5 million unemployed people in the country.

You are well aware that we are now moving in a multilateral trade regime. We have to comply with the WTO conditionalities. Liberalisation of Indian economy began in 1991. Since then, the small sector enterprises have been exposed to the global market. India has been striving hard to cope with the vicissitudes of the global markets for long. In that scenario, we have some challenges and opportunities also.

So far as challenges are concerned, we have to bear in mind that these small and medium sector enterprises are facing cut-throat competition in the global arena because of the technological supremacy of the industrialised developed countries, export assistance, managerial skills and other advantages that those countries enjoy. But in terms of opportunities, we can exploit the situation much to the advantage of us. That is because the world market is now accessible to us; modern technologies are available to us and raw material is available to us.

We were apprehensive in the beginning that in the wake of the WTO regime, in the face of global competition and in the age of cutting edge technology, Indian small and medium enterprises will have a difficult time. But the fact is that resilience that is inherent in this sector has been able to weather the storm and now it has started registering growth. But the fact is that if the domestic policies are not conducive to enhance the competitiveness, to facilitate growth, this sector cannot overcome the impediments that it has been facing over the years. This Government has brought in this legislation in that direction. It is a landmark legislation wherein a legal framework has been given to this sector.

In the last Budget also the hon. Finance Minister has proposed the Credit Guarantee Fund which has been raised from Rs. 1133 crore to Rs. 2500 crore. Earlier also the flow of credit to this sector had been doubled from Rs. 67,600 crore to Rs. 13,500 crore. Instructions have already been given to all public sector banks for 20 per cent year-to-year credit growth to this sector.

As we all know, this sector has been suffering over the years from credit constraints because banks are reluctant to give credit to the sector. They are doing so on the pretext that this sector would not be able to repay the loan, given their constraints, given their lack of managerial skills and other potentials. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to coordinate with the concerned Ministries in relation to this sector so that a holistic measure could be taken up for the development of this sector. This sector has been contributing 16 per cent to our GDP; 40 per cent of our industrial production has been coming from this sector.

One of the salient features of this Bill is that the Government is going to set up a Board. An hon. Member was taking exception to the constitution of the Board that it is not representing the concerned sector. Here, I would like to remind that if 10 per cent of associations are representing the small and medium enterprises, at least three of whom shall be the representative of the associations of women's enterprises, who are to be appointed by the Central Government. So, a gender equality has also been introduced in this Bill. This Bill is going to create an equitable regime for those small and medium enterprises who have been suffering over the years and who have been the victim of neglect and apathy. Now, they are deriving the statutory recognition.

Madam, I know the time constraints. If we see the world scenario, we would find that the developed economies like USA and Japan, where substantial support is being given to this sector in terms of finance, technology, marketing and export facilities. You would be astonished to note that in Japan, out of 6.54 million units, 6.48 million units are from SME sector, which is representing 99.1 per cent. 51.8 per cent of total exports of Japan emerge from SME sector.

This Government has proposed earlier for the cluster development of this sector. In India, we are enjoying the natural development so far as cluster enterprises are concerned. If we see the Indian scenario, 350 clusters have been developed naturally. For that, 2,000 clusters are being placed in rural areas also. I would like to request both the Government and the hon. Minister to set up a Cluster Management Board because in pursuance of Abid Hussain Committee Report or Ganguly Committee Report, special emphasis has been laid on cluster development.

Italy is an example of cluster development, where 32 per cent of the population is living in cluster. In Italy,

cluster development is called bearing axle of Italian turnover. I would request the Government to spread the cluster development culture in other parts of the country also because most of the cluster development initiatives have been taking place in the western parts of our country.

Madam, I know that there is a paucity of time. I am so happy that I have been able to participate in this discussion. Small is always beautiful; small and medium enterprises will strengthen our economy and small always inherits potentiality. Our Minister is also small; and he is also beautiful.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Madam, Chairperson, at the very outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister concerned for taking the pain of formulating, I believe, a very important Bill for the growth of the nation.

Small and medium enterprises basically are the engine of our national growth. From that aspect, a very specific and comprehensive approach should have been there, which was lacking for a long time. I believe, this Bill would more or less give that scope to develop our small industries, medium industries and in particular, micro industries.

We all know that other than agriculture, this is the second largest employment generating sector which has a contribution of roughly 45 per cent through our gross industrial production, and probably we have roughly 35 per cent of our exports in this sector. So, from all these aspects, undoubtedly it is a major path breaking initiative by the Government to really take up the troubles of small and medium industries as such.

One of the major troubles which particularly our small industries are facing is this. In the era of globalisation and WTO, all sorts of troubles are there. The duty free regime is also there, whereby the SSI sectors are under serious threat. From that aspect also, to save the nation, to save the small industries and to develop employment in the small industries sector, I believe, this Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill is to go a long way. Obviously, I do support the Bill proposed by the hon. Minister.

One of the very important components in the Bill, believe, is the introduction of micro enterprises, which has been well defined. Now, all the micro, small and

medium industries have been defined categorically. Legally, they are bound, particularly, in the micro industries which are having plants and machinery etc., with less than Rs. 25 lakh. This micro sector is having more potentiality for employment also. A comprehensive and holistic approach covering the micro industries and the medium industry is the essence of the Bill.

Then, the concept of the Board has been categorically placed in the Bill. I believe, that also is a very good step. Similarly, the representation in the Board also has been thoughtfully made. The owner representation is adequate. The representation from the micro industries is also there. I would propose that this should be further increased. The trade unions have the representation in this Board, which is said to be two. I would propose that it should be made four or five. Then, I would propose that the representation in the Board from the trade unions and micro industries should be enhanced. Other than the central level, the Board at the State level is also very important. I would propose that arrangements should be made in such a way that there is a coordination from the district level, which may be in the form of a district level committee or council. But district level coordination is also a must. It is because a number of organisations and departments are there under different Ministries, which are coordinating micro industries or small industries. Though the major chunk is with the small industries departments but in other departments like Food Processing Department, there are different micro industries. So, to give a total comprehensive approach district wise, I believe, district level committees or council is a must. They can act as facilitators by providing approach. They can move that way.

I have experienced such a co-ordination in one of the districts, which has resulted every good. So, a number of new organisations are coming, and in one sense those are being co-ordinated correctly. Some sort of single-window approach can also be made. So, I would request that the hon. Minister should think of whether such co-ordination can be made at the district levels.

Madam, in the small and medium industries, we basically lack three to four components. One is the motivation and interest. Most of our people want to be employee rather than to be entrepreneur. Second is the question of finance, which I would come to it later on. Third is the question of technology development, technology upgradation of the product, as to how it can be done best. Fourth is the question of market, which

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

also is very tedious job. Marketing for small industries is relatively very tedious job. Well, the single window approach must be made for small, medium and micro industries. One of my friends has already said that it takes a lot of time, and thereby there is an interest lost or lack of interest by the entrepreneur. So, I would request that the technology upgradation particularly in the micro industries should be given attention to.

In the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, there was a discussion that a lot of new approaches, innovations or technology upgradation is being taken up in different organisations of the country. But they are not getting disseminated to the actual beneficiaries. The Department of Science and Technology is having an organisation in the name of TIFACT. It is very good. Their main mandate is to technologically upgrade the small industries. So, this technology upgradation for small industries can be taken up and tackled by involving, may be TIFACT and other organisations. In this regard to have some institute-industry partnership approach in the small industries, we should think as to how from the Centre and the leadership we could take it up. That would be my suggestion.

Similarly, the question of marketing is very important. I would wonder while the question of marketing is very important, everyday we are de-reserving. A number of items have been de-reserved. De-reserving and expansion of market for small industries or micro industries cannot go in the same tune. So, what is the Government's thinking on this? The customs duty on items is decreasing day by day and the excise duty on items is getting increased day by day, and thereby probably, we are disturbing the market approach or disturbing the better advantage of market. That is why, I would request that for marketing particularly, arrangement approach should be specified. Maybe at the district level or the State level, it should done.

Issue of payment to SMEs has been clarified, which is a very welcome development.

Now, comes the question of finance. All of us know that lots of guidelines are there. We know the credit policy of Government is there; we know the guidelines of the Reserve Bank are there, which is being issued from time to time. But whether the fruits really reach the beneficiary is the question. Probably 'no'. I would give one reference. All of us know that the prime lending rate

is fixed. That is there. But whenever a big industry is interested to take a loan of say Rs. 10 crore or Rs. 50 crore or Rs. 200 crore, negotiation is there whereby this rate of interest is getting lowered. So, the big industries by way of taking big money are getting the advantage of low interest rate whereas the micro industries which would be taking a loan of Rs. 5 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh or 15 lakh, are not getting that advantage. With the result, the small industries are to give more rate of interest than that is being given by the big industries, which is very ambiguous in the whole situation. It is very ambiguous in the whole situation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: I will take a minute more.

So, that should be taken very categorically. I have some specific suggestions. Maybe for the micro industries at least—it is not applicable to the medium industries, right at the present moment—I have two specific suggestions. One is that the concession in the rate of interest must be available to micro industries. Some guidelines are there which are not being accepted by the banks. Secondly, a moratorium period should be there for repayment of loans. Further the working capital loan is available for synchronization of the product; and to reach out to the market, which is the ultimate aim, it takes about 6-8 months or a year; and this period should be kept as a period of moratorium for repayment.

If these two points are considered and kept in mind by the Ministry, I believe that it will go a long way.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already taken 11 minutes.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: I will conclude by saying that taking up a policy or having a Bill is very important, but more important is the will to look into it and enforce the system of law, on the banks. That is very important. Cluster approach is there very rightly; the home industries are there very rightly; self-help groups are there very rightly; micro industries are there, there is no doubt; but the question of enforcement is very important. For that purpose, inter-Ministerial coordination on finance must be there, of small industries like food processing, and they should be reviewed, to move further in the right direction.

With these words, I support the Bill and I thank the hon. Minister and his team. I hope that this Bill will lead the country forward.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity you have given to me to speak on the small and medium enterprises development Bill 2005. I would thank Hon'ble Minister especially that he has moved this Bill in this House for providing employment to the increasing number of unemployed people. It will be an example in itself.

Madam Chairman, the Bill has been named as Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill whereas it should have been named as Small and Smallest Enterprises Development Bill. Well, our intention should be clear. As far as the increasing unemployment in the country is concerned, I would like the small enterprises should be accorded priority and importance. At this time, there were about 1.14 crore units in the country which are providing employment to 2.7 crore people. If you see, there are more than 90 percent small and medium enterprises which are sought to be given financial aid. This is a commendable job.

Madam Chairman, a Board through this Bill is proposed to be set up wherein no representation has been given to Entrepreneurs organizations. It has 70 Members in it but only 10 Members have been given representation in it. After this, 19 bureaucrats are proposed to be appointed as head. My request is to give representation to these entrepreneurs organizations so that the Government may get their cooperation. My another suggestion is that the meetings of the Board should be held regularly on time so that the lacunae coming into light may be rectified. As far as investment in small enterprises is concerned, it has been increased from one crore to five crore rupees whereas for medium enterprises it have been increased from five crore to ten crore rupees. I would like to thank Hon'ble Minister for this praiseworthy step.

It seeks to constitute Advisory Committees. But I believe that if no representation is given to the representatives from the field of industry, I think there will be no justification of having Advisory Committee. So, would like to make a suggestion that there should be representation from industry sector in it. You must have seen that there is a report of RBI. According to it, 1.4 lakh sick units are sought to be revived. Our President has also refused to lay special stress on it. Workers of 100 lakh units out of 120 lakh small industrial units are unregistered today and 280 lakh workers should be given

the same facilities as available to the workers of organized sector. Then only the importance of this Bill can be realized.

It has been mentioned here that a development pool for 600 districts be set up. Especially Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Industry can do this together for 600 poor districts in the entire country—which are small and facing excessive famine, it should be set up and then only the Bill will be meaningful.

Likewise, you have provided for loan arrangement at the rate of 12 percent interest for small scale industry. But this arrangement has been made only after full repayment on the other side, for the large scale industries, you have made provision to grant it on the interest rate of 6 to 8 percent whereas they are able to mobilize the capital easily. This should also be paid special attention. Otherwise the object of this Bill will not be fulfilled.

If you look at the national level. Today there has been 30 to 40 percent less production by the industries in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab. On the other side, at least 500 industries from Maharashtra and 300 industries from Gujarat have migrated excise duty free zone to i.e. Himachal or Uttaranchal. This should also be given special attention as to which States should be granted the status of excise free zone so that our entrepreneurs may be encouraged to set up enterprises there.

Madam, the condition of Madhya Pradesh is pathetic. Local tax is 9.2% there whereas, it is only four percent in other States. That's why we should take into consideration the condition of the States as to what are the geographical conditions of them and infrastructure available there. This needs special attention especially when we have to compete with multinational companies. So we have to pay special attention to this.

I forgot to mention one thing. If you constitute board and committee at district level on the lines of those at State level, I think it will be quite effective. With these words, I conclude my speech supporting this Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon'ble Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister for bringing Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005. It was a matter of concern for long as to how to develop the

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

small and medium scale industries which are being closed gradually. As a result of that, crores of people have been rendered jobless and poverty is on the rise. The hon'ble Minister has taken a concrete step in this regard. I express my gratitude to him and support this bill.

15.00 hrs.

Mahatma Gandhi had visualized after Independence that small and cottage industries should be set up at village and district level so as to alleviate poverty and strengthen the economy of the country. He was of the view that unemployment and poverty could not be mitigated until small scale industries are promoted. Realizing his dream, small and cottage industries were set up in the country but gradually these industries turned sick due to several reasons. Lack of capital, failure of the Government to provide them loans, lack of raw material, insufficient number of employees and labourers etc. were the reasons which affected small and medium scale industries and despite continuous efforts of the Government we could not succeed in preventing their closure. Today 1.4 lakh industries have been closed due to which 2.71 crore people have been rendered jobless. The hon'ble Minister has made a good effort. This is a commendable step on the part of the Government. The hon'ble President had also stated that in order to strengthen the economy of the country and to alleviate poverty and unemployment, attention should be paid towards the small and medium scale industries and these should be revived by providing all necessary assistance. The Government has associated itself with the concern of the hon. President and a very commendable step has been taken by bringing forth this Bill. A board has been set up in which people will get the opportunity to work. Globalization has opened trade routes across the world. India has also opened its market for international trade. Under the new law enacted in our country and in other parts of the world, several goods are now being imported in our country which were earlier restricted. Population of our country is more than one hundred crore. There is a big market of Chinese and Japanese goods in our country. The Member prior to me has rightly stated that China's population is almost equal to ours. China's economy was in a bad shape earlier but now the situation has improved considerably through small and medium scale enterprises. Today they have achieved so much development that they are no less than other countries. The situation is same in case of Japan as well. Once Japan was destroyed completely but now it is being considered as

a leading developed country. Today there is a need to arrange all the facilities at the market place.

Today our industries are suffering because the goods produce therein are unable to compete with the imported goods in the market. Our cost input is more but despite that, quality goods are not being manufactured. On the other hand, imported goods are available at cheaper rates and people are purchasing them. Therefore, the Government is expected to pay special attention to providing employment and reviving industrial sector, which is being affected due to globalization. The revival of more and more sick industries will definitely meet the requirement of the people.

Madam, it will generate employment for the people and the economy will improve to a great extent. It is good that through this Bill the hon'ble Minister has decided to provide several facilities to the entrepreneurs under one umbrella. I would like to say that the inspector raj system has always been harassing the entrepreneurs. However, no respite has been given to the entrepreneurs in this regard. I request the hon'ble Minister to enact such a law by which they could get rid of this inspector raj. It has been observed that generally inspectors belonging to any department harass the entrepreneurs in some way or the other. Therefore, I request that the inspector raj should be abolished.

Madam, while expressing their views on this Bill, the hon'ble Members have given some useful suggestions. I request the Government to pay attention to them. Today entrepreneurs are very depressed and desperate as a large number of industries have been closed. Closure of industries has led to unemployment. I hail from Patna Parliamentary Constituency where two industrial areas were developed by the Government to set up small and medium scale industries. Initially, a number of small and medium scale industries were set up there but now all have been closed. Through you, I request the hon'ble Minister to pay special attention to the areas where such industries have been closed. Arrangements should be made for the revival of these industries so that people could get employment.

Madam, our colleague Shri Shailendra ji and some other hon'ble Members have suggested to constitute district committees and to enrol the local representatives and Members of Parliament along with the entrepreneurs as their members. I request the Government to pay attention to it and alongwith entrepreneurs, people's

representatives should also be enrolled as members of these committees.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, now please wind up your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that district committees should also be constituted alongwith the national committee and besides entrepreneurs, people's representatives should also be enrolled as their members so that appropriate suggestions could be received as local representatives are more aware of their problem.

Madam, Chairman, through you I congratulate the hon'ble Minister for presenting the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005 and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Supporting this Bill, I hope that the passage of this Bill will promote small and medium scale industries all over the world. People will get employment and the country will move ahead on the path of progress.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Madam Chairperson. It is in the fitness of things that you are chairing the House as you represent a constituency where a large number of small and tiny industries are there.

The small scale sector spent the year 2004 waiting with bated breath for a comprehensive Bill for the sector which was promised by the then NDA Government. The draft Bill was prepared with the assistance from the Administrative Staff College of India but the UPA Government found it inadequate. Now we find a skewed Bill. The basic issue, in this context, relates to the vision of the Government for such a vital sub-sector of the economy. The Preamble of the Bill focuses on the growth and competitiveness. I would first want to know from the Government whether we have entered a stage of pre-conditions for such policy shift. I need a clear answer. There is general approval today of the Bill in this House. However, certain States and industry associations have sought elaboration of the provisions of the Bill, particularly on the enabling clauses for promotion, development and enhancement of competitiveness of the tiny, small and medium enterprises.

Tiny, small and medium enterprises sector, as you have also mentioned, is the engine of social change and

economic development. But the Bill has been tweaked. The Bill that was prepared went to the Standing Committee, did not come as it is. It should not be so. But the manner in which the idea that was floated has been blatant. The Small Scale Industries will be treated as the Small and Medium Enterprises sector and this has been done in keeping with the universal trend. The SMEs be enabled to access credit under the priority sector lending. So far so good.

Madam, the small and the medium industries suffer from two-pronged problem. One is the inspector *ra* and the other is the labour law. The Government has decided to de-reserve 180 items including organic chemicals, auto part components and auto ancillaries amongst others. These were reserved for exclusive manufacturing by the small scale sector. Besides, the Government has also decided to treat the small scale enterprise in the service sector at par with the small scale enterprise in the manufacturing sector. This is going to create a lot of bad blood in the industrial climate. The hon. Finance Minister had emphasised the need to focus on cluster development in the small scale sector in his Budget speech. The hon. Prime Minister had constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers to lay down the policy for cluster development and oversee their implementation. It has decided to raise a *corpus* of the Credit Guarantee Fund from the present level of Rs. 1132 crore to Rs. 2500 crore over the next five years. What has happened in this regard?

The State Financial Corporations also need support because they were the engines through which a number of small scale industries had grown within the last 30 to 35 years. But I think, the hon. Minister has to look into that aspect. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill should cut down the ambiguities from over 60 Central, State and local laws. That ambiguity has not been done away with. If a person sets up an industry, there are so many laws—the local laws, the State and the Central laws and that also sends a number of inspectors to check. A survey was conducted on the success and failure factors of small and medium enterprises by A C Nielson Org Marg by CCI and SBI and it has re-affirmed that the sector needs easing of institutional rigidities more than hand-holding and all that the Government should do is to facilitate the industry in facing market dynamics.

SMEs find regulation factors the most important. Reservation is not the issue here. Over 52 per cent are not affected by de-reservation related to policies. As per

[Shri B. Mahtab]

the third SSI census, 83 per cent units produce non-reserved products and compete in the open market anyway. Instead, they need simplified laws. I hope, the hon. Minister will agree with me that there is a need to simplify the law. My question, therefore, is that whether this Bill is going to cut down the ambiguities over 60 Central, State and local laws? It is said that this Bill is an important initiative to relieve the tiny SME sector of the multiple inspection regime. What steps have been taken to move towards self-certification and self-regulation? What attempt has been made to gradually replace inspection with a checklist of do's and don'ts to be monitored by a single inspector?

How simple has it become to exit? Has the exit mechanism been simplified? What has happened? From the point of view of India's commitments at the international level to open up its market, the European Union and the United States of America have unleashed a subsidy for the Small and Medium Enterprises under the cover of Innovation Fund. Why can't we have such a fund? Its time you draw lessons from elsewhere, from the north, beyond the Himalayas. At least draw some lessons from that place. From the angle of growth cum-trade strategy as also for stepping up employment opportunities at home. An SEM Innovation Fund may be set up, as I said, by restructuring several of our *yojanas* with a corpus of at least Rs. 500 crore to begin with. This should be administered by Small Industries of India.

While concluding, I would say that in the last two years, the UPA Government has brought in several measures relating to Small and Medium Enterprises. However, the speed, direction and coverage of reforms are more crucial than reforms *per se*.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Madam, I support the Bill undoubtedly. But I must say one thing. The hon. Minister may kindly take note of it. That is, the Bill is infructuous. But I thank him because he has accepted most of the amendments that we suggested to him. He had agreed to delete the anti-worker provisions that the NDA Government had formulated. Therefore, that is the second reason for me to support him.

Why do I call the Bill infructuous? It is because the Government is following the policy of reckless liberalisation, throwing the small and medium scale units before the hungry wolves of the multi-nationals, with unequal competition. Most of the small scale units and medium scale units do not have modern and updated

technology. Please see the liberalisation process and the way in which the small and medium scale industries are being de-reserved. In the last Budget the hon. Finance Minister has de-reserved 180 types of production from the reservation.

Therefore, on the one hand you do not give them the protection, you throw them into unequal competition; you do not give them low cost capital support from the banks; you do not give them marketing facilities; you do not arrange proper R&D facilities. On the other hand, you believe that this Bill is going to usher in a new era in the development of small and medium scale industries in the country. This is a story which I am unable to believe.

[Translation]

He mentioned that by introducing this Bill, a new world is being created in the country, it will bring new life to the people of the country. However, we do not agree with it. He is not ready to take the requisite steps for small and medium scale industries.

[English]

This Bill is more playing to the gallery than helping the entrepreneurs. This Bill has been initiated by the Government in order to create an impression that they are for all-out support to the small and medium scale industries. This will remain a paper if the law you are passing, we are passing today, is not accompanied by lavish low-cost capital grant from the nationalized banking system of the country. It is very difficult. Hon. Minister may kindly visit any branch of a nationalized bank and find out how the applications for small advance are being rudely delayed by the management. You may kindly look into the aspect.

That day, I had been in Punjab. Punjab was a paradise of small-scale industry. Today, it is a graveyard. Most of the small-scale units are closed. How do you propose to help them? How do you propose to restructure them? How do you propose to help them not by passing the Bill and declaring your pious desire and wish but how do you go to assist them? On the one hand, the Government is indulging in de-reservation, on the other hand, the Government is regularly practising the policy of liberalization in the name of competitiveness. Will a small unit having a capital of Rs. 1 crore compete with a multi-national having a capital of Rs. 1,000 crore? Is it possible?

Is it possible for a small unit having a capital of Rs. 50 lakh to compete with the most advanced technology of a foreign transnational company? There is no provision in this Bill, at least. There has been no reference to it in your speech how you are going to help them to upgrade the technology, and how you are going to help them in their marketing facilities.

India lives on small-scale industries. Eighty per cent of the employment is in small and medium-scale industries. It is labour intensive, but it is a backdated, it is a backward technology that prevails. How is that going to be helped? Government has made an allocation of Rs. 2,500 crore. It is not only very small, you make yourself small by making such a small allocation. Not only the amount is small, the Government makes it so small by making such a small allocation. Your dream is excellent, your perspective is unparalleled, but your action is infructuous. I do not accept that this Bill is going to bring about a change, a rapid and qualitative change, in the growth and development of the small-scale industry. I do not believe it because your policy is contradictory. It is absolutely contradictory. On the one hand, there is liberalization, de-reservation and competitiveness; on the other hand, to believe that the small-scale industry will thrive in the country, I do not believe it. It is contradictory. But I do not stand in your way. I do not like to be dubbed as those who want to obstruct in the work of the Government. I do not like to be dubbed like that. Therefore, I support the Bill. I wish you all the best. I know fully well that you are not going to succeed. I know fully well there is infructuous Bill. But I support the Bill because with honesty, we have raised it but honesty does not lead to performance. Performance can only be guaranteed if there is a will, if there is a political will, if there is an economic will, and if there is an administrative will. It is all missing in the Bill that you have presented.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Prabhu. Please conclude within 4-5 minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): I have not yet risen to speak so how can I conclude.

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Time is very short.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, time is short, but I also have to speak. Give me as much time as Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta got.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your member was absent at your turn.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Whenever I stand up, you say do not. ...(*Interruptions*) This is not fair.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your Member was absent at that time when your turn was there. Now, I will give you five minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, I am thankful to hon. Minister for having introduced this Bill. We have observed that either very small or very big companies are there in our country. These companies, irrespective of their size, face similar problems in obtaining telephone connection, acquiring land or licence. Though large corporates can afford to spend money but smaller ones find it very difficult to dole out funds. Small and large sized enterprises were included in the Bill, whereas, medium size companies were left out. Now, the hon. Minister has taken up these companies also for discussion, so I must thank him. The Bill contains substantial provisions with objective clause. but, we do not find reflection of objective clause on substantial provisions. As hon. Minister has stated that there should be one regulating body for small and medium enterprises, I would like to ask hon. Minister as to how it would be possible? Excise laws and Income Tax laws apply to small sector enterprises. The hon. Minister should made it clear as to under which Act what kind of regulatory body would regulate it. A single window clearance is expected to overcome the problem faced by this sector. People say that though window is one but it has several doors, so the problem remains as it is. This aspect should also be discussed.

15.27 hrs

[*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair*]

Secondly, service-sector has been taken up in definition clause. Service sector contributes to 52 per cent to our economy and manufacturing sector only 27 per cent.

[*English*]

52 per cent of our GDP comes from the services.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

[Translation]

There is a need to deliberate upon the role of SMEs in service sector in detail. The provision of a Board under clause 9 seems to be the soul of the Bill, as it would work as measure of promotion and development. Clause 9 states that the Members of said Board shall be appointed from amongst Government officers, Ministers, Chairman of SIDBI or persons appointed by the Central Government. If the Government is serious about removal of difficulties faced by SMEs sector, then people from said sector should be given representations in the Board, to be constituted for the said sector, as the representation of the Government can be ensured through setting up of some committees. There is no need to enact newer laws for this purpose. It would be futile if we create it on the lines of Group of Ministers, Group of Secretaries or Committee of Secretaries. If we intend to make it useful, we will have to ensure maximum representation to the people from small and medium size enterprises. Unfortunately, no such provision has been made. Our small and medium enterprises contribute more than the large industries with regard to employment generation, export and of course the economy. But, from policy perspective, the Government have not given them the desired level of representation. The bodies like FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM represent the interests of large corporates more, whereas, there is a need to give representation to small scale industries so that every body can express his views to the Government. There is a provision of council under clause 9, the soul of said Bill, but if the representation of small sector is not there. We will not be able to get maximum benefit.

The issue of services has been taken up in Schedule to Industrial Development Regulation Act. I have earlier said that

[English]

52 percent of our GDP comes from the services.

[Translation]

The new kind of service sector such as Information Technology was not even known some 10-12 years back, whereas, now very large size IT companies have come up. Courier and hospitality, too, is under service sector which needs to be given representation. These services have maximum employment potential. Regarding BPO if someone had said that it would become a big business one day, nobody would have believed it.

