

Vol. 217
No. 2

Friday
3 July, 2009
12 Asadha, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
CONTENTS

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 1-20)
Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 20-38)
Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 38-172)
Statement by Minister Correcting Answer to Question (page 172)
Papers Laid on the Table (pages 172-74)
Report of the Committee on Petitions — <i>Presented</i> (page 174)
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee (pages 174-75)
Motion for Election to the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board — <i>Adopted</i> (page 175)
Statement regarding Government Business (pages 175-76)
Matters raised with permission—
Scarcity of Drinking Water in Darjeeling (page 176)
Need to open a Sub Centre of the New mechanism to check Naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh (pages 176-77)
Judgement of the Delhi High Court on Section 377 of the IPC (pages 177-78)
Food Situation in Assam (pages 178-79)
Derogatory remarks made against Mahatma Gandhi by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (page 179)
High sugar prices and shortage of sugar in the country (pages 179-80)
Poor condition of government hospitals in Uttar Pradesh (pages 180-81)
Plight of Sikh refugees in Pakistan (pages 181-83)
Special Mentions—
Concern over racism against Indians abroad (page 183)
Demand to settle grievances of contract labourers in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (pages 183-84)
Concern over practising doctors who have not registered with the Medical Council of India (page 184)

Demand to accord 'Telugu' the status of classical language (pages 184-85)

Demand for investigation by a central agency into the alleged bogus procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh (page 185)

Demand to take effective measures to prevent crimes against children in the country (page 186)

Demand to take action against malpractices adopted by China in textile exports by labelling its products as 'Made in India' (pages 186-87)

Demand to grant a special package for Sikh pilgrims going to Pakistan (page 187)

Concern over unsolicited mobile calls and S.M.Ss (pages 187-88)

Demand to declare the work of Safai Karamcharis as technical and provide them the facility of life insurance (pages 195-96)

Short Duration Discussion—

Need to strengthen the measures to prevent ragging in the institutions of higher learning (pages 188-95)

The Budget (Railways), 2009-2010 — *Laid on the Table* (page 196)

Private Members' Bills—

The Children Social Security Bill, 2008 — *Introduced* (page 196)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (amendment of article 148) — *Introduced* (page 196)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 54) — *Introduced* (page 197)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (insertion of new article 21B) — *Introduced* (page 197)

The Employment Bill, 2008 — *Introduced* (page 197)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 130) — *Introduced* (page 197)

The Hindu Minority and Guardianship (Amendment) Bill, 2008 — *Introduced* (page 197)

The Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by Supreme Court, High Court and Subordinate Courts Judges Bill, 2009 — *Introduced* (page 197-98)

The Prevention of Regionalism Bill, 2009 — *Introduced* (page 198)

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Introduced* (page 198)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 371-I) — *Introduced* (page 198)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 217 and 233) — *Introduced* (page 198)

The Voluntary Organisations Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006 — *Withdrawn* (page 198-208)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend articles 85 and 174) — *Discussion not concluded* (page 208-231)

Messages from Lok Sabha — *Reported* (page 231-32)

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 3rd July, 2009/12 Asadha, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Delay in Monsoon

*21. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state how widespread is the delay in monsoon this year and what impact has it had on the sowing operations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Southwest monsoon had set over Kerala on 23rd May, 2009, about one week earlier than the normal date (1st June) and it covered most parts of Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema, most parts of West Bengal and North-eastern States by the first week of June, 2009. But, the progress of monsoon was slowed down afterwards, causing a delay of about one to two weeks over Telangana, Maharashtra, East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh. As a result, some impact on the sowing of Kharif crops such as Rice, Groundnut, Soyabean was observed. However, with the revival of monsoon in various parts of the country after 25th June, 2009, sowing operations has gained momentum. The situation is being watched closely in coordination with States.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister of Agriculture says that due to delay of the Southwest monsoon for a couple of weeks over some States after the first week of June, there has been some impact on sowing of Kharif crops. So, my first supplementary to the hon. Minister is this. What is the likely reduction in the Kharif output and whether there is enough stock of rice with the Government to deal with the possible fall in production?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the sowing operations for various types of cereals and other crops will start in the month of June and before 10th of July substantial area always gets covered. As per the latest information we have got from the IMD, the situation seems to be,

probably, on its way to improve. And, in such a situation, we are expecting an additional area under sowing.

With regard to the second part of the hon. Member's supplementary about the availability of rice in the country, I would like to say that till yesterday we have succeeded in procuring 30 million tonnes, which is a record procurement in the last fifty years. That is why we have stock for one year or a little more than one year in our godowns. So, I don't expect any problem with regard to availability of rice.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, we are happy with the reply.

So, my second supplementary is: What is the likely impact, if any, on prices of key crops. You have enough stock of rice. So, there will be no affect on that. You will be able to control that. But, if there is price rise on cotton, oilseeds and vegetables — I am talking of consumer price, not wholesale price which is in the negative territory — how long will this last?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, oilseeds is essentially a rain-fed crop. The problem that the country facing today is essentially in the rain-fed areas *i.e.*, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Andhra Pradesh and a few other States where substantial area comes under rain-fed. That is why there is a serious impact on the total area of oilseeds sowing. As on today, the situation is a little worrisome. But, we are expecting a positive impact, because we are taking a number of other steps. We have allowed zero duty import. We are trying our level best to make foodgrains available in the country. But, still, with regard to oilseeds, we can wait up to end of July for sowing. Sir, the Government of India had called two meetings of the Agricultural Secretaries of some of the States on 22nd or 23rd of last month. The Agricultural Secretaries, who had been invited, were essentially from the States where there had been less rainfall. We have prepared two plans — Plan-I and Plan-II. These are contingency plans. We are going to wait up to the end of this week of July. We are expecting that we will get rains. But, suppose, if something goes wrong, the second alternative plan is, probably, we will have to shift the crop. For instance, the paddy crop can continue up to August, but there are certain crops that we will not be able to cultivate. So, we will have to change the crops. In such a situation, we will have to see that seed is available. And, we have kept about 15 lakh quintal seeds for contingency plan, which is more than country's demand. We have assured all help to the State Governments and have given additional seeds to all the State Governments. They can use this. Plus, there are two major schemes of the Ministry — the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna and the National Food Security Scheme. We have authorised the State Governments to utilize these schemes. They can take help of the schemes and use the money for any contingency. And, the States are very, very equipped for it.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, Jharkhand has only 6 per cent irrigation against the national average of 40 per cent. The farmers, when they initially got rains in the month of June, planted the seeds and have, thus, exhausted their seeds. Now, all those seedlings have died. And, now, there are again scanty rains and the farmers in the fields. Since Jharkhand is a naxalite-affected State and since only one rain-fed crop exists there, I would like to know what the Minister proposes to do for the farmers of Jharkhand in these circumstances. How does the hon. Minister propose to assist them so that they can have, at least, one crop and not become migrants all over the country?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, as per our report from the States, there are two States where, probably, we will have to take sowing operation second time, that is, some part of Gujarat and the State of Jharkhand. For both these States, we have provided substantial seeds and other financial support that they should use.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, no financial support has been provided to them.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question, per Member, please.

SHRI BIRENDER PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, the situation in Assam is somewhat declining. In Assam, the rains normally start in March. But, this year, rains started only in the last part of June. So, the scenario in the State is quite different from the other parts of the country. There was drought-like situation in Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI BIRENDER PRASAD BAISHYA: It is quite related to the question, Sir. Now, from the last part of June, the rains have started and the floods have created havoc there. Lakhs of people have been affected because of floods. So, up to June, there was a drought-like situation, but from day-before-yesterday the situation has worsened in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana areas of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI BIRENDER PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, hectares of cultivable land has been destroyed and lakhs of people have become homeless. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what measures are being taken by the Government of India to help the affected people of Assam.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, Assam is a State where paddy is the main crop. And, as I said earlier, the paddy cultivation can go up to first week of August. So, they can continue with this. Sufficient seeds have been made available to the State of Assam. If there is any specific problem, calamity or any other such thing, we would definitely be happy to understand from the State Government and we are ready to take appropriate action to resolve the problems of the farming community which is affected because of the present situation.

Distribution of wheat and rice free of cost

*22. SHRI D. RAJA:††
SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether Government plans to implement the promise made by the Congress Party in its Poll Manifesto that BPL families will be provided 25 kg of wheat or rice at Rs. 3 per kg in a month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the subsidy factor while implementing the scheme;

(d) whether Government is aware that there are some areas in the country where people have no purchasing power to purchase wheat or rice even at Rs. 3 per kg; and

(e) if so, whether Government has plan to distribute rice or wheat free of cost to such people till they are provided jobs?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) As announced in President's address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009. Government proposed to enact the National Food Security Act.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders in presently in progress.

Food subsidy provided by Government under TPDS is the difference between economic cost of food grains to FCI and the central issue prices charged from ration card holders. The economic cost depends upon Minimum Support Price, local taxes, other incidentals, cost of storage and transportation. The total subsidy payable would also depend upon the scale of issue and numbers of beneficiaries at any point of time.