Another law was framed for instant payment, *i.e.* Immediate payment to small enterprises. I would like the hon. Minister not today but some other day, to apprise us of the number of small enterprises which have been benefited under the said Act. So far, we have categorized industries on the basis of investment in plant and machinery. Small industries need very less investment on plant and machinery, then come medium industries and industries requiring large investment on plant and machineries termed as large industries. My submission is that the categorization should not be restricted to plant and machinery only. There are certain sectors, which need very less investment or may be more, but they need to invest in having the building constructed. I would like this unique feature of service sector also to be taken into consideration.

So far as chapter 6, Delayed Payment to small enterprises is concerned, I would like to say that the said provision is not a new one, earlier too, it was in existence, still new law has been framed. Large number of companies, such as small scale industries do not need marketing or accounts department, and inspection. But, when officials come for inspection, they desire these companies to have such departments, whereas, the government have been repeatedly talking that it would do away with 'inspector raj'. But we are yet to get rid of 'inspector-raj'. I would like the hon. Minister to tell what provision have been made in the law in the regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please conclude your speech within two minutes.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has introduced Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Bill.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Do you want to recite a poem on this subject or have some concrete suggestions.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I rise to support this Bill. I am certainly supporting this bill but we want a report in this regard within six months as how small scale industries can be strengthened. In our country eighty percent employment is generated in small and medium scale industries. Since the matter of WTO is being discussed only in Ludhiana, more than fifty per cent industries have been closed. This bill will certainly strengthen the small scale industries. My suggestion is that if we want to strengthen small scale industries then

interest rate of 2 or 3 percent should be charged on the bank loans. Electricity rates are also required to be reduced. Such industries are required to be supported by the Union Government. If UPA Government wants to strengthen small-scale industries to provide jobs to unemployed, then, SCs, STs and OBCs should be given more representation in the Consultant Commission expected to be formed. Consultant Committee are required to be strengthened.

I, without taking more time, support this Bill. In our country 8-9 crore people are unemployed and UPA Government is taking steps to provide employment to them. Hence, I support this Bill. Jai Bheem, Jai Bharat.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all our hon'ble and learned members have expressed their opinion on this important Bill. Hon. Members have given their suggestions for improvement and upgradation of micro, small and medium scale industries and also suggested ways to remove shortcoming in it.

Hon'ble Vijendra Singh ji has given his suggestion in respect of Board. My submission is that you again go through this Bill. In respect of including Hon'ble Members I have said that two members from Lok Sabha and one Member from Rajya Sabha shall be included in the board. It is the set practice and the board will get empowered by this. The shortcomings in this sector or suggestions there is provision to undertake reforms under the purview of Board. As such he has given examples of WTO, Japan, China etc. We have noted down all those suggestions.

Shri Adhir Choudhary has also given suggestions. His suggestions were good. After him Sujana Chakraborty, who has attended our meetings several times, has just now left the House. I have also noted his suggestions. Suggestion of Shri Shailendra Kumar was also good. He has given in writing that we are going to constitute Board on the national level. We are going to constitute Advisory Committee and Industry Facilitation Council. We will consider his demand and we want to move forward with the trio—small scale, micro and tiny industries in the globalization era for such coordination even at the State level.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will fulfil the commitment made by our UPA Government and execute the scheduled programmes which constitute the part of National Common Minimum Programme. The suggestions offered by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav are also good and I have noted down

the same. A very good suggestion has been given by Shri B. Mahatab. He has mentioned about "Inspector Raj". I would like to inform him that the very purpose of constituting Board or Council is to remove anomalies.

The most important thing has been told by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. At this time he is not present. On the one hand they say that they support and on the other hand they say that the bill is useless. It is beyond my understanding. I have met him about 20 times. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is also aware of the fact I have talked with him.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, no running commentary please. Please do not waste the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, hon'ble Member is our old colleague. I know him since 1980 but on one hand he supports this bill and on the other he says that it is useless. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Mahavir Prasad.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I strongly assert that this bill bring a turnaround on the micro, small scale and medium industries and enable them to cope up with the challenge of competitiveness in the era of globalisation. It will serve as a foundation for our preparedness to compete with China and Japan. Our country has strong will-power and by doing it we are heading forward. Hon'ble Suresh Prabhu has also said a good thing. He has earlier been a Minister. I would like to bring it to his notice and assure him that we are in favour of big industries yet the share of our small scale industries stands at 39 percent and which is responsible for an export to the tune of 39 percent. Of late, a seminar and exhibition was held in Germany and was attended by our Prime Minister. The 65 percent representatives attending the seminar and exhibition were small entrepreneurs and from small scale industries. Similarly, I have also noted down what Shri Athawaleji has said. Considering all the points raised by the hon'ble Members on these issues, we are going to

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mahabir Prasad]

take a historical step through this bill. In the industrial era we will promote micro, small scale and medium scale industries with the help of new technology and provide livelihood and employment to the poor, the downtrodden and the unemployed ones. Once again, I would like to urge the hon'ble Members to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 2

Definitions

Amendment Made:

- Page 2, line 5, *for "thirty", substitute "fifteen".* (5)
- Page 2, line 12, *for "thirty", substitute "fifteen".* (6)
- Page 2, line 16, *for "thirty", substitute "fifteen".* (7)
- Page 2, line 19, *for "National Small and Medium Enterprises Board", substitute "National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises".* (8)
- Page 2, line 27, *omit "in relation thereto".* (9)
- Page 2, *for lines 30 and 31, substitute—*
- '(g) "medium enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-

clause (iii) of clause (a) or sub-clause (iii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of. (10)

Page 2, *after line 32, insert—*

'(ga) "micro enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-clause (i) of clause (a) or sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 7;'. (11)

Page 2, *for lines 40 and 41, substitute '(1) "small enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) or sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of'. (12)*

Page 2, line 43, *for 'small enterprise', substitute 'micro or small enterprise'. (13)*

Page 2, line 44, *omit "clause (a) of". (14)*

Page 3, *after line 3, insert—*

"(iia) any company, co-operative society, trust or a body, by whatever name called, registered or constituted under any law for the time being in force and engaged in selling goods produced by micro or small enterprises and rendering services which are provided by such enterprises;". (15)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 3

Amendment made:

- Page 3, *for line 13, substitute "National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises". (16)*

Page 3, line 17, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (17)

Page 3, lines 20 and 21, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (18)

Page 3, line 24, *for* "five", *substitute* "six". (19)

Page 3, line 25, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (20)

Page 3, *after* line 27, *insert*—

"(ca) three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States;" (21)

Page 3, lines 31 and 32, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (22)

Page 3, *for* lines 42 to 46, *substitute*—

"(k) twenty persons to represent the associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, including not less than three persons representing associations of women's enterprises and not less than three persons representing associations of micro enterprises, to be appointed by the Central Government.

(l) three persons of eminence, one each from the fields of economics, industry and science and technology, not less than one of whom shall be a woman, to be appointed by the Central Government; and". (23)

Page 4, *for* line 1, *substitute*—

"(m) two representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, to be appointed by the Central Government; and

(n) one officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India", (24)

Page 4, line 3, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (25)

Page 4, lines 22 and 23, *for* "may, for not more than", *substitute* "shall, for not less than". (26)

Page 4, line 25, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (27)

Page 4, line 26, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (28)

Page 4, *after* line 27, *insert*—

"(8a) It is hereby declared that the office of member of the Board shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a member of either House of Parliament." (29)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

[*Translation*]

Clause 5

Functions of Board

Amendment made:

Page 4, lines 43 and 44, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (30)

Page 5, line 4, *for* "small and medium", *substitute* "micro, small and medium". (31)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

[Translation]

Clause 7

Classification of enterprises

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 14, *for* "by order, notified", *substitute* "by notification". (32)

Page 5, *for* lines 21 to 23, *substitute*—

"(i) a micro enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed twenty-five lakh rupees;

(ii) a small enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery is more than twenty-five lakh rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees; or

(iii) a medium enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery is". (33)

Page 5, lines 26 and 27, *omit* "in relation to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951". (34)

Page 5, *for* lines 28 to 30, *substitute*—

"(i) a micro enterprise, where the investment in equipment does not exceed ten lakh rupees;

(ii) a small enterprise, where the investment in equipment is more than ten lakh rupees but does not exceed two crore rupees; or

(iii) a medium enterprise, where the investment in equipment is more than". (35)

Page 5, *for* lines 32 to 42, *substitute*—

"*Explanation 1.*—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that in calculating the investment in plant and machinery, the cost of pollution control, research and development, industrial safety

devices and such other items as may be specified, by notification, shall be excluded. (36)

Explanation 2.—It is clarified that the provisions of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, shall be applicable to the enterprises specified in sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of this section.

(2) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute an Advisory Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the small and medium enterprises who shall be the Chairperson, *ex officio*;

(b) not more than five officers of the Central Government possessing necessary expertise in matters relating to micro, small and medium enterprises, members, *ex officio*;

(c) not more than three representatives of the State Governments, members, *ex officio*; and

(d) one representative each of the associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, members, *ex officio*."

Page 5, *after* line 46, *insert*—

"(4a) The Advisory Committee shall examine the matters referred to it by the Board in connection with any subject referred to in section 5 and furnish its recommendations to the Board.

(4b) The Central Government may seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 14 of Chapter IV.

(4c) The State Government may seek advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in the rules made under section 31." (37)

Page 6, *for*, line 2, *substitute—*

"its recommendations or advice to the Central Government or, as the case may be, State Government or the Board, namely:—"
(38)

Page 6, lines 4 and 5, *omit* "land and building,"
(39)

Page 6, lines 9 and 10, *for* "small or medium",
substitute "micro, small or medium". (40)

Page 6, *omit* lines 12 and 13. (41)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[*Translation*]

Clause 8

Memorandum of small and medium enterprises

Amendment made:

Page 6, *for* lines 21 to 37, *substitute—*

"8. (1) Any person who intends to establish,—

(a) a micro or small enterprise, may at his discretion, or

(b) a medium enterprise engaged in providing or rendering of services may, at his discretion; or

(c) a medium enterprise engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, shall, file the memorandum of micro, small or, as the case may be, of medium

enterprise with such authority as may be specified by the State Government under sub-section (4) or the Central Government under sub-section (3):

Provided that any person who, before the commencement of this Act, established—

(a) a small scale industry and obtained a registration certificate, may, at his discretion; and

(b) an industry engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, having investment in plant and machinery of more than one crore rupees but not exceeding ten crore rupees and, in pursuance of the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development) number S.O. 477(E), dated the 25th July, 1991, filed an Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum shall, within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of this Act, file the memorandum, in accordance with the provisions of this Act." (42)

Page 6, line 44, *for* "small enterprise", *substitute* "micro or small enterprise". (43)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[*Translation*]

Clause 9

Measures for promotion and development

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 7, *for* "small enterprises", *substitute* "micro, small". (44)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Page 7, line 8, *for* "former", *substitute* "micro and small enterprises". (45)

Page 7, line 9, *for* "provisioning for", *substitute* "provisioning for technological upgradation". (46)

Page 7, omit lines 13 to 18 (47)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 10

Credit facilities

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 19, *for* "The credit facilities to the small", *substitute* "The policies and practices in respect of credit to the micro, small". (48)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 11

Procurement preference policy

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 23, *for* "small enterprises", *substitute* "micro and small enterprises". (49)

Page 7, line 25, *for* "small", *substitute* "micro and small". (50)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 to 14 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was negatived.

[Translation]

Clause 17

Liability of buyer to make payment

Amendment made:

Page 8, line 13, *for* "seventy-five", *substitute* "forty-five". (51)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 18

Date from which had rate at which interest payable

Amendment made:

- Page 8, line 18, for "interest", substitute "compound interest with monthly rests". (52)
- Page 8, line 19, for "nine per cent. plus", substitute "three times of". (53)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 19

Recovery of amount due

Amendment made:

- Page 8, for lines 21 to 23, substitute—
- "19. *Recovery of amount due.* For any goods supplied or services rendered by the supplier, the buyer shall be liable to pay the amount with interest thereon as provided under section 18". (54)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 20

Reference to industry facilitation council

Page 8, for lines 24 to 28, substitute—

"20. *Reference to Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.* (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, any party to a dispute may, with regard to any amount due under section 19, make a reference to the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.

(2) On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the Council shall either itself conduct conciliation in the matter or seek the assistance of any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services by making a reference to such an institution or centre, for conducting conciliation and provisions of section 65 to 81 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 shall apply to such a dispute as if the conciliation was initiated under Part III of the Act.

(3) Where the conciliation initiated under sub-section (2) is not successful and stands terminated without any settlement between the parties, the parties, the Council shall either itself take up the dispute for arbitration or refer it to any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services for such arbitration and the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, shall then apply to the dispute as if the arbitration was in pursuance of an arbitration agreement referred to in sub-section (1) of section 7 of that Act.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council or the centre providing alternate dispute resolution services shall have jurisdiction to act as an Arbitrator or

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Conciliator under this section in a dispute between the supplier located within its jurisdiction and a buyer located anywhere in India.

(5) Every reference made under this section shall be decided within a period of ninety days from the date of making such a reference." (55)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 21

Appeal

Amendment made:

Page 8, *for lines 29 to 32, substitute—*

"21. *Application for setting aside decree, award or order.* No application for setting aside any decree, award or other order made either by the Council itself or by any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services to which a reference is made by the Council, shall be entertained by any court unless the appellant (not being a supplier) has deposited with it seventy-five per cent of the amount in terms of the decree, award or, as the case may be, the other order in the manner directed by such court:

Provided that pending disposal of the application to set aside the decree, award or order, the court shall order that such percentage of the amount deposited shall be paid to the supplier, as it considers, reasonable under the circumstances of the

case subject to such conditions as it deems necessary to impose." (56)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 22

Establishment of industry facilitation councils

Amendment made:

Page 8, lines 33 and 34, *for* "Industry Facilitation Councils", *substitute* "Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council". (57)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Clause 23

Amendment made:

Page 8, *for lines 36 to 47, substitute—*

"23. *Composition of Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.* (1) The Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council shall consist of not less than three but not more than five members to be appointed from among the following categories, namely:—

(i) Director of Industries, by whatever name called, or any other officer not below the rank of such Director, in the Department of the State Government having administrative control of the small scale industries or, as the case may be, micro, small and medium enterprises; and

(ii) one or more office-bearers or representatives of associations of micro or small industry or enterprises in the State; and

(iii) one or more representatives of banks and financial institutions lending to micro or small enterprises; or

(iv) one or more persons having special knowledge in the field of industry, finance, law, trade or commerce.”. (58)

Page 9, line 2, for “Industry Facilitation Council”, substitute “Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council”. (59)

Page 9, line 3, for “Industry Facilitation Council”, substitute “Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council”. (60)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 to 26 was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Motion Re: Suspension of rule 80(i)

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it required that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which

it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 61 to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it required that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 61 to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

New Clause 26A

Amendment made:

Page 9, after line 28, insert—

“26A. Scheme for closure of business of micro, small and medium enterprise. Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, the Central Government may, with a view to facilitating closure of business by a micro, small or medium enterprise, not being a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, notify a Scheme within one year from the date of commencement of this Act.”. (61)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 26A be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New clause 26A was added to the Bill.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

[Translation]

Clause 28

Penalty for contravention of section 8 or section
16 or Section 24 or section 27

Amendment made:

Page 9, line 37, *omit* "or section 16". (62)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clause 29 was added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

Clause 30**Power to make rules**

Amendment made:

Page 10, *omit* lines 13 to 17. (63)Page 10, line 21, *omit* "sub-section (1) of". (64)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

Clause 31**Power to make rules by State Government**

Amendment made:

Page 10, line 35, *for* "Industry", *substitute* "Micro and Small Enterprises". (65)

Page 10, line 37, *for* "Industry Facilitation Council",
substitute "Micro and Small Enterprises
Facilitation Council". (66)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 31, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 32 and 33 were added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

Clause 1**Short title and commencement**

Amendment made:

Page 1, *for* lines 4 and 5, *substitute*,—

"1. (1) This Act may be called the Micro,
Small and Medium Enterprises
Development Act, 2006." (4)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, *for* "Fifty-sixth Year", *substitute*
"Fifty-seventh Year". (3)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was
added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

Preamble

Amendment made:

Page 1, in the Preamble, for "small and medium",
substitute "micro, small and medium". (2)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Preamble, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Preamble, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

Long Title

Amendment made:

Page 1, in the long title, for "small and medium",
substitute "micro, small and medium". (1)

(Shri Mahabir Prasad)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Communal violence in different parts of the country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 23 on the List of Business—Discussion on the situation arising out of communal violence in different parts of the country.

Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must thank the hon. Speaker for converting our Calling Attention into a Short Duration Discussion.

Communal violence is a serious issue with cannot be discussed only on a Calling Attention Motion. Justice cannot be done. In this House, a number of times, we had discussed this serious issue whenever there was a communal incident or violence.

We adopted a Constitution where it has been stated that our country is a Secular, Democratic, Socialist and Republic. We find that our secular fabric is shaken and attacked. We feel that even after 58 years of Independence, such incidents are taking place.

We have an experience of 2002. It was not a communal violence but it was a gruesome State sponsored genocide in the State of Gujarat where some 1,100 people were killed; some were burnt alive;

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

thousands of houses were gutted; hundreds of children have become orphans. Why such incidents were perpetrated in the State of Gujarat? Is it in order to divide the people? Is it in order to polarise the people? In order to consolidate the vote bank in the State Assembly Elections in Gujarat, in favour of the ruling party there, such incidents took place.

The incident which had taken place on 1st of May, 2006 has prompted us to give notice under Calling Attention. Then, it was converted to a Short Duration Discussion. That incident took place on 1st of May. It has its background. The background is mayhem, the genocide of 2002. This is not the question that only five or six persons being killed. Some were killed because of police firing; one was burnt alive; and two died because of stabbing. It is not a question of six persons were killed. But the larger question which is involved here is as to how the religious places were attacked. These were the pre-planned attacks in the State of Gujarat and in the State of Rajasthan.

We have seen, after the incident of 2002, how those people have suffered. Their relatives were killed, their houses were set on fire and their relatives were burnt alive. We have also seen the incident of Best Bakery, where 14 workers of that bakery belonging to the minority community were burnt alive. We have seen the justice in the State of Gujarat! There was a demand to shift all the cases from the State of Gujarat as the people would not get justice in Gujarat, as the entire Administration was involved and the police force was also involved.

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

That is why the Supreme Court of India had to comment and had to compare the Chief Minister of that State, to say, with Nero. When Rome was burning, Nero was playing flute.

Sir, we have seen the comment made by the Supreme Court of India, and because of that, there was a demand to shift all the cases from Gujarat. We have also seen how the accused involved in the Best Bakery case were set free. But when the Supreme Court stepped in and took it up, it was for the first time that the nine accused had been convicted. We have seen in our country the case of forgery in the Best Bakery case.

During the 2002 genocide, we have seen how hundreds of religious places were demolished and dismantled. The Mazaar of Bali Gujarati was demolished and razed; and overnight a road was built over that Mazaar. It was condemned by the people of our country. Some people were arrested under POTA. We were all opposed to POTA; we were all against POTA. The then entire Opposition was opposed to Prevention of Terrorism Act, which was enacted in the Joint Session of Parliament by the NDA Government. POTA was imposed not against those persons who were responsible for the genocide but it was imposed for those involved in the Godhra Fire incident of Sabarmati Express.

Sir, when the UPA Government came to power, the National Common Minimum Programme was adopted. In that National Common Minimum Programme, it was stated that Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) would be deleted, which was done after this Government came to power. We were all opposed to the enactment of that Act when we were in the Opposition. At that time, when POTA was being discussed, we stated that the laws that we have in our country are sufficient enough to tackle the problems of terrorism. POTA Review Committee was formed. POTA Review Committee also recommended that 90 per cent of the cases were not justified in detaining the persons. The Gujarat High Court as well as the Supreme Court had stated that the Public Prosecutor has to act on the recommendations of the POTA Review Committee; it is rather binding on them. In spite of the Review Committee's recommendation or the decision, none of the detenus has yet been released. You will have to understand why we are referring to this.

What happened in Vadodara is not a communal riot that happened in other parts of our country. We will have to see in that perspective. Vadodara Municipal Corporation issued the notification on 28th April. The *Dargah* was not of recent creation or recently created: it is very old; it is a very ancient monument; it is more than 385 years old. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Shri Acharia, you may please address the Chair. Shri Swain, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has been shown in the City Survey Map of 1912 and that map had been published in the *Outlook*; and most of you would have seen that. It cannot be compared with other religious structures. I have seen the statement of the Chairman or the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation. Many Hindu shrines or Hindu temples were demolished, but there was no outcry or any commotion. On the other hand, it is one of the ancient monuments of Rafinuddin Chisti. He had relations with the Chisti of Ajmer.

Bulldozers were used by the Municipal Corporation to bring down the seven feet structure. Why was it done when discussions and negotiations were going on?

In the midst of negotiations, suddenly the Municipal Corporation started demolishing overnight the seven feet structure. They did not feel the sentiments of the people, as was done in the case of Gujarat. This is a reminiscent of the 2002 genocide.

What is surprising is, the State administration watched or two days. Why Central Government had to intervene? We do not want the Central Government to encroach upon the State's right. This question is now being raised because the Communal Violence Bill has been introduced. It has been referred to the Standing Committee. It is now being scrutinised, being deliberated upon. There are a number of questions as to whether the Central Government on its own can send paramilitary force or military to a State if there is an exigency or a need. We do not want the Central Government to encroach upon the rights of a State. Law and order is a State subject. This is not a mere law and order problem. Communal problem is not a mere law and order problem. We cannot discuss any issue relating to law and order because it is a State subject. Since it is not a law and order problem, we are discussing it in the House. In such a situation we will have to think over it. If such a situation arises in a particular State what should be done?

In 2002 we saw cities after cities were allowed to burn. Sir, 1100 people were killed. Women were raped and burnt to death. Even after four years it has not been dealt with adequately. After the incident I visited the Relief Camps and saw their sufferings with my own eyes. Still 60,000 people are living in camps. Many of them have not been compensated. Many people are afraid of going back to their villages. We are a secular country!

When Babri Masjid was demolished, there was an alert in the city of Mumbai. We saw minority people, Muslims, leaving Mumbai. I had stated on the floor of this House the feelings of those people. Were they not the citizens of this country? Were they the second-class citizens? During six years of NDA regime we have seen how education, culture, was communalised. The text books were communalised. How the poison of communalism was inflicted upon the body polity? It is not isolated or sporadic or spontaneous incident but a Muslim leader has stated. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Give any one's name.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I shall give no name. You have one or two show pieces to show. Today there is only one.

[*English*]

He stated:

"Demolition of this *Durgah* is a very well planned conspiracy. The Municipal Corporation authorities had promised us that it would not be demolished. We were working upon a compromised formula but they backed out and simply razed it."

So, some discussion was going on. The discussion means if they did not agree to shift it, then it has to be there. This *Durgah* was 385 years old. If you can demolish Babri Masjid which was 500 years old, you can demolish it also. Your leaders were also there. In order to demolish a seven feet structure, the Municipal Corporation required three bulldozers. It was done in the presence of municipal authorities, the leaders of BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The Chief Minister was at Porbandar. He was celebrating 47th year of the formation of Gujarat. When Vadodara was burning, the Chief Minister was celebrating Gujarat Gaurav Diwas. There was a police firing also. The police was so active. In 2002, when the people were burnt alive, the police was not seen. One Mr. P.C. Pandey was the Police Commissioner of Ahmedabad. Now he has been promoted as DG. At that time, he met Mr. Ehzan Zafri, who was an ex-Member of Parliament, and assured him that he would be given police protection. But you know the incident how Mr. Zafri was murdered.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

The CBI instructed the State Government not to involve Shri P.C. Pandey in any investigation. That was the instruction of the CBI. But the gentleman has now been promoted. He was made the Additional Director of CBI and subsequently when this incident took place, just two days before that he was promoted to the Post of Director General. A person like Shri Pandey who was responsible for perpetrating a crime like genocide that took place in 2002 in the State of Gujarat was rewarded after four years.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acharia ji, you already have spoken 25 minutes. How much more time you required?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How much more time would you give me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take five minutes more.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, how can I conclude within five minutes. The discussion was about to start at two o' clock but it was delayed two hours. ...*(Interruptions)* We can never forget the year 2002.

[English]

How could we forget the incident of 2002 where more than a thousand people were burnt alive? Do they want us to forget that incident? The main motive behind doing that was the State elections that was to be held in 2002. Elections to the State Assembly is due again in the year 2007 and the Chief Minister is preparing a ground for that in order to polarise the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

How did you win the elections, is known to everyone. ...*(Interruptions)* You did all these manipulations. ...*(Interruptions)* you have been defeated everywhere. Save your party in Jharkhand, one Member was elected from there on your party ticket and he has also left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Achariya ji, you continue on the subject, do not divert your attention towards interruptions.

[English]

Nothing, except what Shri Basudeb Acharia is saying, would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, more importantly it is for us, the people of India, to ensure that such a naked vote bank politics, what is being done in the State of Gujarat by way of an attempt to consolidate the vote of the majority community at the expense of death and mayhem, does not take place. It should not be allowed to take place again in Gujarat, not only in Gujarat but nowhere in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* In the State of West Bengal there is not a single instance of any communal violence. Can anyone mention of the one incident of communal violence in these 29 years? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Basu Deb Acharia's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Both the BJP and the RSS conspired to flare up communal riot, but they have failed. ...*(Interruptions)* We enacted a law here in 1993. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please sit down. I am not allowing you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Basu Deb Acharia's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In 1993 we have enacted a law to protect these religious places, religious structures. After they have demolished Babri Masjid, the Government became wiser, but not before that. Had they enacted that law before 1992, perhaps we could have saved Babri Masjid.

We have a law. What does that law say? It prohibits conversion of any place of worship, provides for maintenance of religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 15th August, 1947. This monument, this structure, this *dargah* existed much before 1947. So, we have a law. They are the violators of the law. The

*Not recorded.

Municipal Corporation is the violator of the law, which was passed by this House. I would like to know from the Home Minister as to what action will be taken against them for violating the law.