There are 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. At present allocations of 277 lakh tons of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made for these 6.52 crore families and 7.4 lakh families in KBK districts of Orissa @ 35 kg. per family per month. At present cost and at present scale of issue, the subsidy on account of these beneficiaries work out to approximately Rs. 370.10 crore per annum.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by D. Raja.

For the BPL families with low purchasing power covered under TPDS, food grains are already distributed at highly subsidized prices. For the poorest of such families, *i.e.* 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana families, wheat is distributed @ Rs. 2/- and rice @ Rs. 3/- per kg. since December, 2000.

Further, under the Annapurna Scheme, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above not getting the old age pension are supplied foodgrains free of cost @ 10 kg. per person per month.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, recently, the Food and Agricultural Organisation has come out with a very alarming report on the problem of hunger in the world. It includes India also. Even after 60 years of Independence, the chronic poverty and hunger continue to be the major challenges before the country and food for the poor must be the primary concern of any Government of the day. That is why, Sir, we have been demanding that the Public Distribution System should be strengthened and universalised. Sir, there are several schemes under which subsidised food is provided to the poor. There are several State Governments, maybe 7, 8 State Governments, which are implementing the Public Distribution System fairly effectively. They have their own schemes to provide food for the poor. My question is whether the proposed food for poor or the Food Security law will be the one which intends to abolish all the existing schemes or it will be a supplementary to the existing schemes. For instance, the existing Antyodaya Ann Yojana provides wheat at Rs.2/- per kg., which is lower than the price envisaged in the Food Security law. Sir, my question is: what is the whole idea of the Food Security law? Is it a new law which is going to abolish all the other existing schemes? Is it going to overlap all the State Government schemes which are already providing food for the poor at a lower rate, for example, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Tamil Nadu also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussions. Please put the question.

SHRI D. RAJA: I have mentioned it. I have mentioned Jharkhand, West Bengal and Kerala. Sir, my question is whether this law is going to abolish all other schemes or it will be a supplement to the existing schemes.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is recollecting the Presidential Address which we heard. In fact, there was a paragraph. The Government proposed to enact a new law, that is, the National Food Security Act, that will provide a statutory basis for the framework which would ensure food security for all and every BPL family in rural areas as well as in urban areas will be entitled by law to 25 kg of rice or wheat per month at Rs.3/- per kg. That was the announcement which the President of India had made on that particular day. Now, we

are in the process of preparing that Bill. There are number of suggestions but what the hon. Member has said is correct. For instance, as per the announcement which was made by the hon. President, BPL families will get rice and wheat at Rs.3/- per kg. But there are about 2,52,000,00 card holders who come under AAY. As on today, they are, actually, getting rice and wheat at Rs.2/- per kg. and they are getting not 25 kg but 35 kg. So, that issue is very much there. The point raised by the hon. Member is important. We have to give serious thought about that. We have held certain meetings. We are discussing with various State Governments. The first consultation meeting of all the State Secretaries was held, I think, on 10th June, 2009. The second meeting in which there were representatives of Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Planning Commission was held on 11th June. We had also invited some experts in this area and that meeting was held on 12th June, 2009. The next round of discussion with the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Planning Commission was held on 1st of July. So, we are discussing with various cross-sections and we are in the process of preparation of this Bill. Our thinking is to prepare a draft, keep it available on the Internet, get reaction from public and various organisations, including NGOs, take corrective actions and then come before Parliament.

Sir, there are certain issues which have been raised here. For instance, there are certain schemes, particularly, for the aged population of this country, the senior citizens; and nobody is in a position to look after them. In fact, up to 10 kilo, we are providing free foodgrains to them. So, as per this new law, we have to see how we will be able to protect the interest of that section. There are a number of other schemes which are already existing. So, we have to see how we will be able to continue. Then a comprehensive approach will be taken. This is a very bold decision which the Government of India wants to take. The Government of India also wants to protect the vulnerable section from hunger and that is the reason why we are in the process of taking a very bold decision.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The Government talks about 'inclusive growth'. But, Sir, what the Planning Commission does is very opposite. The Planning Commission's criteria of 'BPL' really exclude vast sections of the poor people from the food security coverage, from any social security coverage. I want to know whether this Government will redefine, re-work on the BPL criteria. It is because when we talk of Public Distribution System, we always wanted to be universal, and, here as a particular issue, this BPL criterion, which is there today, does exclude vast sections of the poor people from this coverage. Sir,