The Minister has to explain. Otherwise, one religious place after another will be desecrated, will be demolished. You will remain helpless and you will remain silent spectators. I also demand, as it has been demanded, that to honour the sentiment of the minorities, the Muslim brothers, that place should be protected and that place should not be allowed to be desecrated by anybody. We should honour this sentiment of the minority people of Vadodara. We will have to think seriously in order to strengthen our democratic, secular character of our country. Now, they have gone back to their old agenda of Ram Janambhoomi, construction of Ram Temple, *Hindutva*, *yatra*, etc. It reminded us of 1990 Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya. I have seen the riots at a number of places. In my district, which is known as a peaceful district, in 1990, the moment the Chariot of Shri L.K. Advani left and entered Jharkhand, the erstwhile Bihar, immediately, riots were started and 14 persons were killed. We should be more cautious now to utilize the religion for political purposes. Here, we do not want to ban or stop it. We will have to think very seriously. We will have to strengthen our secular character. It should not be termed. ...(*Interruptions*) The year 2002 incident was a blot on the democratic secular character of our country.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to think seriously. It is because in the last Lok Sabha election, the mandate of the people was against communal forces. People of our country wanted that our secular character should be strengthened. That is why, the mandate was against the communal forces. So, we will have to respect and honour the mandate that people have given to us. We will have to see that the communal forces are not only isolated but cut forever.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Hon'ble Chairman, I wanted to conclude after explaining some facts because some kind of misunderstanding about Baroda is being spread in the country through this House. But, I am sorry to say that our dear friend Shri Basu Deb Acharia, today, from ten minutes past four to forty five minutes past four and fifteen minutes yesterday, repeatedly mentioned the incident of riot of 2002 and also stated the incident of

Baroda that occurred on 1st May. Once again, I want to make it clear that I have no intention to mention again the past incidents. There has been an increase in caste and communal violence in the country even before independence and after that. This is a matter of concern; it is not limited to any State or a particular Government. Its solution should be got in the Parliament. If we cannot console victim, at least, we should not add to their woes. If even after 59 years we in our heart have.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILYAS AZAMI (Shahabad): One should not shield one's crime.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I have a sore throat. Azami ji I would not say anything that may hurt you. ...(*Interruptions*) The problem should be solved. But I feel that the beginning of the discussion, on this subject today is off track. I can not say what direction would take the discussion, but I see the discussion should not be on the way as was initiated by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I have read the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, day before yesterday on the calling attention motion and it was a praiseworthy statement. In his statement he told that Government takes a serious note of such incident, but the way discussion began today hurt me deeply. I know that very senior Hon'ble Members are sitting in the House. Only 3 or 4 or 5 members may be new. When the incident of 2002 was mentioned, I had to say something in the House. I had made two speeches in the House on 11th March and 30th April. I had said it at that time and I would like to repeat the same. The new Members may read it in the library. I had requested at that time not to raise the sensitive issue that had not left even any one State for last 59 years from its terrible terror, no one would get benefit from it. I had expressed my view on the 11th of March and I had started my speech at 11.05 PM on 30th April and concluded it by 11.50 PM. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were also present in the House at that time. I have seen the type of violence that flares up at the time of communal violence and there is nothing new in it. I did not want to mention all this but I knew that it would not be confined to Baroda alone. I have got Hindu-Muslim riots survey.

[*English*]

Politics of communalism by Ms. Zenab Banu, Appendix IV, Page 175-193. I have a lot of Historical Survey of some major communal riots.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

[Translation]

Unfortunately the first communal riot has also flared up in 1713 in Ahmedabad. At that time there was no Jansangh, Bajranj Dal, RSS, Bhartiya Janata Party or our Chief Minister of Gujarat. The immediate cause of the riots was:

[English]

"Opposition to solemnize the holi festival on the one side and the cow slaughter on the other side between the neighbours of the two opposite communities."

[Translation]

It had started with solemnizing of holi festival and cow slaughtering. I feel that as to why we raise such issues in the House repeatedly. Why we widen the gap between the two big pillars of our society, the Hindus and the Muslims. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that also and kindly remind me if something is left out my voice has become hoarse today. Shri Basudeb ji is present here, please listen to me carefully. I too have done the same that. I would remind you about 1969. I have a report about the party, which you are supporting today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are supporting the present Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It is the same thing and I did not want to mention it but you have expressed your views on political line. I had mentioned the news item published in 'The Hindustan Times' on 11th August 2000, on 30th of April 2002. Shri, Basudeb ji, is my friend and that is why I am taking the liberty to mention his name when he was repeatedly making mention of the Gujarat riots in the House. At that time I had said that blaming a particular government would not do. There were not even two members of our party in the Legislative Assembly when the biggest riots flared up in Gujarat in 1969 and there was no representation of our party in the Corporation and Zila Parishad. From Panchayat to Municipality, Corporation, Zila Parishad and the Government of Gujarat, the Congress was in overwhelming majority everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)* You were in power everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)* You please go through the report of Shri. V. Gangadham published in the Hindustan Times on 11 August, 2000. I will read out two paragraphs of that report. New hon. Members

are present here and you accused us of genocide. I will tell what genocide is and when this genocide took place?

[English]

I quote from that report. It says:

"What applies to Hindus and Sikhs obviously does not apply to Muslims. We cannot conveniently forget the atrocities against them. The worst communal riots in India since Independence were not 1984 anti-Sikh riots, but those which rocked Ahmedabad and Gujarat in 1969. The official report fixed the death toll at around 5,000 but it was two or three times higher than that."

[Translation]

This report pertains to the year 1969 when the State was governed by the Congress party. They raised the issue of Ehsan Jaffri. He was a close friend of mine. For the last 30-35 years I have been in politics. I have been involved with the corporation for 17 years and for 17-18 years I have been with you in Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Then Jansangh was not in existence, there was only Hindu Mahasabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Harin Pathak.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It is not correct that we are glad, it pinches us also. It is like they have got the sole right to speak regarding this matter and will not allow us to express our views. We have got Muslim Members in our ranks and when we talk about them, they project them as our show pieces and they say that for them, they claim to be the representatives of the entire society.

17.00 hrs.

This is not the case. We treat every person of this country as an Indian citizen and a resident of this country

*Not recorded.

and one who loves his motherland and is ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of the country. Whoever is ready to sacrifice his life to protect the motherland, to protect the culture of India whether he is Abdul Hameed or any other person, whether he does so in Jammu and Kashmir, be he a policeman, a Muslim, a Sikh, a Christian, is the son of Mother India and is our brother. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That's why they had demolished the Babri Masjid. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am quoting from the report. Further it has been mentioned in the report. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is an old report. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: They have to accept the truth as it is. They couldn't forget the incident of either 1992 or of 2002 also. ...(*Interruptions*) It was started by them, so they will have to listen, otherwise I was about to set aside that report. ...(*Interruptions*) Further it states that:-

[*English*]

"Why was it that not one remembered the Ahmedabad riots? The people are willing to resurrect the centuries old Mughal invasion or the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. How can they forget the Ahmedabad bloodpath of 1969? In one particular case around 120 Muslims were trapped inside a small room and were killed."

[*Translation*]

120 persons were burnt in a room. The entire Government was at their command. Army, Panchayat, Corporation everyone belonged to them. I didn't want to raise this matter in the House. ...(*Interruptions*) Today with complete honesty, I would like to say in this House that these things do not have much significance here. My friends have know that there are three lakh Muslim voters in the area from where I emerged victorious in the elections. It is not that I have nothing to do with those people or my party has nothing to do with those people. I won on Bhartiya Janata Party ticket, and got votes in the name of Bhartiya Janata Party. They have mentioned that in the incident which occurred on May 1st in Baroda within 48 hours, 6 people got killed. I have high regards for hon. Home Minister as for the last 50 many years, I have been maintaining relations with him. Day before

yesterday, he gave a statement. Six incidents including Dhar, Bhopal, Baroda etc. were mentioned but here we will not have discussions about them. Here we will only discuss about Baroda. They accused that as the elections are due in 2007, these riots were engineered. I would like to remind them of one thing. Shri Basu Debji is no more present in the House. Next hon. Member after my turn should also bear this in mind that before the incident of 1st May in which communal tension in the city was palpable and six persons were killed. In 2004 and in 2005 elections were held for Panchayats, Municipality and the Corporations. In those elections, the Congress party was wiped out in around 90% seats. In many areas, they did not even manage to win a single seat. ...(*Interruptions*) There were riots there. There was not any riot in the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 and only on 1st May, 2006 there was a riot. Shri Dasguptaji, before this riot elections were held for the Panchayat and we won about 90% seats. We had the upper hand in the elections to all the municipalities. Never in the last 50 years, Bhartiya Janata Party has registered a win in the Muslim dominated area on Ahmedabad Corporation. BJP emerged victorious for the first time in Dani, Nimala and Behrampur areas of Ahmedabad which are muslim dominated areas. ...(*Interruptions*)

I am talking about the elections which were held 4-6 months back. This is the mandate given by the people. They are saying that for the year 2007, this work should be done for Badodara but the mandate of the people is like this. When you get the mandate in West Bengal, it is considered as just result. When they get the mandate it is treated as the mandate of the democracy and if Shri Narendra Modi and BJP get the mandate, then it is termed as the mandate of communalism. Why are they misguiding the people? What kind of definition is this? Who will accept this? Will the common man of this country accept it? Even your conscience will not accept it. For all these years they have been winning elections by following all the tricks. They must do self introspection.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you about what actually happened there. ...(*Interruptions*) Try hard as they may, still we will win. They are unaware of it. Nothing is going to change in 2007. Then also we will win and in 2009 and in 2014 also we will win. You will remain on the sidelines. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sri Harin Pathakji, you please address the Chair. Do not allow yourself to be disturbed by the interruptions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I will come to the main issue as the hon'ble Home Minister also will make a statement concerning this matter. I will conclude by narrating whatever happened there. In metros and cities of the entire country, there are government land, path or revenue land and action was being taken to remove the encroachment from there. This work is going on in Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai and Kolkata also. This work is going on in all the States of the country. In Gujarat, it has been decided to celebrate year 2005-2006 as urban development year. Now in 28 metros, I have got the full details, but I do not want to share it. If you insist, then I will disclose it. In 29 metros, such type of encroachment was removed. I do not wish to make a lengthy speech. This removal of encroachment took place in small and medium cities like Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Vakaner but none of these cities witnessed any riots. In Vadodara, we removed 3299 encroachments in one year and it was carried out not by us but by the Corporation of Vadodara. After drawing the map of the encroached land, work relating to removal was carried out. The encroachment was in the center of a revenue plot. There were building also and small and medium sized 42 temples were also there. The faith of one or other section of society is connected with every temple. If someone builds a medium sized temple along the footpath, definitely it is quite possible that five or fifty persons might be sentimentally attached to that temple. It is not right to say that none has faith in these temples. Hindus have a lot of deities, everything is linked to faith. In one year time 42 Hindu temples, which were located in the middle of the roads and were obstructing traffic flow and causing traffic jam were removed. In Varodra alone. ...*(Interruptions)* are older than them. Till day before yesterday it was one hundred and fifty years old and now in 24 hours it became 180 years old. Now in course of his speech it has become 300 years old. If he gets ten minutes more it will become 385 years old or if he gets half an hour more it would become 600 years old. Basu Dev Ji usually speaks like this.

There were six Muslim graves which were removed and 42 small temples were also removed. That day on the first day of the month from temples were also removed from Chapaner road. I would also like to enlighten the House that total three graves were located on that road. I would not like to go in detail whether they are 'Majar' or something else. Out of those three graves two were not removed because they were located along the divider of the roads and they were not creating problems to any

one. When the issue of this grave arose on 25th it was said that this work is going on for the last one year and now it is the turn of Chapner road. Hindus have extended their full cooperation it and now it (graves) should also be removed. When this work was started on the first date of the month, thousands of people came on the roads with acid bomb, swords and jablins as had happened during the first-riot in 1713. The demolition squad of the corporation was attacked with Lathis, stones and acid bomb. I have figures with me about this incident. 400-500 teargas-shells were used to disperse the crowd to avoid firing by police but the people did not disperse. Thereafter the police resorted to light Lathi charge but the people did not disperse. Then rubber bullets were used by the police but even then rioters did not disperse. They were bent upon killing or being killed. Then ultimately police had to resort to firing. Immediately after the firing curfew was imposed all over the city. The House will be amazed to know that even during the curfew period thousands of armed rioters violated the curfew and entered into the court. We regard court as the *temple of justice*. The lawyers were beaten there and their vehicles were burnt. It was a well planned conspiracy hatched to defame the Government and everything was done accordingly. Now I am coming to that statement in which it has been said that it has been a very prominent religious place.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Pathak Ji has stated that in a planned manner thousands of people had gathered around with swords, bombs. If the entire thing was well planned then I would like to know from the hon. Member whether he has a data regarding the number of policemen who were killed and wounded when policemen were attacked.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I have all the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to submit about the Report of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs who had gone there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav Ji, you please sit down. You may speak when your turn comes. Pathak Ji, you please continue.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am telling these things with full responsibility. I was also the Minister of Home Affairs in which capacity the present hon. Minister of Home Affairs had visited there. Now, I would like to tell about

particular person. One Nayab Subedar was killed and his family is still searching him. Even policeman and army personnel were not spared. The hon. Member is asking as to what happened with policemen. Policemen were also attacked and killed. I did not want to go into it, however, the hon. Member has referred to riot which occurred in the year 2002. That is why I am telling all these things. Otherwise, I would not have said all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On sensitive issue you should speak with sensitivity. You have been used to this.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has alleged that we have engineered riots to win the election and there was genocide in 2002. I would like to submit that riots had also occurred in 1969, 1971, 1981, 1985 and also in 1992 however, during none of the above period our Government was there in Gujarat when riots had occurred. Now I would like to submit that who so ever speaker speaks after me, must substantiate the statement with proof. It is not appropriate to quote from newspapers reports only. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Do not live in dreams. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Then hon. Member should speak when his turn comes. I want that he should speak well without causing problems to anyone. Munshi Ji also told him to speak strongly. The Communist party has to seat in Panchayat, District council, corporation or the Legislature Assembly of the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pathak Ji, you please speak on the topic and conclude. You speak well.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one Bill regarding the places of worship was passed in 1991.

[*English*]

Places of Worship (Special Provision) Bill, 1991 was passed on September 10 by Lok Sabha and on September 12 By Rajya Sabha. Its section 4(1) says:

"It is hereby declared that the religious character of a place of worship existing on the 15th day of August, 1947 shall continue to be the same as it existed on that day."

Now, I will draw the attention of my friends, who are going to speak later, to section 4(3)(a) of this Act.

[*Translation*]

We cannot declare any place as the place of worship as it has been defined as to which place will be called a place of worship. Every god and goddess, temple or grave cannot be declared a place of worship. It has been clearly defined in the law as to which place will be called a place of worship.

[*English*]

Section 4(3)(a) says:

"Any place of worship referred to in the said subsection which is an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site or remains covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 or any other law for the time being in force."

[*Translation*]

Or that place should be listed in the site of Archaeological Survey of India or it should be a protected monument.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: That Dargah was 350 years old. Will it not be regarded as ancient? Will it not be regarded as ancient as per his definition?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Please wait for two minutes, I will tell the entire thing. If it is a protected monument then it will not be removed. Whatsoever is listed in the ASI survey will not be removed, whether it is a Dargah or a grave.

[*English*]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Do not say, 'Kabra', it is a Dargah. That is an ancient one which is 350 years old.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would like to say the same thing. There must be a mention in the record of the

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Kabra or Dargah about which the hon. Member is telling that it is 350-400 year old. You may declare it 350 or 400 year old. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please do not interrupt.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: There is a mention about it in the corner of the map of town development for 1905 to 1912. If it is a monument then it should have been registered with the Charity Commission of Baroda, Archaeological Survey of India, Protected Monument or the Wakf Board of Gujarat which is the biggest institution of Muslim. Till date none of the institutions have claimed that they manage this Kabra or Dargah. There is no mention of it in the Wakf Board of Gujarat as well. ...*(Interruptions)* I am submitting it with great responsibility.

[English]

if you have any document, then please place it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

If this Dargah is protected then the Member should give proof.

It is neither a protected monument nor it finds a mention in Archaeological Survey of India's list.

[English]

The said "Kabr" has not been declared as protected monument either by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or the Superintendent of Archaeology.

[Translation]

If he has any proof, say documentary, he should provide us, mere newspaper reports won't do. ...*(Interruptions)* If the durgah is protected one, he should provide the proof in this regard. It is neither a protected monument nor it finds any mention in the records of Archaeological Survey of India.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: You have been speaking for roughly 40 minutes, and you are referring to the same points made by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. ...*(Interruptions)* He has taken more than 40 minutes, and on the same issues you are speaking for long. ...*(Interruptions)* You

require the durgah. ...*(Interruptions)* and you destroy it. ...*(Interruptions)* The BJP people are always doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am reading the law. It should be protected monument. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will you demolish it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Their Government has passed the said law in the House. I am going through the legal aspect as to which should be treated as a protected monument and thus protected and which building should be considered a place of worship. It is nowhere mentioned in Article 4.3 A. Therefore, I would like to say that please do not try to instigate the sentiments of public as said durgah does not find a mention anywhere. Still, we had called a meeting of all the organization on 1st. One organization said that it is located in the middle of the road; the other one told that it is located on one side of the road. But they admitted that road land has been encroached upon by said durgah. The Government will not touch two durgahs as these are on dividers. But if they want to shift it elsewhere, they should come forward. But nothing of that sort happened. Subsequently, the corporation acted honestly in case of 42 temples and also said Kabr or durgah. So please do not mislead and say that it was a protected monument. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not mislead the House and the country over it.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, I would like to know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Nothing except the speech of Shri Harin Pathak will go on record.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: When Babri mosque is referred to, I would say something about that also. After 1992, Babri has always been an issue of discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal, you please take your seat. I have not permitted you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We removed that one, as there was no documentary proof. Now, I would like to share my experiences of life. ...(*Interruptions*) Truth is always bitter. If anybody take resort to false propaganda for the purpose of winning 2009 elections, we would strongly oppose that one. Just for gaining Muslim votes, they are adopting the policy of appeasement, which is totally wrong. They have been creating hatred in the country for the last 58 years, which should not be done. I have been repeatedly urging them to desist from it. I have seen it with my own eyes, but I would not cite any example, as it may hurt his feelings. I have seen as to how small temples or cemeteries suddenly come into being as a place of worship there. Earlier, I was living in Ahmedabad. ...(*Interruptions*) I am going to make last point. Shri Basu Deb ji was permitted to speak for an hour, so cannot I be permitted to speak for a while, Mistryji knows about my old house located in Ahmedabad. It still exists in the middle of the city. I shifted from there to Maninagar, 2-3 kms. away from there. Kankaria lake is located in between. Since my childhood to my youth, I lived there. An Aabad Dairy is also located there. Hon. Home Minister can send a three Member delegation there to inquire about it from my neighbours. This grave existed earlier there. After some days, one fine morning, we found that a person had spread a green bed sheet at a particular point and then they constructed a plastic shade over there. Then he started living under the shade and also started litting incense. Later on a full family came and started living there. Now, a 30-35 feet tin shade has been put there. I do not say that it does not happen so in case of temples. It so happens in my religion also. People place an idol there and start worshipping. And it takes the shape of a small and then a large size temple. It is the case with the people of both the religions. How such places can be treated or places of worship? People give any body's name to it. This way the people mislead the country.

Now, coming to the last point, I would like to refer to Vadodara, where communal riots resulted into loss of life and property. Earlier to that, Bhopal also witnessed similar riots. He is referring to Vadodara riots. In this regard, I can say with a challenge that since Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad has assumed the office of Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, from 1 to 17 May, within 17 days about 40 people in Doda were massacred.

[*English*]

I charge the Government. What has been happening in Dada for the last 15 days is not terrorism.

[*Translation*]

Terrorists are selectively dragging the people from their houses and killing them. A rally of BJP activists was attacked on 13. Earlier too such attacks occurred. What the police was going that time?

[*English*]

I charge the Government that this is stated sponsored communal riot against Hindu community.

[*Translation*]

As their Government was formed and they were empowered to do so. First Pundits were forced to run from the Valley and now they are fleeing from Jammu. As we had already informed that we have planned to hold a rally, then was it not the responsibility of the Government to provide protection. Five thousand workers of BJP were on a dharana and they were attacked. The Government could not protect them. Two days ago they were attacked and yesterday, they were again attacked. The Government will have to find out the truth. Jammu and Kashmir is ruled by the Congress Government and BJP workers are being attacked there. I strongly oppose it. I would urge the Government to give them protection. The Government can't escape from its responsibilities in the name of terrorism. And it is not terrorism. Selected people were taken out from their houses and killed. 40 women and children have been massacred during last 15 days. Police was watching it silently. I was shocked at the statement of hon. Chief Minister. On 13th he said that what his Government could do? An attack was apprehended so why did they held a rally?

[*English*]

It is a shocking statement. This is the thing! I have no words to express! What sort of a Chief Minister is he? Hindu people are staying in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir. What would be the fate of those people?

[*Translation*]

What shall be their future? The Chief Minister is telling that we had information that there may be an attack. So I told them to not to conduct a rally, yet they did so. What can a CM do under such circumstances? If the Government had an information, then why it failed to

[Shri Harin Pathak]

provide them protection. Moreover, there was another attack day before yesterday. This dual policy can't do. The nation should be saved from it.

The Hindus living in Jammu and Kashmir, Doda or elsewhere, should be given full protection. Even political parties should be provided protection. State sponsored communal riots have erupted in the name of terrorism over there. Advaniji had rightly said that there is a difference between terrorism and the Government and the police have worked hand in glove this time. Bombs were shelled on people sitting in the Ramila ground. They are levelling allegations on us. If there have been state sponsored attacks in Vadodara then these attacks are also State sponsored. The Government has failed to protect Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir. We strongly oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I object to this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You can object. You have every right to object and I have every right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this constitutes a breach of privilege. We can move a motion of breach of privilege against him and he will be required to prove his allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You please find out whether these were state sponsored or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

Acharia ji had initially stated as State sponsored riots.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Nobody has said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing irrelevant will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would not have said so, had he not stated it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The hon. Member should be responsible. He is treading into an area which will be difficult for him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time will you take? The time allotted to your party is over. Only 10 minutes are left for your party.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Having the information of the attack why the State Government was not serious? How the incident took place twice—first it happened on the thirteenth and then even yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* What will the Union Government do in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of your party is on his legs and all of you have gathered.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I once again express my gratitude to you and conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you are making a wrong statement on the floor of the House, you will be asked to prove it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would prove it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you are making a wrong statement on the floor of the House, you will be asked to prove it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It is my opinion, as it is the opinion of Shri Basu Deb Acharia that what has happened in Gujarat is State sponsored. It is his opinion. That is my opinion. What is happening in Jammu and Kashmir is totally. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing irrelevant will go on record and will not be part of the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not take it in discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): According to our strength, we are the fourth. Achariaji has initiated the debate. Then, Shri Pathak has made his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramji Lal Sumanji, the hon. Member's request has been accepted as a special circumstance, sine he had to go, it is a convention. Your stand is also correct. There is no question of a discussion therein.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Hon. Chairman, I am extremely alarmed in the way the Minister has become extremely alarmed, the way in which the dimension of the debate is being extended. We had been specifically discussing the question of communal violence in the country. If Godhra is being raised, I have no objection. Let there be a separate debate on the basis of a separate notice. But to extend the debate to Kashmir would be naturally, not only unparliamentary, but also inciting the feelings in the country about which he has been speaking.

Shri Harin Pathak had said that historically communalism has its root in Gujarat. He had referred to history. He has referred to 1730, which means, there was communalism before Gandhiji was born, before B.J.P. was born. I agree. That is why Gujarat is a case by itself. I take his statement. Gujarat is a case by itself. Gujarat unfortunately is a focal point of communal conflict historically over decades. If it is so, I accept this statement. It is all the more necessary for the rulers, for the Government, for the Municipal Corporation to be more restrained. They should have been much more restrained because they knew as to whether it is a historical monument, as to whether it is a *dargah*, as to whether it is a burial ground; and as to whether it is an unauthorised construction or whatever it might be. The point is clear. The issue was sensitive, extremely sensitive.

If the issue was sensitive, those who are in power should have been much more responsible in dealing with such a situation.

It is the speech of Shri Harin Pathak, which I take as the basis for building my argument. Considering the historical roots of communalism in Gujarat, and considering the sensitivity of the issue as to whether the construction was authorised or unauthorised, they should have been much more responsible, much more judicious, and much more reasoning. That is the basis of my criticism.

Despite knowing this history, the Municipal Corporation has been irresponsible. Do not be angry with me. Why have they irresponsible? They have been irresponsible because a compromise was being discussed. What was that compromise? One, the Muslim leaders, according to the press reports, had agreed to dismantle a large part of the structure; two, the Muslim leaders themselves had dismantled already a large part of the structure; and three, after dismantling a large part of the structure, they had suggested to them, as per the press reports, that the rest of what it remains should be allowed to stay because the dismantling of a large part allows free flow of traffic.

What was the motive? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Hon. Member is also not saying it correctly. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please, let me speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: What is this? ...(Interruptions) How can you say that? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, if this is the way, then I do not take part. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): She is also an hon. Member of Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I should be allowed to speak. I did not interrupt him when he was speaking.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

Therefore, the point is that when there was a compromise being discussed, when a large part of the structure was dismantled, why was the demolition pushed through so urgently? If the main reason was free flow of traffic, if the main reason was the broadening of the road, if the main reason was the beautification of the city, they should have acted with a little more reason, they should have acted on the compromise.

Since the promise, as suggested by the Muslim leaders, was rejected and demolition was initiated within the shortest possible time, therefore, there is a suspicion that the motive was not civic beauty, but the motive was harassment. The motive was to disregard the religious sentiments of a particular community. Should it happen? Was it right? Because of the sensitivity, because of the historical roots, because of the riot that took place in 2002, was it right on their part to do it like this? That is the question.

I am only relying on his arguments. He is saying that the minority was armed to the teeth; there were hundreds of swords; there were hundreds of bombs; the police had fired teargas shells; the police had lathi-charged; and the police had used rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. Since nothing yielded a result, therefore, they fired. Therefore, according to him, the situation was so grave.

If it is so, then I would like to know why the Administration faulted to call the military? Why did the poor Home Minister of India and why did the poor Government of India have to advise them? ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, I call it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Do not take any action against me, but against him.

17.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, in West Bengal, several times the Police had fired. Has the Government of West Bengal called the Army? I am asking him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No cross talk please.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am talking his argument. Saying him as a poor Home Minister, is a compliment. He is powerless in the face of the communal carnage. I have all respect for him. Why did the Home Ministry have to take the trouble of advising the Government of Gujarat, to allow the military to come in. That is my second question. One is why they had been irresponsible. Secondly, if the situation was so grave, why did they not call the military for three days? Military led to restoration of peace, which everybody knew.

The third question is why the Director-General of Police had made a statement that we do not need military. When they had been armed to the teeth, when there was almost a possibility of a big blood-shed, when the minority community was so aggressive with bombs and swords, why did he say that it had no communal nature and we do not need military? ...*(Interruptions)* This is the statement that has come in paper; I will read out. ...*(Interruptions)*

So, the question is that something is fundamentally wrong with the administration of Gujarat. Excuse me for saying so. I would ask my friend Shri Harin Pathak to consider why fingers were not raised so frequently even against the Rajasthan Government. Why were fingers not raised so frequently against the Government of Madhya Pradesh? Why were fingers not raised so frequently against the administration of Chhattisgarh where his own Party is in power? Why is it that Gujarat administration is always in focus?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is because you have made business out of it!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make a running commentary.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am ashamed at the English language used. I am ashamed at the English used—that we are making business. I can only say that I am ashamed at the language my fellow Parliamentarian has used, that it is a business on our party—I am ashamed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You may go to Kerala and ask your Chief Minister. What sort of statements Mr. Achuthanandan has used against the Muslims. That is why, you did not want to make him the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am only ashamed at the way in which the language is being used by my fellow Parliamentarian. I am ashamed.

The question is why Gujarat has become the focal point of a controversy? Let me put it straight. Gujarat has been put into controversy because firstly, no compromise was reached; secondly, why did the Mayor of the Corporation lead the demolition squad? The demolition is always done by the police and by the officials. Why did the Mayor lead it? This is in the papers—that the Mayor led the demolition. He was accompanied by a number of political activists, right or wrong. Why was it led by the Mayor himself? What was the motive behind this?

Third point is when the police fired, six people died—two out of stabbing and four out of firing, and a number of people were injured. Why is it that most of the injuries were on the head? The police fired to kill people and not to disperse them. That is my charge. Most people died because of head injury and most of the people who were injured had head injuries. What does it mean? It means that the police were let loose with vengeance to kill people and not to disperse the crowd. Is it the ethics or the code of conduct of the custodians of law and order? If the custodians of law and order became the perpetrators of crime, then what will happen to democracy?