there is Tendulkar Committee appointed by the Ministry of Rural Development. There is Planning Commission. Both are having different views, different perceptions on this entire issue of BPL. So, I want to know whether the Government is ready to redefine the BPL criteria so that many sections of the poor people are brought under this Scheme so that they get the benefit of food security.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes, this particular subject is also before us to take a final view. It is true that we are getting complaints or we are getting suggestions from practically each and every State of the country about the list and the criteria of fixing the BPL list. In fact, there are two-three reports from various experts on who comes exactly under the category of 'BPL'. All these reports of experts are definitely creating a lot of confusion, particularly, to me. It is because one of the experts has said that 82 per cent population of this country comes under the BPL. There are some experts who are saying that it is somewhat near to 32 or 37 per cent. Some say it is 27. Now, the name of Tendulkar Committee has been referred here. We are anxiously waiting its report. We would definitely give a serious thought to whatever they would say. But the approach which was taken till today was not universal. The approach taken was 'Targeted Public Distribution System'. What was the target? The target was essentially poor. We want to protect the interests of the poor and the vulnerable sections, and, that is why practically for more than last ten years, the Government of India is implementing the 'Targeted Public Distribution System'. We are trying to protect the interests of the weaker section or the vulnerable section. Now, if we are going to take a universal approach, then, definitely there will be a huge requirement of foodgrains. One has to see whether the availability of that type of quantity is there. Secondly, there will be a substantial burden of subsidy. One has to assess whether the Government is in a position to take such a huge burden. So, we are in the process of doing all these things.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, in Kerala, the State Government is providing 35 kg of rice for two rupees per kilo. Some other States, like Tamil Nadu, also give rice for one rupee per kilo. More than 26 lakh poor families get the benefit of this programme in Kerala. This is an additional burden for the State Government. Giving rice to the poor is a key factor in ensuring food security. Moreover, it helps to control the price of rice in the open market. So, the Central Government must share the additional burden. Sir, in the concept paper of the proposed Food Security Act, the Government of India has decided that distribution must be restricted to BPL families...*(Interruption)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please. Please, ask the question.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: In identified BPL families, there will be no role of the State Governments. According to the Central Government, there are only....*(Interruption)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? Please, don't make a speech. Just ask a question.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: There are only 10 lakh BPL families in Kerala. This is a gross underestimation of the actual number of BPL families. The Government of Kerala estimates that there are... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, I would not allow this question unless you ask your question.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, there are about 20 lakh BPL families in Kerala. My question is whether the Government would provide additional rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilo for this purpose?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are some States which have taken certain unilateral decisions and reduced the price of wheat and rice in their States. They have modified the National Policy and taken the financial burden. There are some States which follow Government of India's decision to provide 35 kg foodgrains to BPL and AAY categories, while some other States have unilaterally taken the decision to distribute 20 kg foodgrains uniformly. For instance, Tamil Nadu is not distributing 35 kg of rice. They are taking 35 kg rice from us, but they are not distributing the same; they are providing 20 kg to everybody. So, these decisions are taken by States. Some of the States like Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have reduced the prices. We have received their proposal in this regard. It is very easy to take a decision to reduce the price and ask for a share from the Government of India. Government of India is already providing substantial subsidy, which is nearly Rs. 37,000 crores, and after implementation of this scheme and taking lot of corrective actions, that burden would come to more than Rs. 50-60000 crores. So, one has to see whether they are capable of taking this kind of a burden. Thus, where unilateral decisions are taken by State Governments to reduce prices, Government of India would not be in a position to accept the suggestion of those State Governments. These are popular decisions taken by State Government. They must have assessed what is the availability in their kitty and taken decisions accordingly. They must implement those decisions with their own resources.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी ने अभी उत्तर में दो बातें कहीं। पहला यह कि गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया का यह बोल्ल्ड डिसीज़न है कि गरीब लोगों को अनाज दो रुपए किलो में दिया जाए। सभापति महोदय, उनका जो यह बोल्ल्ड डिसीज़न है, वह मुझे बहुत कोल्ड लग रहा है क्योंकि उन्होंने जवाब में यह कहा..(व्यवधान).. मैं प्रश्न पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो निर्णय होने वाला है, एक्ट बनने वाला है, क्या इसके लिए आपने कोई समय सीमा तय की है? यदि आपने इसके लिए कोई समय सीमा तय नहीं की है तो वे लोग, जिनको आपसे दो रुपए, तीन रुपए किलो में अनाज की उम्मीद थी, वे कब तक इसका इंतजार करेंगे और कब तक भूख से पीड़ित रहेंगे? इस संबंध में कोई निर्णय आप इसी सेशन में लेने वाले हैं या अगले सेशन में लेने वाले हैं या फिर उसके भी बाद में निर्णय लेंगे? इसके अलावा उन्होंने एक बात और कही है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सर, मैंने एक क्वेश्चन पूछ लिया है। यह जो निर्णय हुआ है, इस संबंध में कानून पास करने के लिए क्या कोई समय सीमा तय कर रहे हैं या फिर इसको कोल्ड स्टोरेज में डालकर, इंटरनेट पर देकर, स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज में देकर टालते रहने का विचार कर रहे हैं? दूसरा...(व्यवधान)।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No arguments please. केवल प्रश्न करिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: एक प्रश्न मैंने पूछ लिया है। पार्ट-1 पूछ लिया है। दूसरा उनका उत्तर था कि जितनी भी सब्सिडी आप देने वाले हैं।

श्री सभापति: अग्रवाल जी, केवल एक सवाल करिए। Only one question, please.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, उन्होंने कहा है कि जितनी सब्सिडी देंगे उसका इंपेक्ट कितना होगा? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सारी सब्सिडीज जितनी अब तक दी गई हैं उन सारी को मिलाकर इस ऐक्ट में कितने रुपए का इंपेक्ट पड़ेगा, यह आप बताने की कृपा करेंगे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Minister to reply to one question only.

श्री शरद पवार : जहां तक सब्सिडी का बर्दन कितना पड़ेगा, यह बात हम बी0पी0एल0 की लिस्ट पर तय करें। बी0पी0एल0 की लिस्ट किस क्राइटेरिया पर होगी इसके ऊपर, क्योंकि आपका जो क्राइटेरिया एक्सेप्ट हुआ है और प्लानिंग कमीशन की सलाह के मुताबिक सदन में बार-बार इस बारे में डिस्कसन भी हुआ है The total number of BPL card holders are 6,52,00,000 or 6,54,00,000. स्टेट गवर्नमेंट जिन्होंने एक्ज्युअली एलोकेशन किया है या बी0पी0एल0 कार्ड डिस्ट्रिब्यूट किए हैं, वे 12 करोड़ से ऊपर हैं और इसलिए बड़ी समस्या है। इसमें एक बार बात साफ हो जाएगी कि इतना नम्बर - एक, इतना क्वांटम् - दो, और यह प्राइस - तीन, फिर सब्सिडी का बर्दन कितना पड़ेगा, इसके अंदर आएगा, मगर हमें यह लगता है कि पचास हजार से ऊपर सब्सिडी का बर्दन जाएगा...(व्यवधान)

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : मेरे प्रथम प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया।

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति महोदय ने एक के लिए ही कहा था।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सभापति महोदय, बहुत ही अफसोस की बात है कि हमारे देश की सरकार अभी तक कंप्यूज्ड है कि हमारे देश में गरीब कितने हैं। यह हमारे लिए बहुत ही दुखदायी विषय है। लेकिन कल हाउस जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण पेश हुआ है, उसमें सरकार ने माना है कि 77 प्रतिशत पीपुल इस देश में बीस रुपए से कम में गुजारा करते हैं। हम आपके माध्यम से आदरणीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहेंगे कि जब सरकार अपने आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में यह मान रही है कि 77 परसेंट पीपुल लैस दैन ट्वेंटी रुपीज में अपना जीवन बसर कर रहे हैं, तो क्या यह जो स्कीम है उन 77 परसेंट लोगों के लिए लागू करेंगे और करनी चाहिए?

श्री शरद पवार : यह सभी इश्यूज अभी तक अनरिजोल्ड हैं, इस बारे में कुछ तय नहीं हुआ है। मगर मैंने सदन के सामने साफ बात कही है कि प्लानिंग कमीशन ने हमें जो फिगर दी है इस फिगर के मुताबिक 6.5 crores are total number of families which are below the poverty line that includes AAY also. On that basis, we are accepting and implementing the scheme as on today.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, so far as the food security and the legislation for food security is concerned, the apprehension is that those at present, who are beneficiaries of the present Government schemes are going to be excluded further. I have had occasion to read the letters sent to all Food Secretaries in the first week of June by the Food Ministry in which a