I am saying that police was let loose with vengeance to kill people and not to disperse crowd, otherwise most of the injuries could not have been on the head. A man was burnt to death in curfew. How could it happen? It means that the curfew was not in force. A man was killed in fire and police did not come to his rescue but the curfew was on. What does it mean? It means that the curfew was not enforced by the police.

Therefore, Sir, I am saying, the political leadership of Gujarat has not taken any lesson from Godhra. If they had taken any lesson from Godhra, Vadodara would not have taken place. They would have acted with sagacity, with a sense of responsibility. They would have acted on a compromise. They would have acted in a judicious way. It, therefore, means that they have not taken any lesson from Godhra. If they had taken any lesson, then Vadodara would not have taken place. They have not taken any lesson from the genocide. That is the political conclusion I am making. That is why I am saying that something is fundamentally wrong with the dominant political leadership of Gujarat. Something is fundamentally

wrong with the administration of Gujarat. Something is intrinsically wrong with police of Gujarat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeating the same thing.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not repeating, Sir. That is why I am saying that Gujarat has become the focal point. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If a...* repeats something ten times, it becomes truth. This is the Communists' phraseology. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is always the habit of a person to speak a non-issue or without sense in order to create that he has sense in it. ...(*Interruptions*) Anyway, I condone because he is my fellow parliamentarian. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cutback): But both of you pull on very well.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I pull on well with everybody. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He was a friend.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He was his great friend not mine.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This parliamentary debate must reach a mature stage. If you say that it is a business I am doing then it only puts you in bad light, not me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Basically, the Communists are either friends or enemies, nothing in between. This is the Communists' phraseology.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Those who lack intelligence, do not become always.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I conclude him. Let him say it because he is a fellow parliamentarian. I am repeating the same words that he used. I condone it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, the point is, communalism has come to stay in India. The country was partitioned on the basis of communalism. Mahatma Gandhi was killed because of communalism. Babri Masjid was destroyed because of communalism. One missionary was killed in Manoharpur, Orissa because of communalism. Communalism has maligned the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): How about the attack on Parliament? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That was terrorism. Parliament was attacked by terrorists and we all fight against terrorism.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: They were terrorists with fundamentalist bent of mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Deo, have you taken permission from the Chair? Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)***

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I say, we condemn communalism, fundamentalism of all form. There is no question of giving any room to any fundamentalism, whether Hindu or Muslim. We are against all these. We are for India and Indianism. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him conclude. He is going to conclude now. Please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, I am saying the country has paid heavily for communalism. The country has been maligned heavily for communalism. But the root of communalism is extremely deep because some parties and hard core organisations are practising communalism for grabbing power in the country. That is a dangerous signal. I am telling you whether you take

lesson from Godhra or whether you take lesson from Babri Masjid that is your job, not my job. But the point is, the political fortune of the political parties will be seriously swayed if the fundamental secular fabric of the country is sought to be threatened by anybody. Let me believe that the country, the Home Minister and the Government will not be cowed down by any form of political hooliganism in any part of the country. I condemn the behaviour of the Government, the behaviour of the municipal corporation, and the behaviour of the police there. It is for them to take a lesson.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a long list of the speakers with me. Therefore, I would request you not to take much time. Now, Shri Madhusudan Mistry to speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, may I come a little bit forward, if you do not mind?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are fine over there. You may come forward if you wish to, but do not start fighting.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, thank you very much. Sir, I am a union man and cannot help it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not make inciting remarks so much.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No I will not say much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Things go wrong when we cross our limits.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing a very important issue. We have had debate on it in this House on earlier occasion as well and it was discussed in that House too. The Hon. members in that House made very good observations while participating in the discussion and here also barring a few points the Members are making very good points. If I call upon the Members not to make inciting remarks then the members from that side contend that I am saying this because the members from their party are speaking. Whereas I want that we should take out some solution from this debate.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is there was a promise to enact a law to curb communal violence in the country. What is the position of that? I have a great respect for the federalism of the country. Responding to you, I am suggesting one thing. I believe that the Government must lay down some code of conduct for the police in all the States and there has to be some amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code of the country. I am making these three suggestions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will respond to all the three suggestions. They are very good points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, 15 more Members are there to speak on this issue and thereafter the hon. Minister would reply. If the House agrees, I extend the time of the House by one hour. I think the House will agree.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Tomorrow, not today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to finish it within an hour.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: My suggestion is that instead of extending it by an hour let us finish it tomorrow.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not possible. Even the hon'ble Minister has to reply today.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Nobody would be here tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

Tomorrow is Friday, everybody would go.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak now.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hail from Gujarat, so do Harinbhai and Jayaben Thakkar ji in whose constituency this incident has taken place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you should be great friends.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is why we are concerned. So it was correctly observed that Gujarat is known all over the country and the world as well because of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel who were the pioneers to wage a freedom struggle in a non-violent manner and who got the country freed from the Britishers. Today, when we go somewhere, people tell us that we hail from Ahmedabad, the city of riots.

Sir, I disagree with some of the points raised by Shri Harinji. As he stated that despite so many incidents in the year 2002 and the riots which followed, his party won many seats in District and Tehsil Panchayati elections, which he told as 90 percent. I would like to draw his attention to this fact.

[*English*]

In 1995 BJP was in power in all District Panchayats. In the year 2000, out of 25 District Panchayats, they lost in 23 and they won only two District Panchayats.

[*Translation*]

When elections were held in 2005, rest of the seats were won by his party. If we work out the break up of seats some 30-31 percent were in favour of Congress but I would like to remind him of the mandate of the year 2005 which was against them owing to their communal violence track record. During 2000 and in 2005 the Congress Party was in power in all the district Panchayats and administration and the anti-incumbency factor had worked against us. That is why, it would not be correct to say that. Secondly, he referred to the riots of 1969, I am also a witness of it. Hundreds of people were massacred in two three days in the textile areas of Ahmedabad. Despite calling the military a major incident took place in Ahmedabad in the process to contain the riots which was the first of its kind in 1969 after independence and all the Gandhians across the nation came to Ahmedabad wondering what had happened.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azmi Saheb, go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has got the permission from me.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am doing my analysis. He can do his own on his turn.

[English]

I would not disturb you then.

[Translation]

My contribution was also there in the Commission which was set up in 1969. I would like to draw your attention to the places in Ahmedabad city and the magnitude of the damage that was caused and the steps taken by each state. There is a great difference between the riots of 1969 and that of 2000.

[English]

The State then was no passive. In the 2000 riots the State was passive. You can make it out. The most unfortunate part was that when we met the then Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister and requested them to send Army to Ahmedabad, they said that Army would be deployed but the city will not be handed over to the Army. But in 1969 the city was handed over to the Army as early as possible. The State had no passive or tacit support. You can make out the difference.

[Translation]

Here the contention is that what is the role of the state as assigned to them by the Constitution. The question cropped up during the discussion regarding the failure of the State to discharge its duty to protect the lives, property and liberty of all the citizens.

[English]

Whether the State can be a party; whether the police can play a passive role where the police is being asked not to play any role. Not only that it is on record that some of their Ministers were in the control room directing the police where to go and where not to go.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the difference. I would like to remind him that my constituency was the most affected. Their intention has always been to protect development being made on one hand and causing polarization on the other due to which they have been successful in the ensuing elections. Sir, I will refer to Baroda later on. There is a great difference between what they practise and what they preach. Out of the two people who died in Akshardham, one was tribal and another was tribal Muslim. Since constituency has been referred to, I would like to say something in regard to it which would not be deviating from the topic. These people roamed across the country with their dead bodies. They fought elections on the their dead bodies and won. Two statues were raised in the memory of these martyrs, there, but those statues are no longer there. No one knows where these are now. This is their patriotism.

Sir, same incident took place at that time also in the constituency of the Deputy Prime Minister. Shri Harin Pathak ji is sitting here, similar incidents took place in his and my constituency.

[English]

I am disturbed by the whole pattern, by the mindset of the administration as well as the people who are in power. It is mind boggling.

[Translation]

I do not wish to talk of the year 2002 here today.

[English]

Vadodara was peaceful.

[Translation]

My concern is what happened in Baroda. Baroda was peaceful. Fresh elections were held. As he said they won in Municipal Corporation, he was in Corporation. There was demolition drive. It is on record. It appeared in all the newspapers of Gujarat. I am not referring to any other place. I am referring to Gujarat and the papers printed in Gujarat. He has not refuted any thing. There was demolition drive and 79-80 temples were proposed to be demolished. What is the difference between removing these temples and those dargahs. I would like to refer to it as well.

Sir, the Mayor gave intimation of having a meeting on Friday, which was convened on Monday. Thereafter, immediately demolition drive began and orders for demolition were served. The Mayor spoke of striking a balance.

[English]

This is on record.

[Translation]

Since they had removed temples, they will have to remove dargah as well. The theory of Godhara was repeated here too, there was reaction to the action.

Sir, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete in all smiles. He would be knowing, the same thing happened here and it was said that they had to balance everything. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, what to do, they have shrunk a lot. They are worried which of the Shiv Sena is real one, theirs or the other one. This is balancing Act. Demolition was done and temples were removed but he is not telling it conveniently as to which temples were removed. How many of the temples which were demolished date back to the year 1911. Whether all the temples on the way, dated back to 1911 did they date back to 1950 or 1960? All these temples are recent ones. When the Mayor apologized, he was reprimanded as to why he sought apology. Their party is to be blamed equally. The ex-Minister from Baroda was present during curfew at the site when the dargah was demolished in his presence.

[English]

I read out a report:

"The BJP leaders including former State Minister, remained at the spot till the dargah was demolished and the road was carpeted in spite of curfew."

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, the name should be avoided. It should not be mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You did not mention. I am just telling you. I am just reading out. You have not mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Why are you mentioning the name of a person who is not a Member of this House? ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am making a charge.

[English]

If this issue had been between the administration or community, then it is a different thing.

[Translation]

I haven't made a mention of the administration or the community. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names may be expunged from the records.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: He had also mentioned a name. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The simple principle that has to be observed by all of us is not to allege things against any person who is not present in the House.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have no problem. You can remove it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not saying about you. I am saying about the allegation made. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have no problem at all. The point I am trying to say is that this was not a clash between the administration and the minority community. They were very much a part of it. They became a part of it.

[Translation]

The person who was burnt alive in a car during the curfew by setting the car on fire was not burnt to death by the Police or the administration. He was burnt to death by the BJP and RSS squad. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: How can you take the name of BJP or RSS? Can you prove this charge? You are levelling accusation for the sake of it. I have not spoken

[Shri Harin Pathak]

a single word against the Congress. I did not say that Congress had done it. You did not take it well when I mentioned the name of the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not objectionable. Neither is it unparliamentary nor objectionable.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to say that it took an ugly shape of communal violence, which it should not have taken. They also stated that the Wakf Board did not have any proof. They did not say anything.

[English]

The Report says"

"The Muslim Community which had fixed a Memorandum about the issue on Sunday itself to National Minority Commission quoted Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 which, they say, ensures *status quo* to religious places built before 1947. This is why, the agitated Muslim delegation members later said that the demolition was a pre-planned move to disturb communal peace in the name of development."

[Translation]

If it was built in the year 1947 then it was written in that report that these have protection under the Act and there is an order of maintaining status quo in respect of such religious places.

[English]

where was the need to demolish it. They had all the proof. The Collector would not justify the demolition after that.

[Translation]

It was claimed that it came within the ambit of the citymap

[English]

but I do not want to repeat it.

[Translation]

Now I take up the second issue. Six persons were killed in that incident. The autopsy report of these persons revealed that out of the six, two persons were not killed in the police firing. The slug found during their autopsy did not match with the guns used in the police firing. It belonged to private firing.

[English]

They are puzzled. They have sent it to Forensics Research Laboratory. This is what it says.

[Translation]

How did this happen? How can you deny the sinister collusion of the State administration in this? The dispute is regarding this matter. A shrine of year 1947 was disbanded.

[English]

It was a sinister design again to put a face outside the world, outside Gujarat in India.

[Translation]

I would not like to mention the name of the Chief Minister who through the medium of the press created an atmosphere as if he was a great champion of development and wished to run the state by pursuing this agenda. But such was the sinister design that their aim was to evict and polarize the minority community in the name of demolition in the entire state and win the elections piggybacking on it.

I cannot help stop myself from taking up the second issue.

[English]

This whole communal feeling which Mr. Dasgupta was just referring has penetrated.

[Translation]

and I will also make a request to the Hon'ble Home Minister.

[English]

that for the entire police establishment, there is a need to take a very immediate step. Not only that but we still

have to think about the police reforms, that how the police can be neutral as a police force and can safeguard the interest and save the lives of the people and do not become a party to it.

[Translation]

It became visible through this as it happened there. Tomorrow there will be more talks, yesterday he used the term carnage. Yesterday, he used the word ethnic cleansing regarding Jammu and Kashmir, I will not use the word ethnic cleansing here.

[English]

I am very careful whether I should use the word ethnic cleansing or not but if you see it, all the steps taken by the Gujarat Government, so far as the behaviour of the Gujarat Government is concerned, it was a systematic move of the Gujarat Government to seize and terrorise the minority community so that they leave and the people from other states desist to come to Gujarat especially in such an atmosphere.

[Translation]

Create such an atmosphere and polarize the people, the entire Gujarat Government followed the same pattern. The persons who were arrested under POTA,

[English]

they have no evidence

[Translation]

against them. If one person was apprehended, he would point out to a second person demanding that he also be arrested. If he is also from the same strata, he will also be remanded, then he will take another person's name and the third person will also be captured.

[English]

It goes on like that and a result

[Translation]

in the case where tiffin bomb was confiscated in Gujarat, 12 to 14 people apprehended in this connection were released as there was no evidence against them and

nobody pointed a finger towards them. We are opposing these kind of activities going on in Gujarat and due to such incidents we are forced to adopt such a viewpoint.

Now, I would like to come to the second issue. I strongly condemn the atmosphere being created in Gujarat by the Chief Minister. This does not augur well for any State. The Chief Minister should abdicate power and after that he can act in whatever way he wants to

[English]

but to use administration, use State's money, to use the power that is being vested in the post in order to terrorise the minority communities, in my opinion, it is an enough case. Worst part was, Sir, and with all due respect to the judiciary, I still do not understand that why the Gujarat High Court took a suo moto note of the demolition and ordered on the same day to demolish all the religious places. I do not understand where was that need by the Court. But there is a whole possibility of changing or influencing of minds and influencing certain organs, powers or the Governors. It is a concern that concerns me most

[Translation]

At the first time the Chief Minister of Gujarat paid a visit was only after three days that too after the Minister of State visited the State from here. The apprehension of his Government getting dismissed forced him to go there. Later on he went to the people. If the Gujarat Government had not intervened or had not played any role in this

[English]

why the advocates were sent, why the BJP workers were sent to the hospitals to heckle? Why to shout slogans against him—

[Translation]

He may go to other side, why is he here?

[English]

It was very much a part of all that to see

[Translation]

The inside report from Gujarat says that nobody should go outside and nobody shall enter the Gujarat.

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

[English]

It is not a fiefdom of any private person or even of the Chief Minister.

[Translation]

It is a democracy, everybody has a right to speak, due to it I would like to say that if State fails in its duty, as has been said.

[English]

or State deliberately do not take action, I think, we have to find a way where Centre can intervene *suo motu* to see that it protects the life and property of the citizens, especially, of the communities, which are not protected in the State or the State leadership because of the partisan reason, because of the reason that they have in the back of their mind to see that they remain in power all the time.

[Translation]

This is the question and situation in Gujarat would be more grim. Though, it has been said again and again that after this, they will come to power. We always consider it a laboratory and continue to run it. We know that what kind of aid their party gets from Gujarat and other places and we are aware how much funding they received, but we do not degrade ourselves to that level, but would definitely like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Therefore, I understand that the State Government of Gujarat is threatening political activists, minority community activists, the people linked with human rights and NGOs. The people are send over there. By using influence of his name, the entire process to cancel their FCRA was

conducted. Many have been kept under prior permission, many have been defamed by terming them as Five Star NGOs, many such cases have come to light, many campaigns have been launched. This is a systematic effort being made by the Gujarat Government to bring in bad light the people linked with minority community, Hindu organization and other organization and to demoralise them, terrorise them. At present, this is happening. I definitely think.

[English]

We must find some way out for this. I would again request the Union Government.

[Translation]

If any such legislation is enacted, which empowers Union Government that

[English]

if a State Government deliberately and willfully allows certain kind of things to go on in the State where the people of that State feel helpless, then the Centre has every right to intervene in such a situation.

[Translation]

Due to it, the people's and minorities faith in democracy, is maintained. I have again and again said and I am repeating it. At that time, this happened in Advaniji's constituency, but he did not went over there. He did not met, people in camps even once in the year 2002, he did not met them for months, though maximum number of people were killed in his constituency and at that time. He was the Deputy Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He went over there. I accompanied him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him finish.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am talking about their mind set. My fight is with their mind set, they think that they can get votes by polarization, they can stand firm in elections and would be in a position to retain their seats for 2-3 times, they cannot check these things.

*Not recorded.

The way their 'Rath Yatra' is going on or any other mean is being adopted by them.

[*English*]

They are bound to do this because everyone wants to remain in the good books of Sangh Parivar. Advaniji also wants to remain in the good books of Sangh Parivar.

[*Translation*]

Due to it, it will continue, therefore,

[*English*]

it is high time that we come up with a certain amendment in the law so that we can intervene in any State affairs if the State fails to protect the life and property of its own citizens.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at what time am I expected to reply to this discussion because I have one more very important business to attend to?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are more than 15 Members still in the list. But I am going to shorten it.

Hon. Members, those who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House can do so and that will form part of the proceedings.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I seek your permission to go out for sometime, and come back. I will be here around 8 o'clock.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it will be held around 8 o'clock.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have started this discussion at 4 o'clock and the time allotted is three hours. If we discuss till 8 o'clock, it will be four hours. So, it should not go beyond 8 o'clock.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Let two-three Members speak, and then we may continue tomorrow.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Sir, the zero hour is being adjourned for the last three days. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then, it will be held on Monday. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): The reply may be either on Monday or on Tuesday. Tomorrow, there is Private Members' business. Even the time is also not sufficient. After Agriculture Minister's reply, you may take up this issue; otherwise you may take it up on Tuesday.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: On Monday and Tuesday, there are other things to be done. Tomorrow, being Friday, we have to take up Private Members' business. So, I seek the indulgence of the hon. Members to allow the reply to be given today itself maybe at 8 p.m. I will come back within half an hour after attending to another business, and I will reply today itself. Very good points have been raised by hon. Members and it is better to discuss those things in the House itself. Kindly approve it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am always left out. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azmi ji, do not think so, your name is there, I will accommodate you. Go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret to say that the kind of discussion required, the discussion for which hon'ble Speaker has given permission, has not been held over here. Many senior hon'ble Members have expressed their views here. It is true that communal riots are caused

[Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

due to communal hatred, but all communal riots right from 1949 should have been discussed. All of you are aware, that the partition of country was also done due to communal hatred. The Britishers wanted to create communal tension to rule the country, their policy was to divide and rule. But hundreds of communal roots took place after 1947. All parties should rise above the party lines to see what can be done to check the communal riots, but this kind of discussion has not been held today and the discussion about Gujarat only has been held. Nobody discussed what happened in Delhi or anywhere. I am not saying that as to why the discussion about Gujarat was held. There is a need to hold discussion about measures needed to check communal hatred. At the time of creation of Pakistan, lakhs of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims brethren were killed, lakhs of people got devastated but we did not learnt any lesson from that. We call ourselves the biggest democracy of the world. We also say that we are not communal. It appears from today's discussion that Members sitting on my right side are talking about Hindus and people on other side are talking about Muslims brethren. The problem cannot be resolved like this, the problem can be resolved only by adopting measures to check it in future. If you really want to check it completely, then rise above the party lines and work in this direction. We have not been elected by the people for playing the role of Government and opposition, but should work in the interest of nation.

I would like to say if you want to do it, then do it. The Home Minister has left the House, but the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present here. I am grateful that when Nanawati Commission report was presented, then all parties whether it was NDA or parties supporting UPA Government helped us. Had ATR not been published in press, the commission would not have taken any notice in that regard. Till all of us discuss this issue by rising above the party lines, as we did in the discussion on Nanawati Commission report, the communal violence will not stop. Therefore, I would like to tell the Government, whichever Government had been in power in 1984 or in 1969, had the culprits been punished, 1984 riots, Godhra massacre or any other riots would not have taken place. Whosoever Government came to power, did not take any step to stop it. Nobody was punished, be it even the riots of 1984.

I would like to mention to the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs that some people of my community met me today and told me that cases were registered against 52 persons in transistor bomb

case of 1985. They were charged of manufacturing the transistor bomb, which was exploded in Delhi. Out of those 52 persons, 6 have died. 39 judges have been transferred so far but these persons have not even been chargesheeted till date. These 52 persons will also die before being chargesheeted. There are 1109 witnesses in this case. The remaining persons would also be more by time the chargesheet is filed because most of them are old age person. There are old women among them who are unable to walk. They have to come on every hearing in the Court. My submission is that communal violence will continue if the people are not given speedy justice. There is a need to check this violence.

I would also like to state that all the political parties should support the Government on this issue. Today while one party speaks in favour of an incident, the other opposes it. Such things should be taken in view. The Minister of State in the ministry of Home Affairs is aware of very old cases in respect of which people are languishing in jails for the past 20-25 years. They have completed their life imprisonment but they are still in jails. However, those who enjoy the support of the Government and those who are terrorists are released from the jails. I had mentioned about the Punjab Government earlier. Those who sided with the Government, Police charged their names and used them for their own purpose. When inquired about it, they simply denied. One of such a persons was caught by the Press persons who is a known terrorist. Now he is running an agency. DGP states that there are 200 such persons with them. In such a scenario, communal violence and terrorism will continue to survive. Tension will prevail till such activities are not controlled.

I request you to work for the country rising above the party lines. This country belongs to all of us. All are equal in democracy. We all have to work together to curb this tendency and to protect the unity of the country. But such a feeling is missing in today's discussion. Today the tendency is how to let down others. If we cannot form consensus on such a serious issue, the country will witness another partition and the communal tension will increase. We must contemplate seriously to find out a remedy in this regard. Whether any policy, a committee or an act or an all-party committee should be formed for this purpose. This was the objective of today's discussion but the discussion held today will lead us nowhere rather it has revived old wounds which should not happen in a democratic system. I would like to request that there is no need to hold a discussion if its objective is to revive the old wounds only. Many such discussions have taken

place; Gujarat issue has been discussed so many times. Today there is a need to provide justice to the people. The people belonging to any community who have been demanding justice be they Sikhs or Muslims should be given justices because the denial of justice provokes them to adopt dangerous means. Justice actually console them and they do not deviate from the right path. I also belong to the community, which has been denied justice. I do not want to repeat the previous things. I would say that it is a very serious issue and a line of action should be formulated in this regard. I would just say that the discussion would be fruitful only when the people get justice.

*SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (Hathras): Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Nobel and poor people who earn their livelihood on daily basis are living in Aligarh. They do not want riots but still riots occur on one pretext or the other creating trouble for them. One day some people raised objection on the 'aarti' performed in a temple. However, the people performing aarti did not yield to their objection, as puja was a daily ritual there. Heated arguments started between the two sides. Rising tension compelled the administration to intervene and they supported right cause. Stone pelting also took place between the two sides. The next day a large number of agitators formed a group and started demonstrating there. Administration tried to stop them but they started pelting stones on them also. I was not present there. Some people told me that the firing took place from both the side in which four people were killed and many others got injured. Curfew was imposed in some parts of the city. Daughter-in-law of a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Shri Devi Nandan ji had won the election of Block head and I was attending the function organized for her welcome with the hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly.

On 9.4.06 MLA Shri Devi Nandan ji informed me that his son had not returned home since yesterday. I was about to leave when he told me that his friends Sharif and Imran had taken him out on 8.4.06 but he had not returned till then. He told that he would inform the police next day if he did not return even that day.

On 10.4.06, in the morning he informed me on telephone that a photograph of his son had been

published in Dainik Jagran. His name is Vicky and I and my family members have identified him. His dead body was buried as unclaimed. He told me that he had been with IG and some other persons at the exhibition ground of the Guesthouse. He was demanding dead body of his son but police was not accepting his demand because they were saying that he was a Muslim, his dead body has been buried. He requested me to come soon. I reached there at around 9 o'clock and met the I.G. Rizvan Ahmed outside the guesthouse. I told him that I had come to inquire about a dead body of a Hindu youth who was killed in the riots and the dead body has been buried. I told him that as the member of the Legislative Assembly is Hindu, obviously his son is also a Hindu. He could not be circumcised at all. There was a graveyard nearby. I told them that if it was a Muslim body, then we would bury him with full respect. I said, I would get the body excavated by intimating the officials of the administration. I moved forward and the IG also left the place in his vehicle to his destination. When the body was dug out from the grave by the officials, it turned out to be the body of the son of MLA, Shri Devaki Nandan. The 'aum' symbol was tattooed on his arm and the mark of circumcision on his body was a fresh one.

The officials and the assembled crowd had witnessed that the mark of circumcision was fresh and 'aum' symbol was tattooed on his hand and MLA, Shri Devaki Nandan also identified the body as that of his son, Vicky. Subsequently, his body was a fresh one.

The officials and the assembled crowd had witnessed that the mark of circumcision was fresh and 'aum' symbol was tattooed on his hand and MLA, Shri Devaki Nandan also identified the body as that of his son, Vicky. Subsequently, his body was cremated according to the Hindu rituals. After that we urged the Union Home Minister, the Chief Minister of the State and Governor, Uttar Pradesh to take penal action against IG, Kanpur Zone Rizwan Ahmed with whose conspiracy a Hindu man was circumcised-which was proved beyond doubt in front of everybody. Penal action should be taken against such persons who hatch conspiracies while occupying posts of higher responsibilities as they bring disrepute to the Government.

The people who took away the son of the MLA from his house, got him killed there. In Delhi Gate Police Station this murder has been registered as case no. 183/06 under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code. Till date, the culprits have not been taken into custody. They should

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Kishan Lal Diler]

be brought to book. IG, Rizwan Ahmed exerted pressure on Dr. Hira Singh to issue a certificate depicting the deceased, Vicky as a Muslim boy which Dr. Hira Singh flatly refused by saying that he was a Hindu which was evident from the symbol 'aum' tattooed on his hand. He said that he will not issue a fake certificate depicting him to be a Muslim. We demanded that IG Rizwan Ahmed should disclose the name of the doctor who had certified the deceased Vicky as a Muslim, but he refused to divulge the name. From this, it becomes evident that this plot of conspiracy was hatched at the behest and under the pressure of IG, Agra Zone. The IG who can label a Hindu as a Muslim while occupying such a prominent post in the Government, can play a greater fraud with the nation at any point of time. Sir, through you, I urge the Government to put Rizwan Ahmed behind the bars and conduct a CBI enquiry into the matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request to you is that the officials who incite riots should be strictly dealt with a heavy hand. Through you, I request the Central Government to conduct a CBCID enquiry into this matter and take proper action so as to bring the guilty to justice.

[English]

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Respected Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this important matter.

At the outset, I would like to stress here that whenever any tragedy takes place in the form of tsunami or natural calamities like floods, droughts or communal riots, our beloved leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is always the first person to pay a visit to console the affected persons.

But in the six years of NDA rule, a number of communal riots had taken place but the then Prime Minister or the then Home Minister never cared to visit the areas affected by communal riots or the people affected by floods or any sort of tragedies. The NDA regime, in fact, even aggravated the situation by hurling provocative statements. They had set a very bad example which no Government should accept.