suggestion is made that the entire allocation for APL section is going to be cut in the name of this Food Security law. Who are the APL sections? Anybody who is earning more than Rs.11.80 a day in rural India is considered APL. Already there is 73 per cent cut in allocations for them. Food security according to the definition of FAO is “required food for all sections at all times.” Do you consider a person earning only Rs.15 a month eligible for food security under your proposed Act? If so, will you consider immediately restoring the allocations that you have cut for the APL sections?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Whatever allocations the Government of India is making for the APL category today, that will continue. We have neither reduced nor cancelled that. It is true that one particular note has been circulated from the Food Ministry to the various State Governments and that is the basis for discussion. It is not Government of India's final view. That is in the form of suggestion and a basis for discussion. Let the State Governments give their views. We have received views from some States. We are not thinking of reducing the allocation. Hon. President made an announcement that the Government proposes to enact new law, that is, the National Food Security Act, which will provide a statutory basic framework which would assure food security for all. So, the word is 'for all'. 'For all' means there are certain people whose financial position is comparatively different, that is, on the high side. So, whether we should provide similar subsidy as we are providing to the vulnerable sections. So, these issues are there for discussion and we will take a final view about that. But, we are not going to take a view where the APL will not be able to get anything. It is not the thinking of the Government at all. Definitely, we have to protect the interests of that section also.

Insurance scheme for agricultural products

*23. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government is considering to declare each village as a unit for the purpose of agricultural insurance compensation and extend coverage of insurance scheme to all agricultural products in all States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is in operation since rabi 1999-2000, is an 'area' based scheme. The implementing States/UTs can notify any contiguous area including 'village' as unit of insurance under the scheme, subject to the condition that States/UTs have pass yield data and the capacity to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments to make assessment of yield.

The scheme is available to all the States/UTs on voluntary basis *i.e.* States/UTs are free to opt in favour of the scheme. Till date, 27 States/UTs are implementing the scheme. The scheme envisages coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual

commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, as per the answer given by the hon. Minister, 27 States have opted for the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. But, sometimes, even after the insurance coverage of the agriculture and agricultural products, when there is some national calamity, farmers are not getting the compensation because they are considering block as a unit. So, my question is that this being an insurance scheme at national level, whether there is any specific guideline and rules for the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme which is operational since 1999-2000. State Governments have option either to implement the scheme or not to implement. I would like to know which are the States implementing the Scheme and which are not implementing. Do they also have the option to change the guidelines? I would like to know how many States have opted for block as a unit, how many have opted for panchayat as a unit and how many States have opted for village as unit. Particularly, I want to know whether the State Government of Orissa has opted for village as a unit, which has not been accepted by the Central Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This particular Scheme is being implemented both by the Government of India and the State Governments. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is practically operating since 1999-2000 till today. It is an 'area' based scheme. We have authorised State Governments that they can notify any contiguous area including village as a unit. We had put only two conditions. If they want to take village as a unit, we have no objection. Village is accepted as a unit under the Scheme subject to the condition that the past yield data and the capacity to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments to make assessment of the yield. State Government has to take that data. Suppose, we take village as a unit and the entire village is insured, and if the State Government has no machinery to go and assess the yield and if they have no past data, then, the Scheme will be a total non-starter. That is why, if the State Governments are capable to take up this responsibility, we are happy to authorise the State Government to take village as a unit.

Now, second question, which has been asked by the hon. Member, is regarding States which are implementing and which are not. I am not giving the list of States which are implementing. There are 27 States which are implementing the Scheme. One has to see which States are not implementing - Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Nagaland, Punjab, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep. The major State, which is not implementing, is Punjab. Punjab State Government feels that whatever compensation we are providing is not sufficient. That is why, they have not opted for the scheme. Another question which has been asked is about the State-wise information about insurance unit. In fact, it is a big list. I have got the information. I have no objection; I can lay it on the Table of the House.

But, for instance, Assam State is implementing in revenue-circles, Bihar is implementing in block, Chhattisgarh is implementing in Tehsil, Goa is implementing in Tehsil, Gujarat is implementing in Taluka, Haryana is implementing in Block, Jharkhand is implementing in Block and District, Madhya Pradesh is implementing in Patwari Halka and Tehsil, Meghalaya is implementing in Block, Mizoram is implementing in circle. Every State has a different pattern, and, therefore, has taken its own decision and we have accepted that.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, my submission is that the individual is paying for the insurance. When a person is taking the loan, insurance is compulsory in the States. Now, a person is paying for insurance compulsorily but not getting the compensation because of the 'Block' being the insurance unit. The States have the option to implement it or not. My question is that in case a particular State is implementing it, whether the Central Government would issue compulsory guidelines specifying that if the State Government is implementing it, it must compulsorily make 'village' as the insurance unit so that the poor person, who is paying for the insurance, can get the compensation also.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, as I said, we have authorised States to take appropriate decisions about that. If they want it at the village, they can go for that provided they fulfil two conditions. There is no objection from our side.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, from the answer of the hon. Minister, it is seen that the scheme has been in existence for quite sometime, probably some decades, and, it is being implemented in as many as 27 States. I am inclined to ask as to what are the all-out efforts on the part of the Government to see that this scheme is promoted and propagated in all States.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in fact, we have received some complaints from many State Governments. There are certain suggestions with regard to taking corrective actions in the scheme. One Joint Group has been appointed by the Government of India. This Group, after studying all these complaints, has given certain recommendations, which are before the Government of India for consideration. We had decided to call a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss these recommendations with them and take a final view. Without taking the State Governments into confidence, we do not want to take any view on such an important scheme.

श्री महेन्द्र साहनी : माननीय सभापति जी, मुझे सिर्फ एक ही सवाल पूछना है कि अगर राष्ट्रीय आपदा से क्षतिग्रस्त कोई राज्य है, तो क्या उस राज्य में ब्लाक और ग्राम लेवल पर कुछ काम किया जाएगा या राष्ट्रीय आपदा के संबंध में जो भारत सरकार का कानून है, उसे लागू किया जाएगा? मैं बिहार से आता हूँ वहाँ पर पिछले साल बाढ़ से राष्ट्रीय आपदा आई थी और इसके बारे में पूरा देश अच्छी तरह से जानता है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित किया था। मुझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि आज तक 14,800 करोड़ रुपए का अनुदान और उससे संबंधित कागजात ऐसे ही पड़े हुए हैं, लेकिन अभी तक उन पर किसी प्रकार की कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई है।

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न पूछ लें।

श्री महेन्द्र साहनी : मैं इस पर जल्दी से जल्दी कार्यवाही करने की मांग करता हूँ।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this particular question is regarding insurance. '*Rashtriya Aapda*' is a different issue. It is true that some of the States are facing sometimes the problem of drought, and, sometimes, heavy monsoon and suffer damages. Recently, the State of West Bengal has faced a serious problem due to Aila cyclone and the Government of India has constituted a team, which has submitted its report. Certain decisions were taken by the Government of India yesterday only, on which we would like to support the State Governments and resolve the issues. Like this, whenever we get a proposal from any State, we do send a team, and, after getting reports from the team, we do take a final view about this, and, we do support the State Government to resolve the issues.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, as far as the insurance scheme for agriculture and agriculturists is concerned, I think that there is implementation failure. That is our experience. With regard to the farmers who grow cash crops, this benefit is not being extended to them. The loss to the farmers of cash crops is more than those who grow seasonal crops, and it is linked with the price also. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this scheme would be expanded to include cash crop farmers who grow crops like rubber, pepper, coconut, cardamom, etc., with the link of fall in the price of these products.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there are certain cash crops which have been included in this particular scheme like sugarcane. There are some of the horticulture products which are perennial. Then there are certain crops like banana, turmeric, and jute. Certain crops have been included in it. Other commercial crops, which are essentially dealt with by the Commerce Ministry, are not part of this particular scheme. There are separate schemes where the Government of India has applied its mind and has taken certain decisions.

*24. [The questioner (Shri N.R. Govindarajar) was absent. For answer *vide* page 20-22 *infra*.]

Health facilities in backward areas

*25. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the provision of mobile health vans for Dalit Muslims, the number thereof, area-wise; and

(b) provision of health check up centres and provision of medicines/doctors in backward areas across the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per State Data Sheet, as on 30-4-2009, 310 Districts of country have the provision of Mobile Medical Units (MMU) for rural population especially the vulnerable sections irrespective of caste,

creed and religion. The list of number of districts, state-wise, where MMU is functional is given in the statement (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir. The service is provided by a network of 145272 sub centers, 22370 Primary Health Centers and 4045 Community Health Centers.