Our leader not only gives guidance to the UPA Government but also takes care of the common and deprived sections of the society, particularly when they

are in distress. This unique quality has made her the tallest political leader of the country in every conceivable respect. In the Varanasi riots, within few hours our UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited there, consoled the people and gave compensation along with the local MP.

Now, in India, communal clashes are erupting everywhere. Sir, we have to make a deep analysis as to why it is coming, from where it is instigated and by whom. We have to analyse what is the real reason behind it. In violence, persons are beaten to death and properties, moveable and immovable, are destroyed. Vehicles are torched. They may belong to an individual but on the whole they belong to the nation. In the NDA's six years' rule, the whole of India witnessed a lot of violence which has taken place, particularly in the BJP-ruled States. I would request the UPA Government to inquire into the irregularities committed by them in important clashes during the NDA Government's time by an independent inquiry commission and the culprits who had committed the heinous crimes have to be dealt with severely.

My humble suggestion is that that we have to bring communal harmony among the communities. Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs have to be treated at par with majority Hindu community brothers. Sir, even in the Hindu community, the posts under reservation that are to be given to the sub-sects like BC, OBC, SC and ST, have not been filled up so far. Now, some student strikes are taking place in Delhi and in other places. I would like to mention that the striking students are post-graduate students. They belong totally to the forward community. None of the striking students belong to the BC, OBC, SC or ST or minorities. Shri Advani, the Leader of the Opposition, had released a book written by Shri J.P. Mathur and Makkan Lal. Their leaders and the RSS cadres have shown their venom against the minorities. Our Congress Party spokeswoman, Jayanthi Natarajan said: "Mr. Advani should apologize to the nation and to the Muslims."

My last submission is that to curtail communal violence, our UPA Government should instruct the State Governments to form a District Communal Harmony Committee with six persons with judicial powers. They have to meet once in a month in every Assembly constituency and they can receive petitions from the general public. They have to dispose of these petitions within a month. If we do so, we can eradicate communal violence.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Under the Congress rule, right from the days of Independence, minorities have been given more ministerial berths in various important portfolios and offices. A lot of top bureaucracy hails from the minority community. They hold very high official positions under the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre.

Only the UPA Government thought of giving reservations to the minorities in jobs which would enable the minorities to come and compete in the national mainstream. They would also feel that they have been taken care of fully and completely.

It is a matter of privilege to say that the United Progressive Government, which has started on the right lines, has kept its pace and started implementing a number of schemes, particularly for the benefit of downtrodden, poor, weaker sections, minorities and Dalits. No one can deny this fact. It is there for all to see.

Good programmes of the United Progressive Alliance Government had helped its alliance partners to sweep the just held Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and other States. This Government has made great strides in every conceivable field, namely agriculture, education, health, power.

Funds should be extended generously to schools run by Wakf Boards all over the country in general and in particular to Tamil Nadu. Due to acute shortage of funds, the schools under the aegis of Wakf Boards are in a pitiable condition. I hope the Government would give utmost priority to this aspect to help the minority community to keep pace with the advancements made in other schools.

The UPA Government has also strengthened the Panchayati Raj institutions to see that real fruits reach the people at the bottom for whom it is meant. Here, I would like to quote late Rajiv Gandhi who said, that only 10 per cent reaches the public and the balance 90 per cent is siphoned off by the middlemen. This trend should be set right.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which is in vogue in a few States, should be introduced at the national level to bring more people to the school and this would provide at least a meal a day to those who could not make both the ends meet or get a square meal a day. The Central Government should extend grants generously so that we could improve the literacy of the country like the one in

Kerala which has 100 per cent literacy. Any country, which has its considerable population educated, would undoubtedly make strides in every conceivable area.

Tamil Nadu has been facing the problem of water almost every year. The Central Government should extend financial assistance to tide over the recurring problem every year.

Lastly, I would like the UPA Government to ensure that all communities live in harmony and there is no trace of communal riots as was seen during the NDA regime. The Government should study in depth to know the real reasons for the eruption of communal riots.

A separate force should be set up to deal with communal riots. During communal riots, crores of worth of property is damaged and looted. Precious lives are lost. This separate force should ensure that those persons who are behind the eruption of communal riots should be brought to book in advance and should ensure that property and life of the citizens are protected.

Sir, I thank you once again for permitting me to put forward my views in this august House. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, this august House is discussing the important subject of communal violence in the entire country. Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji has initiated this discussion. While Shri Pathakji was speaking, I thought that he would enlighten everybody with some meaningful suggestions. However, I am aware of the fact that whenever the need of defending the state and the Government of Gujarat arises, irrespective of the fact whether he is a Minister of the Government or part of the opposition benches as of now, the onus of rising in support of Gujarat solely rests on Pathakji. During his speech, he may have distorted certain facts but that is another issue. However, I congratulate him for his wholehearted efforts to defend the Chief Minister and the Government of Gujarat through his eloquence notwithstanding his illogical facts and arguments.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. This issue is related to the unity of the country. During India's freedom struggle spanning from the year 1857 to the revolt by the navy and the war of independence led by Mahatma Gandhi, no single caste or religion fought alone. The Hindus,

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Sikhs, Christians, Muslims everyone fought unitedly as a single nation under one flag and as a result our country got liberated. I would like to submit that if the country wants to achieve progress, if we want to put our country into high pedestals of success, there is no other way left except that of brotherhood. We shall have to permanently discard the path of hatred and feeling of bitterness and enmity. We shall also have to put an end to all conspiracies hatched against one another.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the facts presented in the House with regard to the shrine and shaped in support of their correctness or otherwise are difficult to judge. Pathakji, all the facts which are available with us, are based on material published in the newspapers. Mistriji said that he had given the reference of the newspapers of Gujarat. If the newspapers are publishing false information, please take legal action against them. What the correspondents or representatives witness there, gets published in the newspapers. It may be possible that some facts are not correct, our viewpoints can be different, but you can't outrightly say that the boot is on the other leg.

The issue is not whether the Shrine in Vadodara is 100 years, 200 years or 300 years old, but it is clearly evident that at the time when this shrine was built, it was not located in the confines of the city. At that time, the city had not undergone so much development. It was away from the city limits. As the city got developed gradually, the shrine now stands in the middle of the city. While drawing an analogy, I must say that it is a trivial matter to deal with if a person grabs another person's property, forcibly occupies his land, or has some personal scores to settle. But people are sensitive and emotional with regard to our temples, mosques and shrines. Even though, I have very high regard for our legal system, I am compelled to say that this cannot be resolved through legal means alone. Even if there are any hindrances, being a political worker, I am of the opinion that there are no problems in this world which cannot be solved through a dialogue provided the intention involved is bonafide.

The people belonging to the minority community approached the municipal corporation and had a dialogue with them. However, I have no hesitation in saying that after the year 2002, there are some psychological scars left on the psyche of the minorities of Gujarat and they are panic-stricken. They paid a visit to the site and the

decision taken was also approved by minorities that they have no problem in administration demolishing the 2.5 feet path connecting the shrine's road. But contrary to the agreement and the promises made, the administration demolished the entire shrine by violating the agreement reached with them. All the newspapers reported about this demolition activity. People belonging to Vishwa Hindu Parishad, R.S.S. and Bajrang Dal were present there. But the recent outbreak of violence was the result of people losing faith in the administration. The names of the people present there is available with me. The people who were involved in the riots of 2002, the riot culprits, were present with the municipal corporation officials while the demolition activities were going on. And on another occasion, the mayor had stated that if the administration failed to accomplish the demolition, the only option left was to let loose the people of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad to demolish the shrine. There was not even a single newspaper left in which such type of reports were not published. Even though I have the names, I would not like to disclose them.

After its destruction, the grave of Ahmedabad's Vali Dakhini was vandalized and levelled. On 2nd May, the minority community was threatened in Bahar and Kismat society. When the corpse of a person, who was killed in the police firing, was taken out in the funeral procession at Fatehpura Chowk, it was attacked. I feel that it was not justifiable from any angle. Taking into account the truth which is coming to the fore, I have no hesitation in saying that it does not matter much if you won the Lok Sabha elections and Legislative Assembly elections as a result of what happened in the year 2002 and by dint of its political ramifications. The more important question is whether the unity of nation will remain intact or not? This is a basic question. The people feel that in order to replicate the success in 2007 which you had achieved in the year 2002, they are left with no basis other than resorting to rioting.

As far the question of report is concerned, Shri Jaiswal ji is sitting here. He is the Minister of State and he had visited there. He is a very intelligent man and he does not say anything clearly. If I have to speak against our Government, I have to make out the meaning of his statement as to what he is saying. Though he is in the habit of speaking more. The Home Secretary of the Government of India has accepted that it was on account of negligence the administration and the police that the Vadodra incident occurred. The administration is responsible for this.

I would like to submit that the discussion about Gujarat is over and now it is time to take up the issue of Rajasthan. I would like to submit about the reasons responsible behind the vitiation of cordial atmosphere. The atmosphere is vitiating because there are more than one dozen sensitive districts in Rajasthan. The curfew was imposed in Pali during the procession. Is the House aware about the order given by the Social Welfare Minister of the State? Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian students living in the hostels there were told that they will have to chant mantras before the meals. Who are they to decide whether one should read Koran Sharif or Bible or Ramayana or Geeta? This is the reason that lead to the vitiation of social atmosphere. They are deliberately trying to vitiate the atmosphere all over the country. Our method of worship can be different however, followers of one religion cannot force the followers of other religions to accept their views. It is their type of attitude which is going to divide the country and vitiate social harmony. The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs was inviting suggestions. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that this is not the question of cannon or swords, rather, it is the question of our conscience, our thinking and our culture and our bent of mind. If any party is reflective of such bent of mind, it is the party to which Shri Pathak ji belongs. I would like to ask him to give honest reply of my one question. The administration is almost the same that was in the year 2002. The Human Right Commission indicted those officials of the administration who were involved in the riot of 2002 and told that the person who was the Police Commissioner during the Ahmedabad riot and whose integrity was of doubtful rather is the present Director General of Police of the State. All the Members are the political persons and I would like to submit that I believe in democracy. Whether it is the Central Government or the State Government the conduct of bureaucracy is determined by the conduct of the head of the Government. Presently, the bureaucracy of Gujarat is deliberately acting like this because they know that what type of their action will please the Chief Minister of the State. That is why the entire administration is doing the same thing that the Chief Minister of the State wants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Basu Deb Achariya ji referred about the Gujarat riots. Is it not true that 4252 cases were registered in Gujarat after Godhra incident, however, in 2000 cases no action was taken and was told that accused are not being traced. It was only after the instruction of the Supreme Court that the Government took cognizance otherwise in half of the

cases the Government was not going to take even cognizance. Was the evidences not destroyed?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the basic question is that what is the basis of our thinking, demeanour and conscience and the means to achieve power. Pathak ji, I would like to submit that it is the same Gujarat where Mahatma Gandhi was born. Mahatma Gandhi was 'Sanatani' however, he worked for the social harmony in by putting his life at stake. This is the same Gujarat where Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was born who merged 500 regency states in the Union of India. This is the same Gujarat from where the leader of opposition is elected. This is the same Gujarat from where comes the present Chief Minister of the State. I would humbly like to submit that the number of persons killed during the Rath Yatra of hon'ble L.K. Advani in 1990 was more than the number of persons killed during the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Who is responsible for this? They are deliberately trying to vitiate the atmosphere of the country. I would like to submit that we will have to ponder over our responsibility regarding the vitiation of overall atmosphere of our country. If in real sense of the term we want the prosperity and development our country, then we will have to show tolerance and will have to take all along with us.

One of our poet friends K.K. Singh has said that—

"Youn to Har ek Shakhs Ka Iman Hona Chahiya,
Shart Lekin hai, Vah Insan Hona chahiya.
Ho Jahan Shiv ki Ajane aur Khuda Ki Arti ho.
Vah Ibadatgah Hindustan Hona Chahiya."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

You please conclude your speech in five minutes only.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am the first Member to speak on behalf of my party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I always try to accommodate you, however, you also have to listen the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You have also given one hour to Pathak ji to speak. I will be very brief, however, you please don't stop me in the middle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not stop you in the middle of your speech; I will ring only the bell.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion is going on in the House on a very serious issue. I would like to express my thanks to Shri Basu Deb Aharia ji who provided opportunity to hold discussion on a very sensitive issue. Today we are discussing regarding the communal incidents occurring in the various parts of the country. We all are hurt on account of this. Very serious discussion has been held in the House and several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on it. India has a distinct identity. This is such a country where people belonging to different religious groups and castes live. India is such a beautiful garden that has no parallel in the world. We have a distinct constitution and every person of the country is free to practise his or her own religion.

Sir, it is being discussed about Jammu. It is a reality that the communal violence took place in the country after the independence and at the time of killing of Gandhi ji. The country was divided. The unified Hindustan was divided into India and Pakistan and Bangladesh. At that time too efforts were made by one particular section and class to divide us and who were they? They were Britishers who ruled us for many years. They divided the country quite cunningly. Now the same Hindustan has become India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. I feel that those forces are still active in India under the policy of divide and rule. Efforts are being made to weaken the country by dividing us. Efforts are being made to put an end to our brotherhood and efforts are also being made to destroy our historical background. Efforts are being made to divide brothers in the name of castes and religion. I am proud of my country and it is our honour. Our democracy and our bureaucracy are talked about all over the world. It is certain that today danger is looming large over our country. If we do not act to maintain our brotherhood, our goodwill and our unity and keep on fighting in the name of caste and religion, the divisive forces will keep on doing their jobs and probably India will not remain one.

We should think of those ancestors who laid down their lives to obtain freedom for India. A large number of women lost their husbands, a large number of people including young and old sacrificed their lives. Our country became free and its offshoot was democracy and we as public representatives are sitting here in the House. This is a serious issue. If we will continue to level allegations

against one another it will not be possible to draw any solution of the problem. We will have to ponder over it seriously. This is also to be taken care of as to how will the country remain united and how our civilization and culture could be preserved. I am proud of my country and proud to be an Indian. India has become more powerful in the world. Our democracy is being looked to up to and we have established our identity. We have come on the top of the developing countries. Everyone has contributed to it. However, if riots would continue to hit Gujarat and this kind of a situation keeps brewing up in other parts of the country. Would it remain united? If we continue to shed each other's blood, what would be the fate of our economy? Pathakji is one of my good friends. I look up to him. We have a long association. We have pulled together and worked together.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even now he is there and is your colleague.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We have neither pulled together nor we shall pull together during riots. The Gujarat region being discussed is a large one, peace used to prevail there, thousands of people died, property worth billions of rupees was destroyed. The pace at which Gujarat was growing is no longer the same. Is it not stunted? Were 2002 riots not painful? Not even the mother who was nursing a child in her womb was spread. The mother and child were hacked to death. Is it humanity? These people were responsible for it. Have they ever given it a thought? Did not they do it to come to power? If they will continue to shed the blood of humanity, would the country prosper? Pathak ji, these are not my words, when the leader of his party Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee ji was the Prime Minister it was his observation after his return from Gujarat that the Government of Gujarat have failed to fulfil their 'Rajdharma'. Our heads are hanging down in shame. What can be a bigger proof than this? The Government there has proved a failure, the State Government should remain but there should be this commitment that they will not allow riots and there would be zero tolerance for it them who can dare indulge in riots. It is a direct allegation on his Government and" ...((Interruptions))

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His name may be expunged.

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, Shri Harin Pathak took the name of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad during his speech. Since Shri Azad could not be present in the House, his name also should be removed from the record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: His name may be removed from the record. Yet I would emphasize this point that these were state sponsored riots. Large scale riots took place through the State. Riots took place when the Legislative Assembly elections in the State were about to be held. It was ordered. The Government had become unpopular. The Chief Minister was most likely to lose his government. He was called in at the last moment. He was trained to be an expert on how to come back in power. He has been a follower of R.S.S. ideology.

19.00 hrs.

He is also a 'Prachark' of R.S.S. He exercised his skill and came to power. Despite it being a fact that thousands of people including children lost their lives, property worth crores of rupees was destroyed during those riots—same thing is being repeated in Vadodara. The Vadodara incident cannot be taken lightly, it was a dargah. Pathak ji was saying. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to make an announcement. It is seven o'clock, if members agree we can conclude the discussion by eight o'clock.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can take it up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow we have Private Members Bill. What is the sense of pulling it beyond eight o'clock? Let us finish it by eight o'clock.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to go at 7.30 P.M.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Are we not Members?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, let us extend the time till eight o'clock.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): My request is that it may be concluded by eight o'clock, since the Hon. Minister will reply at 8 o'clock.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what do I do? I will leave the House by that time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, I will try to accommodate you first. Thereafter, every Member will be allotted two minutes time each.

[*English*]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, it is a discussion on communal violence. You have to give opportunity to minority Members of Parliament to say something on communal violence. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ask them what is to be done? You have laid your speech. I will ask the other Members myself. The time of the House is extended, since there 16 speakers. Otherwise imagine how it will be over? Now I shall give two minutes time to all the hon'ble Members.

...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I was saying that Vadodara incident is being repeated. Babri Masjid was demolished, the same At of people was rising slogan, 'Chhoti Babri Masjid Ko Dhakka do' and it was demolished.

When Mandal law was being enforced, Advani ji came out with his 'Kamandal' with planning came to power and spread chaos in the entire country. Ramji Lal Suman ji correctly stated that the number of murders after the Rath Yatra of Advani ji is a record in itself. It is needless to say that the entire country is burning in the flames of communal violence. The Bharatiya Janata Party, R.S.S., Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Durga Vahini, Bajrang Dal have biggest contribution in it. I would categorically state if this poison would spread further then no one can keep the unity and integrity of the nation intact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am ready to cooperate and conclude my speech. I would conclude within 2-4 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude within a month.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You love me so much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ofcourse, I love you, but you have been speaking for over fifteen minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am concluding, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude within a minute.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: When Muslim brethren sought police protection in Vadodara police personnel asked them to go to Pakistan. What will happen in police behave in such way? Even judiciary, not only we people, is apprehensive about the intention of the Government. The hon'ble Supreme Court has also given a verdict against the State Government of Gujarat. Banerjee Committee Report has unveiled the conspiracy in Godhra carnage, as to how it was planned and how the fire broke out in the train. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways as he endeavoured to make everything clear in this regard. Since the matter is subjudice, therefore, I would not like to comment on it.

Just now, my colleague, Shri Mistryji was telling that when our Minister of Home Affairs and also Minister of Railways went there, they were attacked. It is known to everybody that RSS, Bajrang Dal and BJP does not believe in democracy. They want democracy to come to end and BJP to be in power, so that Hinduism can prevail. I would like to make it clear that so long as secularism is surviving in India, Hinduism cannot prevail upon here, as well all are ready to sacrifice ourselves to protect secularism. We won't allow communal forces to come forward. We will ensure unity in our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would like to call Prof. K.M. Kadir Mohiddin.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I would conclude by making my last point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your last point.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to tell about a book which. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, injustice has always been done with BSP. Members from BSP do not get an opportunity to speak during Question-hour, Zero-hour, Calling Attention Motion or to raise matters under Rule 193. Why do you not give us a chance. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name is also there.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: A book titled "History of Bhartiya Jansangh" has been published. I would like to make a detailed reference to the material it contains on its page number 9, 17, 38 and 49. This book reveals how Bhartiya Jansangh has been training people to create communalism. It contains its history.

In the end, I would like to submit that the Government should act very tough against the culprits found involved in riots and take every possible measure to control riots and it should never bow under the pressure of anybody, how so ever influential he may be. Each one of us want peace and stability to prevail in India and that our culture should survive, people should live in brotherly atmosphere and the Government should take steps to ensure it. I would like to conclude with these words.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Why are you not giving an opportunity to me to speak?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister ji has just spoken. One Member from each party is speaking. You can point out if I have called two Members from any party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Why did you not give a chance to our party to speak, whereas, you have allowed a party with only five Members to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party's name is also in the list. I would give a chance to your party also.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You are giving chance to every party to speak, whereas, we have been waiting for a chance for long.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ilyas Ji, I am surprised. It is not that I have added your name for any kind of fear. Actually, your name is next in the list. I fail to understand

why are you making hue and cry over it. I have no enmity with you. I have just not added your name. All names have been added as per the party position.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not written his name for fear. His name appears next to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azmi ji, it is wrong. You did a wrong in the morning as well as now, too.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the morning, your name was already in the list, but you levelled allegation.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, Sir, it is not so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. He is levelling allegation without any reason. I have not added his name for fear of him. His name was already there. Only one Member from each party has spoken. Have two Members from any party spoken?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not written his name for fear of him. It is not so. His party's name was already there. Professor Saheb you may continue only for three minutes.

[English]

*PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, let me commence my speech in the name of almighty the all glorious God. I hail from Tamil Nadu. I represent the people of Tamil Nadu in this House of the people. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the communal situation in the country during the discussion on communal violence in several parts of the country. ...(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, Let me thank the chair for allowing me to participate in this discussion on communal situation. Tamil Nadu is like a peaceful park free from communal hatred and clashes and communal

violence. In Tamil Nadu, Valluvar, Vallalar and a galaxy of spiritual and moralistic leaders have always contributed to an amiable attitude and outlook influencing and moulding the minds of men towards communal amity and harmony. When we see things that are happening in the North and in certain other parts of India, We can not but longingly look at the happenings. We crave for peace sitting pretty in Tamil Nadu. We are here looking forward to change for good. I have been listening to different view points presented by several members representing various hues of the political spectrum. A single point as the truth emerges from all these speeches that I have been listening to with rapt attention. We are in public life and we are in politics and we must identify the truth. We all inherit a common legacy. The fact is very clear.

Thousands of Muslims living in this country now are 'Muslims' only for the past 1400 years. People like me living as Muslims in India are of Islamic faith only after their coming across that faith some 1400 years ago. People who are known as Hindus now were not called so some 5000 years back. Those who are called Sikhs were not Sikhs 500 years ago. Buddhist were not there two thousand years ago. Before we could be identified as ones belonging to particular faith either this or that, we were all remaining here as mere men just human beings. We must be very clear about this basic faith. We must realise this fact. Only then we can have a clear approach towards a sensitive issue like this. Only when we bear this in mind we can steer clear of any tangle that we may have to overcome. We have been focussing on incidents that look place in Gujarat. Nearly all the members were referring to it. The discussion was veering round the situation there. But I would like to insist that whatever be the political affairs, as political persons when we deal with them we need to have a clear approach with a cool attitude having in mind the fact that we are of the same stock.

I do not want to list out various communal riots that broke out in the country right from the day we won independence. Discussing about riots and violence would only contribute to communal flare-ups. So describing and listing them vividly and listing them out will not help to contain communal clashes but would only accentuate them further. Instead of helping to ensure communal amity this kind of talks on riots and violence may become cause for more riots and may incite violence.

I would like to humbly submit that we should put our head and heart together to evolve ways and means to

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen]

ensure lasting communal harmony. We can perform our duty better only when we make some positive suggestions to establish amity to amicable atmosphere for a harmonious community life. I would be right to point out ways to ensure peaceful life without communal violence.

Father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi was fond of the following lines recited in his prayer.

*Ihsvar Allah Theraa Naam
Masjid Mandir Therey Naam
Sab Ko Sanmathi De Bhagwan*

We are finding the need to recite that prayer intensely than ever to give good sense to all. We must be analyzing the causes for the eruption of communal clashes. In this House we must find out as to why communal riots and violence occur. We must also evolve ways and means to nip in the bud such violent clashes arising out of communal differences, hatred and enmity.

In Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has been voted back to power and scope for greater conducive atmosphere has been ensured. The great leaders like Periyar EVR, Peraringnar Anna, Jeevanantham, Embodiment of Dignity Quaid-e-millet, Kamaraj, Rajaji have always been impressing upon the Tamil people to uphold communal harmony. They have always exhorted the masses to follow the noble ideals preached by various religions and uphold didactic values. They have never asked people to approach religion with a passion which may lead people towards fanaticism, extremism and fundamentalism. In Tamil Nadu we have always been taught like that by such galaxy of leaders. Our Text books have imparted such values in the minds of our youth. such ethos and tenets have always helped Tamil Nadu to have its own long cherished tradition as a land of Tranquility.

We want the entire country to become a land of peace. We must take away from the minds of men the thought about communal differences, clashes, riots and violence. Right from 1962, we the people of Tamil Nadu have enthusiastically taken up Inter-faith dialogue in a meaningful way. Christians, Hindu scholars, Muslims leaders and people from different religions gather and come to the dais to share their views on different faiths. I do not know whether such meaningful and noble efforts in the form of Inter-faith dialogue is taking place in the North especially in states like Gujarat. What are the common meeting grounds between the religions? What

are the salient features of every religion? What are the comparable aspects and differing aspects these religions have with one another? Inter-faith dialogues would help people to gain knowledge in this regard and come to know one another better.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, Inter-faith dialogue forums help us to keep at bay the communal differences hatred and tension. Scope for fundamentalism, and fanaticism will then get reduced. State Governments must come forward to promote Inter-faith dialogue to bring communities close to one another.

I would like to give another suggestion at this juncture. The academic curriculum must include some aspects of comparative religion and important messages of all religions. We must inculcate in the minds of the younger generation that is the students of colleges and schools the need to uphold communal harmony to live as a civilized society. This is my opinion is very important. My Colleague Mr. Pathak was repeatedly using the expression appeasing of Minorities. Appeasement would mean cajoling and keeping in good humour. It is wrong to say that parties like Congress are adopting the policy of appeasing Muslims. It is the insult to our sensibilities. We are not susceptible to appeasements. They have their own ways and means and policies. I would like to point out that this would give rise to some other effect when you repeatedly talk of appeasement of Muslims. It may result in alienation of Muslims. It would be disenchanting them. It may give rise to disaffection.

Repeated use of slogans like 'Muslim appeasement' and 'Construction of Ram Temple at the disputed site' might give use to alienation of Muslims. I appeal to them to change these policies. I request them in the interest of common good. These things incite violence motivating the fanatics. There are efforts to put a ban on five times of worship in a day by Muslims. The attempts are on in many states. They even go to Supreme Court in this regard. They even go to courts to remove certain portions in the 'Holy Quran'. Thus the minority Community is sought to be alienated by such moves to drag them to the court on matters of faith. Government must come forward to put an end to the trend to go to courts of law on matter that may divide the society further on religious lines. It was also pointed out that there must be a law to contain and curb communal riots and violence. I earnestly appeal to the government to enact a law in this regard. As a pilot project, Government must set up peace committees all over the country especially in communally

surcharged areas and riot-prone areas. Peace committees consisting of people from different religions must be formed in all the villages and all the Panchayats throughout the country. This would help harmonious exchange of ideas, values and noble traditions. Communal clashes and violence can then become the things of the past. Spiritual experience and training are needed. It is necessary to have study of comparative religions. We must encourage and promote an accommodating spirit and peaceful co-existence. We must be taught to follow various spiritual leaders of the country and their tradition. We must encourage forum for discussion to bring about communal harmony. Annual celebration in memory of Swami Vivekananda, Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammed, Ramchandra Paramhansa must be celebrated inviting people from all faiths. Leaders from various religions must come together on these occasions. Only then we would be able to wean away our people from the pitfalls of communal intolerance. I urge upon the Government to translate into action these positive suggestion that can really yield good results leading towards communal harmony. In order to ensure country's property let us have communal harmony. I pray to God that the almighty must give good sense to all the people belonging to all faiths in the same way as our father of the Nation Gandhiji prayed. With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I may be permitted to speak from here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should go to your seat since you do not cooperate. You think that I have included your name in the list, yielding to your hawkish posture. Even in the morning you unnecessarily raised an outcry, whereas I had already written your name. I know that time is to be allotted to every party. I can not discriminate against any party and no one can do it from the Chair.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I made a request several times that I may be granted an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are getting me wrong. Please conclude your submission within four-five minutes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: An hon'ble Member spoke for 26 minutes just now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It happened before I came. You may begin.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is shameful for all of us that even after 60 years of independence the country is witnessing communal riots and here we are compelled to discuss this issue. I regret and feel ashamed that we fail to rise above the party lines on such a serious issue. Both the sides level crossing allegations. It would have been more appropriate if certain suggestions had been made as suggested by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Shri Shivraj Patil which would have facilitated us in taking a decision on how to improve the situation and what action should be taken under the prevailing circumstances.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, riots can take place among any of the communities—be it Hindu-Muslim or internal strife among Muslims or Hindus, Hindu-Sikh but if it continues beyond two-four hours, then it should be understood that somewhere it is state sponsored otherwise it could riot have been prolonged. We have got the power to contain any riot within two-four hours. If it continues beyond four hours, I am of the opinion that the riot has the tacit approval of the Government and also shows that state ministry is involved in it.

If the State Government is serious in controlling the riot, then no riot can continue beyond few hours. There are several such incidents which are labelled as communal riots by the police with the intention of victimising and harassing only a particular community be it Hindu or Muslim. Several of my esteemed colleagues might have witnessed themselves during 1984 that the communal riots had not yet begun in Delhi, Lucknow or Kanpur whereas the media, police and the Government labelled it communal riots. There were no communal riots rather only the Sikhs were massacred. Similarly, there was carnage in Idgah of Muradabad by the police while the police termed it communal riots. The reality is that barring one or two incidents in Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh and Vadodara in Gujarat, the police have massacred Muslims and have termed it communal riots. The fact is that it has become the mindset of the police that they can do anything on the pretext of communal violence and instead of being brought to the book they would be rewarded like Pandey. This practice of getting promotion has been continuing ever since and is there even today. If this state of affairs continues then we will not be able to check the spread of communal riots. What happened in Vadodara? The High Court never gave an order for demolishing the 'dargah'. It ordered that illegal structure may be removed to widen the road, dargah was not mentioned anywhere. Now Members and even Pathakji

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

observed that so many temples were demolished. He repeatedly said that these were illegal, he has admitted it and I saw it myself in the maps of 1911. The building of our House was completed in 1911, the President House, Central Secretariat, Parliament House were completed from 1905 to 1911. There was no NDMC, nor any lay out and nor even a master plan at that time. If today we search for it then the NDMC would not be having the approved layout of this Parliament House. If we will have more*... in the country and they happen to form the Government in Delhi, would they be demolishing Central Secretariat, Parliament House and the President House on the pretext of not having their layout and that construction is illegal because they do not have the layout. Similarly when that Dargah was constructed, there was no Baroda Municipal Corporation, no municipality, no master plan and no rule for a layout, so it is totally legal. It happened only because it was as sensitive an issue like that of 2002. If riots were to breakout, they would once again win elections in 2007. I would once again congratulate the Central Government for making an unprecedented move, that of the sending the Army as in the past it has always been in awe of the State Governments. I would thank the Hon'ble Minister of Home that for the first time the Central Government have expressed its willingness that they were prepared to send the army and the army was sent there. I agree that there is fascist regime in Gujarat, but what is happening in Maharashtra? I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of State of Home towards the fact that there is secular Government. No one...* is sitting there. The innocent Muslims youths are apprehended there under MACOCA, which is a draconian law like POTA. Recently bombs and ammunitions were seized on large scale from Members of Bajrang Dal in Maharashtra but the Government has a discriminatory attitude since it not apprehending them under MACOCA. The Muslim youths are arrested on false charges under MACOCA for harbouring links with Laskar-e-Toiba, Jaish-ai-Mohammed and the people from whose houses arms and ammunitions were seized are not being arrested under MACOCA. This is the doing of the Congress Government in Maharashtra and they should deter from indulging in such activities. ...*(Interruptions)* I will not take much time but would appeal the BJP Party Members that they should ponder over it that false charges are framed, we do not have any special hatred for ...* They have Government in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh,

if the Parliament, the Supreme Court, Minority Commission, Election Commission and the media had any reservation against the Chief Ministers of those states or against the BJP Government in those states, then the said bodies and the media would have levelled allegation or passed strictures against them in the same manner as have been levelled against*..., but they should think that the way they advocate them proves that their entire party and every Member has certain element of fascism. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names taken by the Members may be expunged.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Our hon'ble Minister of Home. ...*(Interruptions)* and Advaniji or Vajpayeeji do not advocate. ...*(Interruptions)* There was another Pathakji who alongwith three-four Muslim youths were got killed and stated that they were the killers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names taken by him may be deleted from the proceedings.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Our hon'ble Minister of Home called upon the Members in a very touching manner to come out with suggestions to check these incidents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would have been more appropriate if instead of levelling allegations against someone. We would have given a suggestion which could result in a concrete outcome so as to check such shameful incidents. I wish to submit that when riots outrun their time of four hours it should be understood that the S.P., the D.M. or the people at the helm of affairs in the state are involved in it and they should be held responsible for it. Such incidents cannot be checked unless the S.P. and the D.M. are suspended and not only those but their seniors are brought to book by holding them responsible for those incidents and a criminal case is initiated against them in a court of law and are awarded punishment. We will have to look for a permanent and concrete solution through a legislation.

Sir, I reiterate that these riots cannot continue for more than four hours without the consent of the district administration, the S.P., the D.M. and their senior officers. It is another thing if the riot continues for an hour or two, but if it continues beyond that then the administration is definitely involved in it. That is why I am setting the time limit of four hours. Therefore, unless we take stringent action in the form of registering a case against

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

the S.P. and D.M., brining them to the book the holding them responsible for such incidents and keeping them on the tenterhooks in terms of threatening them with dismissal, these kind of riots cannot be checked.

Sir, I belong to the minority community. I know when youths from the minority community get killed during riots they are filled with despair and are compelled to choose the wrong path. They think that when they have to die during riots at the hands of the police then why not kill a couple of men before they get killed. These kind of incidents have generated this feeling among them. This is ringing alarm bells for the entire country and the society. Then be it. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names taken by the hon. Member will not go on record.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. With these words I conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not wish to speak but since it has become a routine matter raised day after day. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we give notice for zero hour but it is not taken up despite such a long wait. That is why I request that it should be removed from the rule-book.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not in the rulebook.

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, everyday we are giving notice of 'Zero Hour' and everyday we are waiting here for the opportunity, but it is not taken up. It has not been taken up for the last few days.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is your House. You can decide the way you want, I will do as you say.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given me five-minutes time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter is serious. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to be very serious.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not wish to speak since it has become a routine matter of the day. There is nothing new. I am a Member since 11th Lok Sabha and we have been discussing the issue of communal riots ever since. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, first of all you should go to your seat. I will not allow you. Please go to your seat. This is my humble request to you.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been a Member since 11th Lok Sabha. We discuss this issue of communal riots in every session. I have heard the discussion and also participated in it. I do not wish to take any name but till last year 6 December had been celebrated as an anniversary, however, the practice has been discontinued since last one year. The issue is no longer there but that name appears every now and then. Thereafter Gujarat is referred to in 2002 communal violence. I do not wish to level allegations against everyone, as the hon. Minister of Home Affairs stated here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, whatever is being submitted by him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you got any permission from the Chair?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: All the Members who have made their submissions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Please do not try to politicise it. Do not draw political mileage out of it. I have already stated that 6th December is over and I believe that day has been removed from hot politics. I hope there will be no reference of it, even in future. Gujarat is often discussed and we should not harp on it since we have not witnessed riots for the first time in the country. We have witnessed riots even when Congress was in power from Municipal Corporation to Lok Sabha. I feel Bihar was the most vulnerable State then. ...*(Interruptions)* If we have to find its solution then instead of making counter allegations we will have to emphasise on finding a solution. Otherwise we shall continue to discuss it during each session. Today, Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji has raised this issue. Tomorrow someone else would raise it and thereafter we shall hold a discussion on that issue.

If we look back in the pages of Indian History, the House would agree that no king has ever waged a war on another country. If we go through the History we shall come to know that from South to North till Kandhar, all the Hindu kings have never been belligerent. All the attacks have been on India alone. ...*(Interruptions)* I may stand corrected. I am not very conversant with the History. Broadly speaking, India has been the most vulnerable state and constant victim of belligerent nations whereas India has never waged a war on any nation. Even during the last Kargil war we tried to defend our motherland, we never waged a war, we many celebrate it as a 'victory day'.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the war may have been waged by Moghuls or the British, French or Dutch. All these foreigners have waged a war on us and we have always defended ourselves. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing should be recorded except the speech to Mr. Geete.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I have raised this issue because we are discussing about communal riots taking place in various parts of country; we are debating on the same and this is the subject of debate, but much of the discussion has remained confined to Gujarat. It is but natural in view of the fact recently, the incident took place in Baroda, and we tend to concentrate more on the incidents of recent past. We talk more on recently happened incidents. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present here. I would want him to seek information from each State Government about the places where such incidents have occurred; I am not talking about 25 year old riots. The figures of last 5 year or, 10 years could be considered. Now Minister of Home Affairs have come here, the places where religious riots have taken place, the reasons behind such riots. He should kindly conduct an inquiry that who all people started those riots. It comes out in enquiry, when Police examines the same, whether the Government is of any party when commission sits, when commission sits and examines the same, Police investigate the same and someone is made responsible for the same, action is initiated, arrest is made and punishment is also given.

Through you, I would like to say to Minister of Home Affairs that if we wish to seek a permanent solution of this problem, and decrease the religious chauvinism and is promote religion harmony in our country then he should get information from Chief Minister's of all States or Minister of Home Affairs of all States in regard to the number of communal riots breaking out there during the last 10 years, alongwith the reasons for such riots and responsible persons for such riots. I do not have to blame anyone but he should kindly collect this information that why these riots have happened and who are behind them. It should be seen by the House once that who all people are behind it. As once the information is collected, it won't be difficult to have an insight into the modus-operandi and the psychology of those involved in riots irrespective of which religion they belong to. As Shri Ilyas Azmi said here, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav started very well but made a mention of Hindutva at last through. This is very unfortunate that even the mention of Hindutva is a crime in India. OK, we do not have any objection to that, I only want to know from him that his party being in power in Bihar for 14 years and he has always been considerate for minorities, what have he done for them

*Not recorded.

drawing this period. Members of all parties are present here. From the last many years, country have not have any single ruling party. Every state has coalition Governments. Minister of Home Affairs should give us this information here, whether its Congress Government or the Government of any other party, what scheme's have been started by them for improvement of the minorities. What steps have been taken to bring down their rate of illiteracy and poverty, which is our offshoot of illiteracy among the people who having been deprived of the opportunity of getting education has gone astray or are in the process of being so. We think along these lines, neither the discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Illiteracy is prevalent not among minorities only it is among also classes of common people.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am not talking about minorities only. I am talking about everyone. He will have to agree on this that maximum illiteracy is prevalent among minorities. I am not leveling any allegations and for this state of affairs they are not at fault it is our policies that are responsible for that. Rather it is our policies and programmes that are responsible for it, whether they are of union or state. If we finish this illiteracy. ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you got my permission to speak? Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: No one has ever opposed Muslim university and it is not going to happen in future also I feel that the increase in the rate of literacy of minorities will be in favour of the country, it will not harm country. Though we resort to mud sledging in politics by leveling allegations and counter allegations, I would like to ask that what efforts we have made in the direction, whether they have been educating them alleviating their poverty? Why today a youth is ready to risk losing his life? When we talk of terrorism than it is not only about Pakistan confined phenomenon. Today, unfortunately many youth of our country are associated with terrorist activities. Hence, it will not be right to say that all have become terrorists on gun-point, half of them might have become

terrorist, due to compulsion and circumstances, we never think about this. We keep on blaming each other and no other discussion takes place in House, except blaming each other. When no solution comes out, then we again discuss the same in any next session. I get surprised to note as to how much discussions takes place in House about Gujarat and how much of focus it gets in news. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You listen to him.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I will conclude after saying one more thing. Today our country's biggest threat is from neighbouring country. I won't intend to refer on communal evils, but we face threat from our neighbouring country and this is being corroborated each time by hon. Minister of Home Affairs in the House. Even today, when RDX was found in many districts of Maharashtra in Bolegaon and Sambhajinagar, Aurangabad 54 kg RDX was found at two places. Before this in 1992 when bomb explosions took place in Mumbai, only 27 kg RDX was used. At that time 12 bomb explosions destroyed property worth crores of rupees, thousands of people lost their lives. In it only 27 kg RDX was used, but in the last two-three days 54 kg of RDX rifles have been found and who is responsible for the same and instead of showing our displeasure to Pakistan, we focus our discuss on our worn State-Gujarat, which is a part of our country. Today one party has its Government; tomorrow some other party will form the Government, it is anybody's monopoly to govern the country. What are we doing? I get astonished when we keep on blaming our State in front of the world. If something is bad then it must be condemned but if something is good, then there must be discussion on the same also. We have never heard about development works in Gujarat or someone might have said that little progress has been made, big roads have been made, we never heard about it in House. We never heard praise for the same. We will not be able to solve this by making it a political issue.

The development should not be obstructed, our party Chief, Shri Bala Saheb Thakre ji has instructed us that the politics by no means, should obstruct the development process, politics should not be an obstruction in the development process.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab will speak now. Kindly conclude within three or four minutes.

*Not recorded.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are nearing four hours of discussion on this issue and I think hardly around eight or nine Members have spoken by now in this House of more than 500.

It is not that all the Members should participate in this discussion, but I think every Member feels it in his heart the manner in which this hydra-headed problem is raising its head in this country. Repeatedly and very rightly so, this needs to be discussed.

In his intervention, the hon. Home Minister also has said that instead of narrating the incident from one's own angle, certain suggestions also should come. Suggestions have been coming not now, not in 2006 or by 2002 or 1992; suggestions were there when the partition occurred in 1947. Suggestions were there before Independence. But nobody is addressing the basic question which should be addressed to. My former speaker has rightly pointed out that today we are in a very difficult situation where each and every party that is represented in this House in some way or the other is associated with some Government or the other. I think, this may be the weakest position in Parliamentary democracy, but I think India has always risen above the partisan attitude and I think this is the right moment where all wise-headed persons can sit together and come to a conclusion. We all known under the seventh Schedule of the Constitution 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State Subjects and registration of cases, investigation and prosecution are the primary concern of the State Governments. I am reminded when Shri Dhindsa was making his points referring to certain incidents, certain cases, the problem lies here. I have some basic point to make. Though it is a State Subject, the Union Government, the Government of India has a role to play to maintain law and order and the question is being discussed since 1992. I am just drawing a line. The date also has been mentioned—December 6—and recently the former Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao's book also has been released. There a constitutional problem has come up. It had come up then but I think in some quarter that needs to be discussed. The problem here is this. When can the Centre intervene and send its troops to the State to maintain law and order, and how far can the State Government restrain the Central Government? Where is that line? How can we draw that line? I represent a provincial Party. Like Akali Dal, Telugu Desam and other parties, we are always for maintaining the federal character of this country. But, at the same time, this is a problem which is cropping up year after

year and it is spreading from one State to another. Today, the discussion has been confined to Hindu-Muslim communal clash. We have not discussed the communal clash that is occurring in North East; we have not discussed other types of communal clashes that are occurring in different parts of the country. We have confined our discussion. Though the topic for discussion today is 'communal violence in the country', we have confined ourselves to discuss it within these two communities because these two communities are two large communities of this country. Who are behind creating the communal tensions? Who engineered them? Firstly, it is because of the fissiparous groups within the country who want to weaken the society; secondly, it is due to provocation by religious beliefs and dogmas; thirdly, it is due to the terrorist groups; and fourthly, it is because of petty political design.

It is for the administration to maintain peace and tranquillity in the society. The onus lies in the Administration. It may be the State Administration or the Central Administration. Therefore, there is a need to look into the Report of the National Police Commission. My contention is that until and unless Police functions independently, there is every possibility that they will act as a branch of the Party in power. Today, Police is answerable and accountable only to the Party in power. It is a system that has been built since 1861, four years after the first freedom struggle of 1857. The Police needs to be trained to tackle communal violence. Such training is not imparted anywhere to any State Police. I would request the Government to think of empowering the Police by training to tackle violent crowd.

The Government should not be a party to the warring groups. Do not use communal card to increase your vote bank. We do not appreciate what has happened in Baroda. I would request you not to exaggerate it.

Communal violence in Doda, Communal riots at Marad of Kerala, Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh and in Assam are also blots on the secular fabric of this country. There is a need to protect the *Panth Nirpekshata*, the word that was used during the Constituent Assembly. Therefore, I would say that *Sampradaya Nirpekshata* means that State will be neutral on religious activities. Secularism does not mean appeasement of minority. Here I have three suggestions to make. The Government has issued a guideline to the respective State Governments to promote communal harmony, and *Kabir Puraksar* is one

of that which has been suggested and it is being given. But it has had a very little effect.

I would say that certain situations are arising today in the country where the federal fabric of the nation is being challenged. Terrorist activities, mass violence by ultra groups and communal violence are such grievous instances that are occurring in different parts of the country which has forced people to think whether some mechanism be built up at the Union level to tackle such situation.

Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Communal Violence Prevention Bill. Shri Ajit Singh, our colleague, had invited a number of Members and also organized a meeting. After that, we heard that the Central Government is also thinking of bringing such type of Bill. I do not know what has happened in between. But there is a need to deliberate and bring such a Bill for consideration.

I am for federalism. My Party is a provincial Party. I would say that the Union should strengthen the Police force of every State to protect the life and property of the people at large.

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards enforcing a sense of fear against the lawbreakers and who disturb communal amity. Persons who indulge in communal violence should be punished harshly. Law should be enforced strongly and punishment be swift. Today, the problem is that people who indulge in communal violence feel that they can get out scot-free and think this because it is political. Fear of law is the only answer. It can be ensured when Police is directed to act independently, and genuinely wants to curb communal violence. I may sound cynical but frankly I must say that no political party today wants Police to become neutral. Nobody wants Police to become independent in one way or other, each and every Party is enjoying power either in some State or at the Centre.

20.00 hrs.

Yet I may say that the Home Minister should set the ball rolling. Time has come to discuss and arrive at a conclusion to make Police apolitical. Attempts should not be made to portray Hindu-Muslim clash only as communal about which I have said earlier.

And these are my concluding remarks. I would only appeal to the respective Governments to enforce the law. Then only, we can stop this menace.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for the sitting of the House was first extended up to 8 p.m. I think there are 2-3 such hon'ble members who should speak. I would like the hon'ble Minister to reply afterwards, therefore the time of the House may further be extended by half an hour.

[*English*]

Now, Prof. M. Ramadass, you take only three minutes time.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, enough has been said about the communal violence in the country. Therefore, I would not repeat whatever has been said. But I would only confine to draw the attention of this august House to the situation that is developing in this country in 2006 after the recurrence of a number of incidents of communal violence.

The country today has all the benefits of growth. The country today is on a tremendous path of progress. But, at the same time, the country is losing very badly on account of man-made disasters as well as natural disasters. Therefore, we tend to have a feeling that we have everything. At the same time, we do not have everything.

I am reminded of what Charles Dickens said in his classical immortal, *A tale of two cities*, which would be more appropriate to quote for the attention of all the Members here.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredibility, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

This is the balance-sheet type of situation that is emerging in the country in the midst of violence, riots and killings that are taking place in the country. Therefore, in the midst of all these, all our efforts at development are washed away like the writings on the sea sand are washed away by the seawaters, we will have to look into this issue very deeply, and every one of us has to be

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

concerned about it. We have to look into this. As Mr. Anant Geete has said, we will have to take an objective and dispassionate analysis of the genesis of the communal violence in the country. There is no point in blaming one section of the society or the other. There is no point in blaming one Party or the other. If all the Parties in the Parliament today come to an understanding that we will not take undue advantage of the communal violence that is taking place and if we are not going to convert this policy of violence into vote bank politics, I think half of the problem in the country will be over.

The other steps that would be required would be the administrative steps that are to be taken by the Government for doing a lot of amity work among the various communities. We should also develop or foster a sense of oneness among these communities. Now, there is also a suggestion that history is breeding communal hatred. Therefore, we may think of re-writing history in the light of secular fabric of the country and how the nation has to go.

Secondly, the Government should increase the content of value-oriented education. Today, we give all kinds of education in the country, which is not inculcating a sense of value. All religions today teach better values of how to lead a good life and how to build a secular society. What we are now not doing is that we are not incorporating all these values in the tender minds of the young people and we should be able to inculcate these values.

The greatest remedy for abating this communal violence would be to promote growth in the country and get distributive justice. We have to try to distribute equally the benefits of development, the benefits of growth to every section of the society and try to help the society economically so that the communal violence, the communal hatred and the communal disunity can be reduced.

That is the only way by which we can do it and the Government should be able to bring or organise a number of round-table conferences among the leaders of various communities periodically, once in three months or once in six months, as the hon. Prime Minister did it in the case of Jammu and Kashmir to bring them together across the table. Let them sort out the issues and try to bring about a feeling of oneness among them.

The best way would be that the Government should be able to bring more sense of oneness among these

communities. The best way would be that the Hindus and the Muslims must understand each other and they should try to come together forgetting all differences. The best way for them to overcome the discord is to know each other better, to appreciate the true facets of their relationship and to remove the causes that have brought about the alienation. Once the goodwill, mutual trust and confidence are restored, they will be able to bring to the fore the wealth of their many-splendoured collaboration in every field, which spreads over a thousand years. That is the crying need of our times. India demands of both Hindus and Muslims to work for accord and not discord. Ben Jonson said: "All accord is born of contraries", while the Pope said: "All discord is born of harmony not understood." India contains the second largest Muslim population in the world; it cannot be wished away. It is an integral part of the nation. A nation, as Lincoln told the Americans on the eve of the civil war, which is divided against itself, cannot stand.

These words of wisdom should awaken both the communities to the urgent need of rebuilding India as a united, strong and prosperous nation so that it ensures stability and security for the people. For this, a realistic understanding of each others' needs and difficulties has to be sincerely fostered.

20.07 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Let me conclude by saying that Allama Iqbal has said in his poem. He had said:

If you don't mind, oh Brahmin
I must tell the truth—
These idols in your temples
These idols have grown old.
They teach you to hate your Kith and kin
So does the Mullah, climb the pulpit
And preach aggression and war.
In disgust, I have shut my ears
To the chants and the calls
From both, the temple and the mosque.
In stone, oh Brahmin, you seek God
I see Him in the dust of my motherland.
Let the temple bells mingle with the muezzin's call,
Let us erase every trace of alienation
And break the barriers of separation.

Let us build a new temple of unity,
 The grandest, whose spears will reach the sky;
 Let the devotees drink the elixir of unity
 And sing the song binding the bonds of harmony
 For human liberation lies in love and compassion.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject of discussion today is communal violence in this country. This is a very serious issue. I am, indeed, upset by the incidents which took place in Vadodara. I am also pained to know that six persons have died and more than 61 persons injured in the recent communal clash. The question is how to maintain the law and order and also communal harmony in the country.

For so many years, we have been discussing this subject, but such incidents are taking place. In the recent past, there were incidents which took place in Aligarh, Lucknow, Marad in Kerala and Vadodara. Everywhere such incidents are taking place. What is the root-cause of this? According to me, the State Governments should have a will. If there is a will, there is a way. The TDP was in power in Andhra Pradesh. Since 1983 till 2004, our party had ruled the State for 17 years. Shri N.T. Rama Rao was the Chief Minister. Then, Shri Chandrababu Naidu was the Chief Minister. No such incident took place. ...*(Interruptions)* Only one or two very small or minor incidents took place. We had taken such steps as were necessary. We had dealt with it with an iron hand. In-between during 1989 to 1994, the Congress Government came into power to throw the Chief Minister from his seat. Automatically, they created communal riots.

If the political parties provoke communal riots by keeping poverty, illiteracy, etc., then they are coming in the way of creating communal harmony. We have to tackle these two basic issues. Firstly, there are political parties who try to garner votes from the majority community, and secondly, there are political parties who try to garner votes from the minority community. These political parties are not doing any welfare for the minorities. These political parties are not doing any welfare for the minorities. We have to tackle this issue in a proper manner.

What is the root cause for it? How are we to tackle this issue? According to the figures, for the last three years, there are many incidents that have taken place in Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and

Uttar Pradesh. They have mentioned that the total incidents, which took place in the year 2002, are 722, and out of those 722 incidents more than 60 per cent have occurred in these five States. Why have they occurred in those States? Why was police not able to control it very efficiently and effectively? In other States, the number of incidents is very low. How is it that those States were able to control such incidents while these States could not do it? All this is happening even after repeated instructions given by the Government of India.

Shri Mahatab also mentioned the fact that the issue concerning police, and law and order is a subject confined to the States under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and we should leave it to the States. I would like to mention that the constitutionally elected Government has to protect the life and property of its citizens. This is the fundamental and Constitutional right to be given by any Government. If something has happened in a State, then the Government of India should intervene and guide them properly.

What had happened in Vadodara? What was the necessity to suddenly demolish the mosque? What was the urgent need to do it? You have to give some time for them to negotiate. The issue of development is one aspect. In Hyderabad also we are widening the roads where there are many places of worship including temples, churches and mosques. We are convincing them by negotiations to solve the problem. In case they are very particular of a place of worship to remain, then we are diverting the road from another place. This is done keeping the sentiments of the people in mind. Therefore, we have to take a holistic view not only for the sake of development, but also take the sentiments of the people—for places of worship—into account. This was a very simple issue, and this would not have happened if we had stopped it for some more days. Heavens would not have fallen because of it. There was lack of proper tackling of the issue. How do you tackle this issue? The lack of sensitivity also creates these problems everywhere in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Most of the people in the country want peace, harmony and tranquillity. Who will be happy if curfew is imposed? I am saying this because nobody would be able to go outside including children, parents, etc. They all would be confined within the four walls of their house. Therefore, nobody

[Shri Kinjarappu Yerrannaidu]

likes curfew being imposed. A few people who want to create trouble and take advantage of the situation become very happy about curfew being imposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It is just that they do not want people to be happy. Therefore, the Government of India and the Home Minister should take all these incidents into account.

Some of the States are not taking much interest in controlling these incidents. Therefore, the Government of India should take a holistic view, and give more powers to stabilise, strengthen, educate and train them in order to control such riot situations. We also need to give more money to the State Governments to strengthen their police machinery. The Government of India should take such type of necessary steps to control riots in the country. These steps would allow the country to progress. If there is peace, then development will be there. If we want to achieve more than eight per cent growth, then we have to create peace in the society. Otherwise, it would be a very difficult task to achieve.

The economy also depends on peace in the country. Therefore, there are more advantages once we are able to control issues of law and order, terrorist activities, riots, etc. Thereafter, the country would certainly progress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shivanna, you will have to complete your speech within two minutes.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, this is an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to finish within two minutes.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: The earlier speakers have taken one hour each. We are first-timers, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not waste your time. Please be brief.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is shocking to note that communal violence is spreading like cancer disease in our society. Even after 58 years of Independence we are not in a position to control this communal violence completely. In fact this is being spread

by a section of our society. The poor people particularly those who have to work hard for their food, clothing and shelter do not indulge in spreading violence. Some religious leaders, new political leaders and other vested interests indulge in this activity of communal violence. Some leaders feel that they can get votes by spreading the communal violence. Therefore, they instigate one religion against another religion. This is the most unfortunate thing in our country. Our ancient society always stood for communal harmony and brotherhood. There was peace and happiness everywhere. Our cultural heritage is appreciated all over the world. But unfortunately, our present society is losing its cultural identity very fast. Terrorists are attacking a particular community people. Communal clashes are taking place in various States.

In Gujarat Communal clashes went on unabated for years. Recently, more than thirty persons belonging to a particular community were killed in Doda, near Jammu. A number of Churches were attacked in Karnataka near Mangalore. These are all antisocial elements of our society, who have forgotten our Indian culture, tolerance and co-existence. Lakhs and Lakhs of devotees visit Amarnath Temple. The idol of Amarnath Mandir was with a Muslim. His family gets a share of offerings of Amarnath Temple even today. There is a worship place near Bijapur in Karnataka where both Hindu and Muslim devotees visit every day. This world is the *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. It is the family of all people. Swami Vivekananda gave his historical speech in Chicago addressing the gathering as 'Brothers and Sisters of America'. That was a world religious meet and the clapping by the audience went on for a long time. This Philosophy of universal brotherhood appreciated and respected all over the world even today. This is the land of peace and amity which is celebrating the 2550th year of Gautam Buddha's birth. We are all children of mother India and there is only one God. He looks after all of us. India is the birth place of Guru Nanak, Mahaveer Jain, Mahatma Gandhi and others. Peaceful co-existence is the guiding principle of our life and there is no place for violence. We have to follow the footsteps of these leaders. Mahatma Gandhi says, I quote 'India is to me the dearest country in the world not because it is my country but because I have discovered the greatest love in it.' All of us should live together happily and peacefully and it is called as *Sarvejano sukhino bhavanathu*. Let us keep up this tradition and surge ahead towards a new, enlightened world of heaven.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, at the outset I would like to compliment the hon. BJP Member for being the devil's advocate. I happened to go to Vadodara on the 8th of this month. I have even gone to the place where this Dargah stood once. If the municipal authorities were doing a work, why was there a need for the Mayor and the concerned MLA to be there? Why was there a need that all of them had to clap, all of them had to raise religious slogans when this Dargah was demolished? I fail to understand that.

I went to the Government SSG hospital to see the 24 injured patients. Out of them, 23 belonged to the minority community. All of them had bullet injuries above the waist. I even went to the houses of the deceased. I do not know whether any of the hon. BJP Members had gone or not. What crime did Mohammad Rafiq Vohra had committed that in front of his house he was first attacked by swords, killed and then burnt? When his family telephones the local police, the police asked them to go to Pakistan. It is there on record on NDTV. What crime had Ashfaq Ahmed committed that he was shot in the head? He used to work in a night showroom. What crime did Mohammad Ayaz—a boy of 17 years, a brother of three sisters—had committed? All this clearly shows the complicity, connivance, conspiracy, and open support by the Gujarat Government. But for their active support, this incident would not have happened. In the name of development, minorities have been destroyed.

Under the Central Wakf Act of 1995, all Muslim places of worship, mosques, dargahs and graveyards are protected. How can any Government go and eliminate a wakf property? Has the concerned State Government conducted any proceedings? Has any order been issued? Nothing has been issued.

We are taking about Gujarat only here. At the same time, on April 14, a bomb blast took place in Jama Masjid. I have a complaint here with the Government also. So far, not even a single person has been caught. A bomb blast took place in Benaras. Within 48 hours two youths were killed in an encounter in Delhi and one person was killed in Uttar Pradesh. After 25-30 days' time, Maulana Waliullah and his associates were caught. Whenever a majority place of worship is attacked, immediately within 48 hours or even ten days five to six Muslim youths are killed in encounters. It happens as if you have a buffer

stock of Muslim youths who can be killed any time. When Jama Masjid bomb blast took place, why was this not done? Who is responsible for the bomb blast in Jama Masjid? Why did Delhi Police have to say that it was not a terrorist act when it was a terrorist act? It is not found out as to who was behind that act.

The next point is about Uttar Pradesh. We are talking so much about secularism over here. Fifty Muslim youths were hit above the waist in Aligarh. The National Minorities Commission has demanded a judicial inquiry. What action is the Government going to take?

I was hearing the hon. Member from Shiv Sena. The hon. Home Minister represents that area, Nanded area. On 6th of April, 2006, a bomb blast took place in the house of Laxman Rajpodwar. They are known Bajrang Dal activists. It was a single bomb blast. Later on, Surya Pratap Gupta the Inspector General of Police of that area said that they were manufacturing bombs. The police confiscated a live IED bomb with a timer attached to it. It was a timer similar to the one that is used in the Jama Masjid bomb. So, who is responsible? Those people are known Bajrang Dal activists. Why is the Maharashtra Government not imposing the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act? What is stopping the Maharashtra Government from imposing that Act on them? Why is the Government of Maharashtra from imposing that Act on them? Why is the Government of Maharashtra not requesting for a CBI inquiry so that the truth comes out? I am very surprised. Who is going to pay the price? In Ghatkopar bomb blast, Gateway of India bomb blast, all the people have been exonerated.

I am really surprised that some upper caste chocolate boys do the demonstration in Mumbai; police do *lathi* charge; and an inspector is suspended.

What about Ghatkopar bomb blast incident? Accused were exonerated. What about Nanded bomb blast incident? How many police people have been suspended? It shows that there is no value for a Muslim life over here.

The UPA Government was formed to stop the obscurantist forces. It was a verdict against the communal forces. My main grievance and grudge is with this Government. We know what RSS stands for? Maybe, the Sangh *Parivar* is celebrating the centenary celebrations of Golwarkar and to pay huge tribute to him, they are indulging in all these activities.


[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

In Mahasamud district of Chhattisgarh, on April 23, 2006, a mosque was demolished. In fact, burnt. Koran scriptures were burnt over there. Who is responsible? But for the Sikh community, nearly 20 families would have been killed over there.

Not only that, in Rajasthan, in Pali Town, Saint Milad-Un-Nabi procession was attacked. On 11th of April, in Kandura in Madhya Pradesh, Milad-Un-Nabi procession was attacked. There is an end to it.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in Karnataka, in Budkal, Jagannath Shetty Commission has come out with its Report. There is a huge tension over there. I am bringing this to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Government should take immediate steps to ensure that this tension does not lead to communal riots.

I would demand from the Central Government that it should pay compensation to the victims of Baroda. This Government should immediately come to the rescue. I know that it is a State subject. But people are asking that when Sikhs were killed, three lakh rupees were given as compensation, why not to Muslims. What is stopping the Central Government in giving monetary compensation to the people? I think, it is a very important issue.

Justice Srikrishna Report is there. Secular Government is there in Maharashtra. The same person who used to say that if Justice Srikrishna Commission Report is implemented, Mumbai would burn. That man is in your Congress Party. Why do you not implement the Justice Srikrishna Commission Report. Nanded incident led this Government to pressurise the State Government there. Let them ask for a CBI inquiry in the Nanded incident. Bajrang Dal activists were involved. These same people have committed crimes in Parbani and Jalna. I had been to the mosque over there. Unless and until the lives and liberty of minorities are safeguarded, this country cannot progress. If the feeling of insecurity is there, Sir, it is very bad for the nation.  the Government will take from corrective action.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodra): I think so that after the statement of the hon'ble Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil, time should be no room left for debate. The statement given by the Minister himself was about serious incidents which took place at 99 places across

the country and he himself given the whole figures. While stating about the condition and how the incident took place, the hon'ble Minister assured that the situation is absolutely under control and there is no need to worry. Then Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said that this statement has been given quite innocently. While giving these figures you said it quite innocently that there is no need to worry and no need to take any further action. I think that the Union Home Minister took immediate action in the whole incident and I have been a witness to his prompt role in the incident. When on third day Chief Minister came, the hon'ble Home Minister telephoned and at that point of time, all people including Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Police Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner, all Legislative Members and myself were present there. We were quite apprehensive of the situation in Vadodara and what action is needed there? Then our Chief Minister said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, Shrimati Thakkar.

Hon. Members, to conclude the debate today, we will have to extend the time of the House. It was last extended up to 8.30 p.m. and it is already 8.30 p.m. now. So, if the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, the time may be extended.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The House may be extended until the proceedings are over today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time of the House is extended until the reply is concluded today.

Shrimati Thakkar, you may continue now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Hon'ble Chief Minister Bhai Narendra Modi told Shri Shivraj Patil that out of the companies of security forces which are deployed in Gujarat, we have sent few companies to other states, as per your instructions. I would like that it is not fair to paint this incident which is vitiating the communal harmony as communal riot. As the development work which has been done here, under that four metropolitan states falls in those four Metropolitan states,

the work was going on for the last one year. This work was scheduled from 2005 to 2006 and if there would have been further encroachments and that too on highways, inside the roads and on the state routes where there are encroachments, remaining them and developing them is the sole objective of the State Government and under that thousands of jhuggi jhopris and commercial plots were removed. If I talk about Vadodara then the drive which was moved under that anti-encroachment drive which was run in Gujarat State under Urban Development Area, 2005. Under the any kind of encroachment, be it in the form of plot, in the form of land, or in the form of road, or in the form of National Highway, pasture land or in the form of revenue land, that has been removed by the Government. The Gujarat High Court overseen this drive and a suo-moto P.I.L. was also filed and as per the instructions of the High Court, the Vadodara Municipal Corporation removed 3299 structures under them, 1601 jhuggi-jhopris, 1265 residential type plots were removed, and 385 commercial structures 48 such structures which were religions type, and were related to Hindu and Muslim sect, were removed. I would like to reiterate that under this drive 48 structures were removed out of which 42 structures were of Hindu sect and rest were related to Muslim brothers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, some queries were raised, you have initiated a debate on this issue and raised many questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harin Pathak has replied to all queries.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: I hail from Vadodara, the Chapaner area of Vadodara and under that Fatehpur area is my birthplace. When I was a child, I know Vadodara since birth. It was settled by Sir Sayajirao Maharaj, at that time it was planned fantastically and it was a walled city with four gates, it was nothing more than this at that time. Initially there were small colonies and the total population within walled city was not more than 1,50,000 but during the year 2005-2006, it has a population of about 17,00,000.

My second point which I would like to mention is that I have been living there since my childhood and I used to travel by Tanga and even today I use those roads. People used to commute bycycles, Cycle Rickshaws and at few places there used to be vehicles.

At that time, in the region of Maharaja, there used to be 4-5 vehicles. Therefore, the question of developing this area did not arise. The mention of Dargah or grave on which we all are having a discussion and are worried, the State Government is equally worried and our Centre Government is acting fast on that. That place is my birthplace. Since my childhood, I have been visiting there, out of the above-mentioned gates, the main gate is 'Mandvi gate'. If you wish from Han to Harai via Panigate and Mandvi, the road is quite narrow. The 67 percent of that road is still used. On that road the grave on left side was just only on the road. The people who use that road, even if I use to go through that road, I shall have to turn my vehicle a bit in order to pass through that road. When we cross that road, the person coming in front would also require to turn a bit and will come face to face with the next person. The issue was that the roadside encroachments are required to be removed. It has been mentioned here that whether discussion was held with the officers who are responsible for the construction? Yes, I would like to mention that we were continuously talking for the last three days to solve this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within a minute.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: All right, I am concluding. Sir, talks were going on for three days and all ended in smoke. They were asked to submit their papers. Those people were not ask to submit the construction plan and from 1905 to 1912 sanction for construction. Through you, our Members should also aware of the factual position, it is equally important. The Chairman of our Standing Committee, the Deputy Mayor, Commissioner and all officers met and they were called to meet them on the same day at nine o'clock in the morning. The discussion were held to know that how they would cooperate. Then they insisted on the same thing that we shall not allow to remove the construction. When 42 illegal constructions, which were prayer sites for Hindus, were removed, they let the encroachment removal work go on without any obstruction. ...(*Interruptions*) Please do not interfere. When your turn comes, you may speak. They were not ready to cooperate and Municipal Corporation requested us to take initiative and help in removing encroachment. Then at around 10.30 A.M. we were bound to take this decision. The Governing body be it Municipal Corporation, State Government or Centre Government, they are required to keep a balanced view and under that encroachments were removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You have taken ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken 10 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Sir, I want to express my thanks. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Complete your speech in half-a-minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Sir, Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal had also paid a visit and I had accompanied him. He made a detailed survey, met the injured and had a meeting with me also. I appreciate the statement made by him later. I thank our Chief Minister as well as. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and all others for discharging their responsibilities effectively. Therefore, if any one tries to spread such rumours, the correct picture should be depicted. The thoughts of Hindu-Muslim differences should be eschewed. Our hon. Chief Minister looks upon the entire population of five crores in Gujarat as Gujaratis—not as Hindus or Muslims. Other should also emulate him. ...(Interruptions) I thank all of you.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. In this august House several of our learned colleagues took part in the discussion concerning the issue which is detrimental to the country's progress. Communal violence mars the peace of the country and the biggest drawback is that it hinders the nation's progress. I heard our learned colleague, Shri Pathak ji speech. However, I do not want to indulge in petty politics by criticizing his party. My only contention is that we should define communal violence, bringing out its meaning and the cause of its origin. During freedom struggle when Hindus-Muslims-Sikhs and Christians were fighting shoulder to shoulder, there were true ideologies. When the earth came into being the Almighty created human beings. The first ideology was represented by those who fought unitedly for the country's independence. The other types of ideologies did not favour country's unity. When the country was fighting for the independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi,

he was killed by Godse to put an end to the secular ideology. This gave rise to violence. What could be bigger than the fact that communal violence did not exist when Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians were fighting for the country's independence together. When Pakistan was created lakhs of people were massacred. Humanity sank to its lowest and a lot of blood shed took place. This sowed the seeds of violence. Sincere efforts were not made to nip the violence in its bud. I thank all my learned colleagues for taking part in this discussion rising above party politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when our emotions, motivated by politics mix with communal violence, it gives rise to terrorism. We know at one point of time, BJP had only two Members of Parliament. In the face of such an ideology efforts were made to strengthen secular ideology since our intention was not to allow religious frenzy to raise its ugly head. I have no hesitation in saying that it was BJP's march from Kashmir to Kanyakumari that created communal tensions leading to communal violence. This resulted in communal violence taking the shape of terrorism. During communal violence, faith of the people is shattered, giving rise to terrorism. I have no hesitation in saying that a correct picture will emerge only if we take note of the communal violence. Chronologically, that occurred during the NDA regime. At that time the government failed to gauge its seriousness. What gave rise to terrorism then? The reason being that the violence arising out of religions shook the people and it pained them, giving nourishment to terrorism. This gave rise to terrorism which became serious.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recall the incident that took place on 6 December, 1992, shattering the peace of the country. At that time Uttar Pradesh had a BJP government, led by their Chief Minister. Party's National leaders were present there. The slogans raised at that time was 'Ek dhaka aur do, masjid tor do.' With this the entire country was engulfed in violence. This affected the development of the country. The people had elected the government for five years but elections were held within 13 months. Millions were spent on elections. Nothing could be more criminal than to see a person occupying a high constitutional position, see it happening before his own eyes and make such comments. The constitution was openly violated. The court at Rae Bareilly gave a verdict against them, but their leaders said they will not accept the verdict. ...(Interruptions)

I am not saying all this only for you. Take the recent case of attack on the Hanuman Temple in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. I thank the UPA Chairperson for rushing immediately there. Otherwise the entire State would have witnessed religious violence. We have committed ourselves to maintain peace. We have always committed ourselves to uphold constitutional provisions with all dedication. Aligarh is called 'kaba' for minorities living in all over India. When riots took place there, we believe that those riots were not between Hindus and Muslims. I would like to congratulate Shri Shivraj Patil that after talking to me on phone he immediately sent Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs there, and demanded for action against the guilty officers immediately and a judicial enquiry against them. But I was pained when honourable Kalyan Singh ji said that I.G. of that area was an agent of the I.S.I., it hurt the faith of lakhs of people and created tension there. We want to congratulate our government that it not only healed their wounds but also consoled them, gave them financial assistance and took immediate action.

Sir, whenever any incident has occurred during the rule of this government, it has taken action immediately and senior officers and ministers reached the spot immediately. I want to talk about riots in Aligarh. It was a minor dispute over a small temple. Had that matter been solved there, then lives of 8-10 innocent people would have been saved. Government is also somewhat responsible for every violence that takes place.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Please also tell about the murder of a legislator's son.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: I feel sorry for it; he is my colleague. But there are some reasons behind his arrival in the town four kilometers away; where he was murdered. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Why he was buried?

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: There were some reasons behind it. For four days we failed to know who he was. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gangwar ji, let him speak, let him finish his speech.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: We demanded for a judicial enquiry but it was not conducted. ...(*Interruptions*) Honourable Chief Minister was also guilty for it, because as he had visited Meerut after the incident

which occurred there, he should have visited Aligarh too. ...(*Interruptions*) According to Ilyas Azmi, Congress is guilty for it. I would like to say that when Godhra was burning, when law was being violated there, at that time the leader of his party was also with them in giving a clean chit. We have never supported communal forces. Any party could join hands and form the Government but we have never done that.

I would again like to congratulate the Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Chairperson of U.P.A. Government Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and the Government is making a provision to check such riots and for making arrangements to provide financial assistance to the innocent people for the first time who have lost their lives. At the same time, its hearing will take place in a time bound manner in special Courts and efforts will be made to provide them justice as early as possible. I would also like to place two more proposals.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken for ten minutes. Now you sit down please. You repeatedly asking for a second. Please conclude in one sentence.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: I would like to say that if we really want to check communalism by leaving aside the political point of views and want the well being of the country we should collectively make efforts. A coordination committee, comprising of all parties should be constituted. Provocative statements should be banned which arouse the sentiments of the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken for ten minutes and still you are not concluding. Now nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawale ji, now it is your turn.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is not strengthening on the basis of the principle of secularism and equality to all religion provided for in the constitution of our country. Struggle keeps on going in our country in the name of religion and caste. Today when we are having this discussion, our Home Minister and we all are present here. We have discussed about communal riots many a times but when will such discussions would stop. Are you going to take any steps to check these riots?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country got independence on 15 August, 1947. Before that, constitution of India had given full protection to temples, mosques, shrines, churches, Buddhist temples or Gurudwaras, and such cases needed approval to be obtained by the Wakf Board or municipality on the Court. They deliberately tried to demolish that shrine, there was no communal riot there but police started firing there. People tried to express their sentiments when you people had tried to demolish Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, there was Kalyan Singh's Government. He had deployed his police there. It gave you full protection but in Gujarat there was Narendra Modi's Government, the police there always commit atrocities on minorities. Therefore, we have demanded many a times that Pathak ji should be sent there in place of Narendra Modi ji.

20.52 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I only want to say that as our one of the honourable Member was saying that whenever any riot takes place, it should end within four hours but if it does not end in four hours, then it means that it is planned. I want to say that if I ever get a chance to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, I will wipe out all riots in one hour only. I only want to urge that compensation of five lakh rupees should be given for the five persons who have died, one lakh rupees should be given to the persons who have been injured and Section 302 should be imposed on the police officials who had fired the guns. When will you stop these riots? Till when persons belonging to minority will get killed. People who organize the riots will lose every election. Peace will only prevail in our country when enmity turns into friendship. When Hindu-Muslim start living in harmony then country will prosper. In this way honourable

Shivraj ji Patil Sahib, honourable Manmohan Singh ji and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and we all are together to bring prosperity in our country. On one hand, all the people are trying to establish peace in the country, but on the other hand, you want to disturb the peace process. If you would try to disturb the peace process in the country then the voters of this country will turn you out. Therefore, kindly keep quite. ...*(Interruptions)* I hope that you would maintain peace in the country.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all the notice for this discussion was moved as a calling attention. Then it was transformed into the discussion under rule 193. The statement read out by the Hon'ble Home Minister also mentioned about the incident of Laddakh, which created a few doubts.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply to the discussion would be given by the hon'ble Home Minister.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to mention it as his statement arose a few doubts. I want certain clarifications from the hon'ble Home Minister. As all of you are aware that Laddakh has been an example of communal harmony. In 1990, when various types of violences were taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, the Laddakh was absolutely peaceful. There are two major communities here, people of one of them are Buddhist who believe in Buddha sect and others are Muslims. We believe in Islam sect. They were living in complete harmony and there was a complete peace but unfortunately the statement mentions of Laddakh that such kind of incident took place there. After listening to the statement made by the Hon'ble Home Minister in the House, I felt that may be the State Government must not have given the complete information or the sources based on which the statement was given, it led to certain doubts, which I want to mention here. The statement given by the hon'ble Home Minister says:-

[English]

"Communal tension developed in Ladakh and Kargil regions of J&K between Buddhist and Shia Muslims on 5.2.2006 when some miscreants entered the Mosque and allegedly tore pages of the Holy Quran".

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement says that some people entered the mosque and tore off certain

pages from Quran kept there. If the enquiry had been conducted in the right manner, the people who were involved in this incident would have been apprehended. I acknowledge that an incident took place there and all this happened under a conspiracy and this must have been clear to all people as to who were those people who did all this. When this incident took place there, after the incident was over, the seasoned leaders of the village whether they were Buddhists or Muslims, they were supposed to play a vital role in controlling the situation not the administrative officials sent by the Government. Among them, I.G. Kashmir and divisional Commissioner visited the place. The hon'ble Home Minister said that peace was established there because of the Government employees, which is not correct. Be it the incident of Leh or Kargil, the able leaders of both the communities, had played a vital role in controlling the situation. It was only because of their positive role that the situation remained under control there. Otherwise this kind of incident could lead to an internationally critical situation and under that situation Kargil incident also took place.

Sir, I want to say that the Masjid Sharif which was mentioned here is a House in the Bodhg khabu village. I want to tell you that Bordhkhahu village does not have even a single Muslim family. All of them are Buddhists. Beside road side there was a room, in that room our Muslim brothers who used to come from Kargil for doing job, used to stay in this room for the past 30-40 years. They used to offer Namaj in that room. This way the Masjid came up there. For the last 30-40 years, no incident took place there. Nobody even touched it. The Local Buddhist people used to maintain the mosque. There must be some conspiracy behind this incident since the conditions prevailed there clearly show this. The elections of autonomous with development council were conducted recently. I belong to Laddakh Union Territory front. We have won 24 out of 26 seats in this region. Through this some people have tried to create such kind of situation there and they hatched a conspiracy to destabilize the Laddakh.

Sir, few people were arrested and brought even up to Delhi to conduct an enquiry, but they were released in between without conducting any enquiry? One Hon'ble Home Minister or State Government can tell as to why they were released without conducting an enquiry. The people who were arrested had clues about this incident and, they were arrested for this reason only, but were

freed without conducting any investigation. I just want to mention here that no violence ever took place in the sensitive area like Laddakh. Neither communal nor any other kind of violence took place there. Violence or other incident might have taken place against the nation in any part of country, but nothing ever happened in Laddakh. This is quite unfortunate that such kind of incident took place there. I think that the State as well as the Centre Government have a vital role to play to find out the reasons behind this incident. Before arriving in Delhi, I also went to Kargil and Laddakh. There is a Bodh Sangh in the Laddakh which is open body of Buddhist. There is an Islamia school in Kargil and Imam Khumani Memorial Trust and Al Sunnat are also there. I had a discussion with them also. Everybody wants that it should be investigated and it should be a CBI enquiry.

21.00 hrs.

Whosoever has done it should be brought to book so that the incident that took place in an area like Laddakh may not recur. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs whether he would order an CBI probe into it so that truth may come to light. I assure you that the people of Laddakh are aware of their responsibilities and they will maintain communal harmony at all costs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I will take one or two minutes only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, you are allowed to speak only for two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Today, Gujarat is being discussed in the House. Whenever, Gujarat is discussed, it is always Vadodara or Ahmedabad which is the topic of discussion. Besides, Vadodara and Ahmedabad, there are 27 more districts in the State, nobody talks about them. Have there been any riots there? The minority population live peacefully. In Saurashtra too, the minority population live peacefully and comfortably. What the

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

people of minority community want—they just want development and income. Nobody talks about whether they get it or not. What is discussed is what is happening in Vadodara. Why it is happening. The riots took place there only at two or three places. Why it happened, we should discuss it in detail. As the previous speaker has said that an investigation should be conducted as to why such circumstances arose in Gujarat. Today, the growth rate in Gujarat is higher than the growth rate of any other State in the country. Whole country is facing electricity crisis, while in Gujarat, all 18,000 villages are getting round the clock power supply. There is no increase in power generation in Gujarat, but they have managed well. Agriculture has made a remarkable growth there. Earlier, the annual income from agriculture was Rs. 9000 crore which has now increased to Rs. 21,000 crore. All the people of the State are beneficiary of this income.

The Commission for Minorities had visited our State. They asked the Chief Minister as to what they do for the minorities. The Chief Minister told them that he does not do anything for them and added that they should ask the reason why he does not do anything because there is no majority, there is no minority, all are equal in his State. People live peacefully there. But here, Gujarat is discussed everyday without a miss. Only Gujarat is discussed here. Nowhere in the country rivers are linked together, but in Gujarat. That is why the people in Gujarat live in peace. You please let us live peacefully. Do not play with the peace and tranquillity of the State. Do not worry about Gujarat. I want to say this much only.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, hon'ble Minister will reply.

[Translation]

*SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given to me to speak about the situation arising out of communal violence in various parts of the country.

Sir, the communal violence has always been an issue of discussion in the House. This discussion could be fruitful only when all the parties work together rising above their selfish ends. I would like to make a mention of Aligarh riots. Sir, four people were killed and several

others got injured in these riots. Muslim Organisations claim that all these people were Muslims while the whole country knows that the police administration buried a boy taking him as Muslim who was the son of a BJP harijan MLA from Sansi constituency in Uttar Pradesh. When the MLA came to know about the killing of his son, the police administration exhumed the body, and then, after a while, the boy could be cremated with Hindu rituals.

Sir, such is the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh that a Hindu boy was buried being taken as Muslim. Whenever Mulayam Singh Ji came to power in Uttar Pradesh, the riots have increased. How simple we are. The riots first in Mahu, then in Lucknow and now in Aligarh, clearly indicate that there are certainly some elements who actively working against the communal harmony. Who would make common men understand that these riots harm them and their business. A riot took place in my Lok Sabha constituency Ural on 29.10.04 in which two people were killed, but the District Administration instantly took steps, put all its force into action and checked the riot. Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently riot was about to occur on 1.5.06 at Kalpi Nagar in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, however, the party workers in the UP Government tried their best to flair up the riot as the students who were not present on the spot at the time of the incident were falsely implicated and were penalized, however, the people of Kalpi showed their patience and the riot did not break out. Mr. Speaker, Sir, riot had broken out on 1.2.2004 in Konch Nagar where I reside. The party workers rushed to police station and got involved in sabotage and as a result of this three persons were killed in police firing. The assets worth lakhs of rupee of the district administration and vehicles of the police and other departments were burnt. I feel that the party workers of the ruling party get more and more involved in such activities after getting the protection of the police administration. Such riots should be stopped at any cost so that people may not get killed and property may not get destroyed in riots. We will have to understand this fact only then the occurrence of riots can be checked.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have discussed this issue for a pretty long time. Some very good points have been made by hon. Members. I sincerely feel that it would have been better if some of the statements made by hon. Members were avoided. When Mrs. Sonia Gandhi went to Benaras and visited the temple, some people asked questions to her about what the Government of

*Speech was laid on the Table.

India would do. She was very careful in making the statement that we are all sorry and the State Government and the Government of India would take necessary steps to move against the culprits. She did not say anything, which could hurt anybody. When the incident happened in Jama Masjid here, the Imam of the Masjid made a statement saying that those, who have done it, are the enemies of the country and the people. They are not the persons belonging to any religion but enemies of the country and the people. When I went to Udampur and visited that place, the villagers, the rustic villagers, were wise enough to say that terrorists are trying to divide us but we will not allow them to succeed. We will live here together and we will share our sorrows and happiness and we will act against them. Now, these are the responsible statements made. Any wrong statement made at any time can flare up the situation. Now, here if we make the statements against each other, will it help us? It is not going to help us. The correct approach should be to find out what is the communal situation in the country. Why the communal harmony is disturbed and what can be done by us, by the people, by the Union Government, by the State Government, by political parties, by Media and by individuals? If we approach this problem from this angle, it will help us a lot. While replying to this debate, I would like to touch upon the incident that happened in Vadodara very briefly; about the situation that prevails in the country; and then about the suggestions, which have been given by hon. Members and after that as to what can be done by all of us together. This would be my approach to this debate. While speaking on the incident in Vadodara, the Members from both sides gave the facts and figures and presented to the House as to what actually happened there. Both the sides have come before us and it is not necessary for us to go in greater detail of those things. I would like to give some figures. Persons killed are 6. Persons injured are 51. Offences registered are 53 Arrests made are merely 1,192, temporarily and substantively. Tear gas shells fired are 497. Bullets fired are 191. Rubber bullets fired are 24.

The number of grenades fired was 14 and the loss to property, as assessed by the State Government, was to the tune of nearly Rs. One crore.

Sir, a question was raised whether we would like to give compensation to persons who are affected. It has been the policy of the Union Government and the State Government also that whenever some persons suffer, we

try to give compensation to them. We give compensation to the members of the family which has lost its dear and near ones. We give compensation for loss of life as well as damage to property. We expect that the State Government would look into this and would give compensation to families of persons who were killed, give compensation to persons who are injured and give compensation also to person whose property has been damaged.

I would like to say that when these incidents were taking place, the State Government and the Union Government were constantly in contact with each other. At the dead of night, at 2 o'clock in the night, it was possible for me as well as to the Home Secretary to talk to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Home Secretary had taken account of the situation over there. When we were informed about what was happening, we tried to understand from them as to what kind of assistance that was required. When they suggested that some companies of Rapid Action Force should be given to them, some companies of para-military forces should be given to them and, if possible, military assistance also should be given to them, we instantaneously agreed to give that assistance and the assistance was given. I would like to say that when the assistance was given to them, we had requested them and told them: 'Look, whatever you are asking for is being given to you, now it would be your duty to see that the situation is brought under control' and I must say that they did bring the situation under control. There is no point in criticising each other by their saying that we did not give assistance that they wanted and our saying that they did not act. It does not help. It can give pleasure to criticise each other, but that does not help in any way.

Having said this, I would like to say that the Municipal Corporation of Vadodara should have conducted itself a little differently. If they had come to the conclusion that some section of the society was agitated on the action taken by the Municipal Corporation in demolishing that structure, if they had waited for some time, if they had negotiated this matter with them and having come to the conclusion that negotiations were not producing the results, if they had waited for some time, probably this situation could have been avoided. As the people who are governing at the local level or the State level or the Central level, we shall have to take these kinds of things into account while taking action. They should have anticipated as to what could happen and if a little of tact had been shown, it would have been better.

[Shri Shivrāj V. Patil]

We were told that there were some persons who were pressurising the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation and the officers to take action and they could not withstand the pressure and so they took action. I do not know whether this is correct or not. But if this is correct, the second thing which has to be understood by us is that politically we should not pressurise these people to take action like this. We should give them the liberty to take action as they think fit and if we had done that, probably those six lives would not have been lost and these kinds of disturbances would not have happened over there.

I was also told that the Court took notice of the situation over there *suo motu* on the basis of an article which appeared in one of the newspapers. I was also told that the Court was also attacked, and the judgement was given by the Court. The judgement given was applicable to the structures in Vadodara, structures in Ahmedabad, structures in Rajkot and structures in other places. If the structures in all the places were to be pulled down or demolished at one and the same time, it would not have been possible or it would have been difficult for the Government to control the situation. This matter was then brought to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court stayed the order and the situation became less difficult. But to say that it was done under the orders of the High Court is also not correct. In Vadodara it was decided that the structures would be pulled down, and as per their plan they were pulling down the structures. They were pulling down the structures belonging to the private persons; some religious structures were also pulled down. But that was not in pursuance of the order given by the High Court. The orders were given by the High Court later on but before that have negotiated or talked about it. I am just mentioning these facts to give a correct picture of the situation over there. Having said this much about what happened in Vadodara, I would not like to go into greater details of it.

Sir, the Union Government had given 21 companies of Paramilitary Forces, eight companies of Rapid Action Force and two columns of the Army and all of them were used. When the Army came on the street doing flag marches in the city of Vadodara, it did help and the situation could be brought under control. The Supreme Court order also did help them to bring the situation under control.

What is required to be done by the State Government or the Union Government? What is required to be done

by the State Government or the Union Government is to anticipate what could happen in a particular situation and be ready to tackle that. Not anticipating probably does not help, probably creates problems. That is why, for the Governments at the national level as well as at the State level, I would say at the local level also, anticipating the situation and taking action in time is necessary. The situation in Vadodara was causing concern to all of us but because of the cooperation and because of the action taken it was controlled. But, if the Municipal Corporation had anticipated and if pressure was not put on the Municipal Corporation, probably the situation would have been different. I do not want to say anything more than this on Vadodara.

What is the communal situation in the country? Sir, while replying to the Calling Attention Motion, I had given the statistics. What do the statistics indicate? It is true that at different places in the country, communal disturbances have occurred, but is the number of communal disturbances occurring in the country going up or coming down? It is not the stand of the Government of India or any State Government also for that matter that communal violence is not taking place anywhere in the country or in the State. This is not the stand. Communal violence has taken place. The question is whether the number is going up or the number is coming down, and I have given the statistics. It is not necessary for me to repeat the statistics; it is part of the record.

Sir, it goes to show that the number of communal incidents, the number of killings and the number of injured persons have come down. It has not gone up. If it has come down, then something is being done at all levels to control it. If it is not fully controlled, that means that something more is required to be done to control it in a better manner. That is the situation obtaining in the country. Now, if this is the situation obtaining in the country, what can be done?

Sir, one of the things, which can be done by all of us, is to avoid making statements which can incite communal violence. If somebody says that one section of the society is being attacked, if somebody says that the Gujarat Government is responsible or the Kashmir Government is responsible, does that help us? It does not help us. So, it is better to avoid these kinds of statements. If we do not avoid these kinds of statements, it is likely to ignite the fire of communal violence somewhere in the country. And in that case, our statements would be held responsible for this. This is one thing.

The second thing is to be vigilant all the time. We shall have to be collecting the information all the time and acting in time. Only information is not sufficient. We shall have to act in time also.

The third thing is that there should be a mechanism available to the Governments at the national level, at the State level, at the district level and at the local level also to take rapid action, timely action against these things. That kind of mechanism has to be built. We have been discussing this matter at the national level. We have our own plans. The State Governments are also doing their bit. We have discussed these matters with them also and we are asking them to take some action.

The fourth thing is that broadmindedness is required. It does not cost any money to be broadminded. To be kind and affectionate, and understanding with fellow human beings, does not cost anything. But in the name of religion, in the name of caste, in the name of trait, in the name of language and in the name of province, we are dividing the society, and this division is not helping us at all. No religion is there to divide. Religion has to unite. Religion should unite human beings. Religion should unite human beings with other creatures. Religion should unite human beings with the plants also and with God ultimately. If religion does not unite human beings and does not unite human beings with God, then it is not a correct kind of a religion. But this is exactly what is happening.

We have gone to the religion, from there to the caste, from there to the sub-caste, from there to the language, from there to the province, and from there to something, and then quarrelling between ourselves. I am not saying that you are doing it or I am doing. I am saying that there are people who are doing it. But the most important thing that is visible in our country is that 99 per cent of the people are peace loving and broadminded.

If people in Benaras could understand and could behave in a responsible manner, if people around Jama Masjid in Delhi could understand, and if people in Doda could understand, then we can say that they are the most responsible peace loving people and they want tranquillity in the society. This is the real strength. We, the politicians, sometimes commit mistakes. Probably we are less secular than the people are.

That becomes visible whenever we talk in election meetings, whenever we talk in Parliament and whenever

we talk outside also. But privately we are really secular. Politically, probably, we try to take advantage of the situation. Now, this has also to be avoided.

In our country, there are people who want to create problem for secularism, create problem for the unity of the country and for all of us. They are out to create problem. They may belong to any religion. They may belong to any party. We shall have to be careful about them. We do not have to treat them as enemies but we shall have to understand their design and we shall have to be careful.

Then, there are forces from across the border also, which are trying to create problems. I am not saying that the Government in other countries and the people in other countries are doing this. But what I am saying is that as there are people who do not understand as to how they should conduct themselves in our country, there are people in other countries also and they are acting from across the border to create problem for us and in our country also. Now, these are the reasons which have to be really understood by us and we shall take action.

What can be done? One of the hon. Members from Orissa made a very good statement. He said: "Strengthen your police." One of the suggestions given is to strengthen the police, and that is exactly what we are trying to do. We are trying to expand the para-military forces at the national level. We are trying to give them better equipment, better training, better communication facilities, better transport facilities, better welfare facilities, better pay and salary and strengthen them. We are trying to do that.

Not only we are doing that but also the Government of India is giving a lot of money. Funds, in thousands of crores of rupees, are given to the State Governments for expansion of their police, for modernisation of their police, for providing vehicles, transport facilities and training facilities. We are giving them the funds in order to protect the coastline also. Not only that but also, you will be surprised that on all the international borders, the para-military forces are standing. In the naxalite-affected areas also, we are giving them a lot of para-military forces. Sir, 27 battalions are given to them. Sir, 27,000 men and officers are given to the naxalite-affected areas and to the North-Eastern States. We are giving them there, and here also. Over and above that, we are allowing them to raise nearly 20,000 more men and officers in order to expand their forces.

[Shri Shivrāj V. Patil]

We are giving money for them. Further, we are requesting them that if the funds are given to you, please make use of the fund. I am not saying it to blame anybody because I am not giving the names of the States which have not utilised these funds. Names are there. But I am not giving them because my intention is not to blame anybody but to make a point that if the funds are given, they should be used. If the funds are given and if they are not used, it does not help.

Not only that, but also one of the points which I have been making in the Government here, with my colleagues, with the State Chief Ministers and with the Home Ministers also is that if you want economic development, funds would be required. Funds are given for economic development by the Government to different Departments to bring about economic development. But if you do not give enough funds for the development of the police and their machinery, which can really protect what you produce, then what is the use of producing it? Economic development also will not be very much accelerated. So, more funds have to be given by the State Governments to their police also. We are asking them to provide more funds and those funds should be utilised. This is the approach we have taken. I need not go into greater details than this on police modernisation.

One of the suggestions made was a very good suggestion. We were trying to make a law to control the communal violence in the country. We have drafted a Bill. We have called it 'Communal Violence Prevention and Compensation to the Victims Bill.'

That Bill has been introduced in Rajya Sabha and that Bill has gone to the Standing Committee and it is before the Standing Committee. We are expecting that that Bill should be passed immediately. What is it that we are trying to provide in that Bill? Everybody will be surprised that that Bill is going to be very good for controlling the communal violence in the country. It provides as to how the investigation can be done in a proper manner, as to how the cases can be decided without any delay in the courts, as to how the officers who are given the responsibility to control the situation would be held accountable if they do not perform their duties. The most important thing which is being suggested in the Bill is to protect the witnesses. That is also provided.

Above all, the most important thing which is provided in that Bill is that the victim of the communal violence

shall be given compensation. It is not provided in any law. We are doing it *ex gratia*, we are doing it in cases which are brought to our notice. But in this law, it is provided that if a man loses his life, the surviving members of his family will get the compensation because of his death; if his property is damaged, the compensation shall be given. There shall be fund at the national level and the State level and that would be done. That Bill is going to be a path-breaking, new type of Bill which will be brought before us and it will help us all. The principle which we are accepting under this Bill is that it is the responsibility of the society to see that there is no communal violence and if anybody suffers in the communal violence, compensation should be given to him. Because the community as a whole cannot give compensation because it is in amorphous state, the State Government, which has the funds from the society, should give the compensation to him. I would be very happy to see that the Bill is presented to the Rajya Sabha and passed there, and it is brought here and it is passed here. That is going to be one of the most important steps that we are taking.

The second step which was suggested here was what happens if the State Government does not perform its duty. On this point, there are differences of opinion. Some hon. Members, while speaking on this point, suggested that if anything happens in any State and if the State Government is not taking the action, should the Union Government keep watching what is happening there, without doing anything? I think, the previous Government also tried to do something, but they were not able to do that. Even today we find it very difficult to get this idea accepted and we are not going to thrust this idea on the country without obtaining the co-operation of the State Government. If you want that this should be done, we will do it. Otherwise, we will keep it aside, and try to persuade them. The problem today here is that if anything happens, we hold the Union Government responsible. Sir, is it realised by us what is it that we are discussing today in this House? Is it realised that the action of Municipal Corporation of Vadodara is being discussed here, not the action of the State Government of Gujarat? We are discussing the action of the Municipal Corporation of Vadodara.

In the same fashion, the expo was set on fire in UP and people died. I think, there is a Calling Attention Motion tomorrow on it. What is it that we will be discussing? The action taken by the district officers over there and not by the State Government. The Union Government is

not in the picture all. But you are there. Something has happened. It is not acceptable to people and you would like to get some information through the Home Ministry and the Home Ministry is duty-bound to give that information. We are giving it, but legally speaking, correctly speaking, this is not correct. This has to be discussed in the State Government and yet we are not objecting to the discussion because when this matter is discussed, so many good things are suggested by you, which can be used.

One of the things which are suggested is that allow the Union Government to take action in any district or any area of a State when the State Government is found wanting and not taking action against the persons who are doing it.

I have said that this is a complicated issue, and it needs the concurrence of the State Governments. Our intention is not to impose this on the State Governments without their concurrence. If there is concurrence, then something can be done.

What is the result of this? Supposing something happens in a State that is not controllable, then the only remedy available with the Union Government is to remove that Government from its position and impose President's rule to take action. This is the extreme step. If one area is disturbed in a particular State, then by taking this extreme step you are disturbing the entire State. Furthermore, if this extreme step is taken, then also objections are raised about it. This is the reason that it cannot be done very quickly. These two statements have been made here. I would request the hon. Members to consider these statements very carefully and say whether to say 'Yes' or 'No' or to see that it is modified. This point was also discussed while drafting the Criminal Harmony Bill, and we had said that let the Members discuss it. We would not insist on getting it passed, and we would allow the Members to discuss it. Let them give suggestions to us, and we will do it.

It was also suggested that the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) should be amended. I would like to bring to your notice that two sets of criminal amendments were passed by the Parliament in a period of one and a half years, and the third set is ready. We are going to introduce it, and the CrPC will also be amended. A lot of suggestions—which you have given while abusing and taking us to task—have also been accepted by us, and we are trying to put them in the CrPC.

These are some of the steps, which have been taken. But the only remedy that lies in our hands is to be broadminded, to understand the situation and help. If you depend only on police and say—if they act—that they have acted going beyond their rights, and if they do not act, then it is said that they have not acted. Hence, the poor policemen find it very difficult whether to act or not to act. This has to be understood by us. We shall have to help them as a society.

All the same, I would like to say that we are very few in the House right now, but the points made here were very very relevant. If it becomes possible for us to act on them with concurrence of all, then we can amend the laws; we can have a machinery in place; and we can create a situation in which we can better the communal harmony situation in our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 19th May 2006 at 11 a.m.

21.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 19, 2006/Vaisakha 29, 1928 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Anandrao V. Adsul	488
2.	Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	484
3.	Shri Joachim Baxla	489
4.	Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana	485
5.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	490
6.	Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo	491
7.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	498
8.	Shri Ajit Jogi	489
9.	Shri S.K. Kharventhan	497
10.	Shri Sajjan Kumar	485
11.	Shri Bhr Singh Mahato	494
12.	Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta	493
13.	Shri Mohd. Mukeem	482
14.	Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	483
15.	Shri Prabodh Panda	497
16.	Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey	495
17.	Shri Brajesh Pathak	483
18.	Shri Harikewal Prasad	494
19.	Shri Kashiram Rana	492
20.	Shri Mohan Rawale	490
21.	Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat	493
22.	Shri G. Karunakara Reddy	487
23.	Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy	501
24.	Shri Kiren Rijju	500
25.	Shri A. Sai Prathap	498

1	2	3
26.	Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi	486
27.	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao	499
28.	Shri Ganesh Singh	486
29.	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh "Lalan"	496
30.	Shri K. Subbarayan	484
31.	Shri Ramji Lal Suman	496
32.	Shri V.K. Thummar	492
33.	Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	482
34.	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	488
35.	Shri Kailash Nath Singh Yadav	495

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Dhanuskodi	4270, 4215, 4134, 4143
2.	Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	4091, 4179
3.	Shri Basudeb Acharia	4154, 4228
4.	Shri Anandrao V. Adsul	4278, 4189, 4224, 4225
5.	Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	4288, 4264, 4241
6.	Shri Suresh Angadi	4146, 4217
7.	Shri M. Appadurai	4110, 4112
8.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	4252, 4285, 4123, 4235
9.	Shri D.K. Audikesavulu	4211, 4226, 4158, 4128
10.	Shri Ilyas Azmi	4137
11.	Shri Kailash Baithe	4072, 4111
12.	Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad	4268, 4081, 4112

1	2	3
13.	Shri Hiten Barman	4201, 4234, 4260, 4071, 4192
14.	Shri Ranen Barman	4067, 4234
15.	Shri A.V. Ballarmin	4151, 4110
16.	Shri Mahavir Bhagora	4121, 4125
17.	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	4273, 4070, 4125, 4220
18.	Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi	4068
19.	Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi	4169, 4248, 4074
20.	Shri Subrata Bose	4075, 4167, 4239
21.	Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	4162
22.	Shri Vijoy Chakraborty	4139
23.	Shri C.K. Chandrappan	4229, 4280, 4147
24.	Shri Mani Charenamel	4157
25.	Shri Bapu Hari Chaure	4131, 4203, 4214
26.	Shri Harishchandra Chavan	4245, 4069, 4112, 4166
27.	Shri Harisinh Chavda	4108, 4117
28.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	4204
29.	Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary	4105
30.	Shri Pankaj Chowdhary	4110
31.	Shri Adhir Chowdhury	4247, 4135, 4182, 4095, 4097
32.	Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	4156, 4223, 4276
33.	Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo	4253, 4170
34.	Shri Milind Deora	4078
35.	Dr. K. Dhanaraju	4123
36.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	4178, 4257
37.	Shri Sanjay Dhotre	4214

1	2	3
38.	Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad	4214, 4289, 4146
39.	Shri Girdhar Gamang	4088
40.	Shri Santosh Gangwar	4258
41.	Shri Tapir Gao	4149, 4219, 4272
42.	Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar	4098, 4195, 4256
43.	Dr. M. Jagannath	4286, 4102, 4236
44.	Shri Mohan Jena	4152
45.	Shri Raghunath Jha	4292
46.	Shri Ajit Jogi	4191, 4252
47.	Shri Pralhad Joshi	4063, 4149
48.	Shri P. Karunakaran	4194, 4120
49.	Shri Chandrakant Khaire	4262, 4096, 4183, 4192
50.	Shri Sunil Khan	4116
51.	Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal	4110
52.	Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	4076
53.	Shri S.K. Kharventhan	4233, 4244, 4165, 4224
54.	Shri Raghuveer Singh Koshal	4093, 4291
55.	Shri Srichand Kriplani	4121
56.	Shri Vijoy Krishna	4160, 4252
57.	Shri Nikhil Kumar	4097, 4218, 4271
58.	Shri Manjunath Kunnur	4112
59.	Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra	4257
60.	Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam	4103, 4209, 4267
61.	Shri Subhash Maharia	4128, 4199
62.	Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato	4113, 4253, 4255
63.	Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari	4166, 4069, 4112, 4140
64.	Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	4135, 4207, 4285

1	2	3
65.	Shri Tek Lal Mahto	4100
66.	Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	4083, 4181
67.	Shrimati Nivedita Mane	4146, 4214, 4289
68.	Shri Rasheed Masood	4161
69.	Ms. Ingrid Mcleod	4287
70.	Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam	4159
71.	Shri Kailash Meghwal	4082, 4174
72.	Shri Alok Kumar Mehta	4123
73.	Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta	4275, 4222
74.	Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	4155
75.	Shri Mohd. Mukeem	4187, 4249
76.	Shri Mohd. Tahir	4124, 4132, 4150, 4206, 4121
77.	Shri Subodh Mohite	4079, 4190
78.	Shri A.K. Moorthy	4084, 4175, 4252
79.	Shri Hemlal Murmu	4255, 4125, 4192
80.	Shri Ananta Nayak	4208, 4266, 4132, 4136, 4207
81.	Shrimati Archana Nayak	4065
82.	Shri Jual Oram	4264, 4104, 4202, 4214
83.	Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	4252, 4135, 4149, 4168
84.	Shri K.C. Pallani Shamy	4217
85.	Shri Prabodh Panda	4186
86.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	4229
87.	Shri Dalpat Singh Parste	4183, 4193
88.	Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	4290
89.	Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhnbhai Patel	4173
90.	Shri Jivabhai Ambalal Patel	4108

1	2	3
91.	Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel	4150, 4210, 4224, 4126, 4138
92.	Shri Brajesh Pathak	4188, 4250
93.	Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	4200, 4287, 4112, 4122, 4125
94.	Shrimati Rupatai Diliprao Nilangakar Patil	4118, 4252
95.	Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil	4125
96.	Shri Devidas Pingle	4119, 4232
97.	Shri Lalmani Prasad	4141
98.	Prof. M. Ramadass	4129, 4292
99.	Shri Kashiram Rana	4282
100.	Shri K.S. Rao	4077, 4184
101.	Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao	4211, 4230, 4281, 4112, 4134
102.	Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai	4252, 4066, 4153, 4214
103.	Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat	4206, 4121, 4132, 4150
104.	Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat	4099
105.	Shri G. Karunakara Reddy	4242, 4261
106.	Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy	4097, 4135, 4252
107.	Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy	4233
108.	Shri N. Janardhana Reddy	4124
109.	Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	4064
110.	Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil	4185
111.	Shri Vishnu Deo Sai	4092
112.	Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi	4189, 4251
113.	Shri Tathagata Satpathy	4090

1	2	3
114.	Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya	4255, 4114, 4192
115.	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao	4182, 4196, 4258
116.	Shri M. Shivanna	4106, 4227
117.	Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar	4221, 4274, 4121, 4132, 4150
118.	Shri G.M. Siddeshwara	4086, 4107
119.	Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu	4111
120.	Shri Dushyant Singh	4259, 4127, 4146, 4198
121.	Shri Ganesh Singh	4212
122.	Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh	4214, 4289
123.	Shri Mohan Singh	4111
124.	Shri Prabhunath Singh	4101, 4185, 4263
125.	Shri Rakesh Singh	4094, 4180, 4246
126.	Shri Rewati Raman Singh	4148
127.	Shri Sugrib Singh	4222, 4284, 4126, 4197
128.	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh "Lalan"	4125
129.	Shri M.K. Subba	4171, 4240, 4080
130.	Shri K. Subbarayan	4252
131.	Shri E.G. Sugavanam	4243, 4142, 4177, 4089
132.	Shri Ramji Lal Suman	4125, 4204

1	2	3
133.	Shri Bagun Sumbrui	4115, 4252
134.	Shri Chengara Surendran	4229, 4238, 4153, 4120
135.	Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	4085, 4125
136.	Shri V.K. Thummar	4172, 4254
137.	Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi	4118, 4252
138.	Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	4142, 4213, 4289
139.	Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni	4231, 4283
140.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	4176, 4087
141.	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	4277, 4134, 4189, 4224
142.	Shri C.H. Vijayashankar	4130
143.	Shri K. Virupakshappa	4205, 4133
144.	Shri Anjan Kumar M. Yadav	4254, 4282, 4211, 4073, 4133
145.	Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav	4109
146.	Shri Kailash Nath Singh Yadav	4206, 4121, 4132, 4150
147.	Shri Mitrasen Yadav	4145, 4216
148.	Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	4279
149.	Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi	4214, 4146
150.	Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	4144, 4237

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

<i>Civil Aviation</i>	:	487, 493
<i>Defence</i>	:	485
<i>Food Processing Industries</i>	:	491
<i>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>	:	
<i>Minority Affairs</i>		498
<i>Petroleum and Natural Gas</i>		484, 490, 494, 496, 497, 500
<i>Railways</i>		483, 486, 489, 499
<i>Social Justice and Empowerment</i>		492
<i>Tourism and Culture</i>		482, 488, 495, 501.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

<i>Civil Aviation</i>	4074, 4084, 4100, 4116, 4119, 4120, 4122, 4144, 4149, 4153, 4157, 4158, 4162, 4183, 4194, 4209, 4210, 4211, 4213, 4215, 4217, 4219, 4227, 4228, 4230, 4251, 4254, 4258, 4261, 4262, 4266, 4270, 4272, 4287, 4290
<i>Defence</i>	4063, 4070, 4101, 4128, 4150, 4165, 4166, 4175, 4178, 4203, 4208, 4222, 4225, 4256, 4269, 4282, 4284, 4289, 4292
<i>Food Processing Industries</i>	4129, 4179, 4184, 4277
<i>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>	4065, 4096, 4151, 4177, 4191, 4224, 4231, 4291
<i>Minority Affairs</i>	4105, 4188, 4220
<i>Petroleum and Natural Gas</i>	4064, 4085, 4086, 4089, 4090, 4095, 4097, 4098, 4099, 4104, 4125, 4126, 4127, 4134, 4138, 4145, 4148, 4161, 4164, 4173, 4181, 4182, 4185, 4189, 4195, 4197, 4198, 4199, 4200, 4203, 4204, 4216, 4246, 4250, 4259, 4265, 4268, 4273, 4275, 4278, 4283
<i>Railways</i>	4066, 4067, 4068, 4069, 4071, 4075, 4079, 4080, 4083, 4087, 4088, 4102, 4103, 4107, 4108, 4109, 4110, 4111, 4114, 4117, 4121, 4124, 4130, 4132, 4133, 4137, 4139, 4143, 4146, 4147, 4154, 4155, 4167, 4169, 4171, 4172, 4180, 4186, 4190, 4192, 4196, 4201, 4206, 4214, 4218, 4221, 4226, 4229, 4232, 4233, 4234, 4237, 4239, 4240, 4241, 4242, 4245, 4247, 4248, 4253, 4255, 4260, 4263, 4267, 4274, 4279, 4280, 4288
<i>Social Justice and Empowerment</i>	4076, 4113, 4115, 4123, 4131, 4142, 4152, 4160, 4174, 4187, 4193, 4236, 4252
<i>Tourism and Culture</i>	4072, 4073, 4077, 4078, 4081, 4082, 4106, 4112, 4118, 4135, 4136, 4140, 4141, 4156, 4159, 4163, 4168, 4170, 4176, 4205, 4207, 4212, 4223, 4235, 4238, 4243, 4244, 4249, 4257, 4264, 4271, 4276, 4281, 4285, 4286.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on the dedicated channel of Doordarshan, viz. DD-Lok Sabha. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110 001.

© 2007 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