Statement

Number of Districts where Mobile Medical Units are working

S.No.	Name of State	Number of Districts
1	2	3
1.	Himachal Pradesh	1
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
3.	Jharkhand	24
4.	Madhya Pradesh	20
5.	Uttarakhand	13
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	16
7.	Assam	23
8.	Manipur	9
9.	Meghalaya	7
10.	Mizoram	9
11.	Nagaland	11
12.	Sikkim	4
13.	Tripura	4
14.	Andhra Pradesh	17
15.	Goa	2
16.	Gujarat	25
17.	Haryana	6
18.	Kerala	7
19.	Punjab	16
20.	Tamil Nadu	29
21.	Chandigarh	1
22.	Daman and Diu	1

1	2	3
23.	Delhi	9
24.	Rajasthan	33
25.	Karnataka	19
26.	Puducherry	2
TOTAL:		310

ڈا. ऐجاز اعلیٰ : میرا پہلا سوال وزیر محترم سے یہ ہے کہ ہم نے یہ سوال کیا ہے کہ دلت مسلمانوں کے لیے موبائل ہیلتھ وین کا آپ کے یہاں کیا انتظام ہے؟ اس سوال کے تحت ہم آپ کے ذہن میں ایک بات ڈالنا چاہتے ہیں کہ اس وقت دلت مسلم انٹین سوشل بیرارکی میں سب سے نیچے ہے۔ دوسرے سماج میں بھی اس طرح کی کٹیگری کے جو لوگ ہیں، وہ بھی آج ہیلتھ کے لئے کوویکس پر ڈیپنڈنٹ ہیں۔ پوری انڈیا میں یہ حالت ہے، ہم آپ سے یہ سوال کرتے ہیں کہ ان لوگوں کے لئے، آپ نے موبائل وینس کے ذریعے جو پرووژن دیا ہے، اس کا کتنا فائدہ پہنچتا ہے، آپ اس کا ایک اندازہ لیں اور پھر یہ بتائیں کہ آپ کی یہ فیسلٹی ان تک کیسے پہنچے گی؟

شری گولام نبی آجڑاد : سभापति महोदय, ऑनरेबल मैम्बर साहब ने फरमाया है कि मोबाइल वैनस हमारी सोसायटी के एक सैक्शन तक कैसे पहुंचे। हेल्थ और स्वास्थ्य से संबंधित से जितने भी मामले हैं, सबसे पहले तो ये राज्य सरकारों के मामले हैं। लेकिन दूरदराज के इलाकों में, पिछले पचपन-छप्पन सालों में देखा गया है कि अभी भी ये जो दूरदराज के इलाके हैं, पहाड़ी इलाके हैं, गांव के इलाके हैं, वहां तक राज्य सरकारें पूरी तरह से नहीं पहुंची हैं। इसीलिए यूपीए गवर्नमेंट ने आज से पांच साल पहले एक स्कीम नेशनल रूरल हेल्थ मिशन बनाई थी। इसके द्वारा डिस्ट्रिक्ट, तहसील, ब्लॉक और नीचे गांव तक जाने के लिए स्कीम्स बनाई थीं। उनके लिए इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की बात है। मैनपावर, डॉक्टर्स, नर्सों के साथ ही साथ एम्बुलेंस, वह भी अलग-अलग किस्म की एंबुलेंसेज का भी प्रावधान है। बहुत सारे राज्यों ने उसका लाभ उठाया है, परंतु मुझे अफसोस है कि बिहार सरकार ने, जहां बिहार और यूपी. राज्य को इसका सबसे ज्यादा लाभ उठाना चाहिए था, जहां सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत थी, पिछले चार-पांच वर्षों में उन्होंने इन एंबुलेंसेज का लाभ नहीं उठाया है। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि इस दफा बिहार और यूपी ने पैसा मांगा है। उन्होंने जितना भी पैसा मांगा है, अलग-अलग चार

[]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

किस्म की एंबुलेंसेज हैं, उन्होंने इसके लिए पैसा मांगा है, हमारे मंत्रालय की तरफ से 100 परसेंट sanction किया गया है।

आपने विशेष एक ग्रुप के लिए कहा, तो मरीज के बीच अन्तर करना बड़ा मुश्किल होगा। यह एक ऐसी सुविधा है, जो जरूरत पर based है। जिसको जरूरत होगी, उसको देंगे। जो बीमार होगा, वह अमीर भी हो सकता है, वह ब्राह्मण भी हो सकता है, राजपूत भी हो सकता है, वह बिरला-टाटा, करोड़पति भी हो सकता है और कभी-कभी ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : वे आपकी एंबुलेंस के पास नहीं आएंगे।

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद : उनको एंबुलेंस की जरूरत सबसे ज्यादा पड़ती है।

हमारा सवाल यह है कि क्या दूर-दराज के इलाकों तक एंबुलेंस की और दवा की सुविधा है। वह प्रोविजन है और अब यह राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर है कि वे उसका उपयोग करें, पैसा मांगें और इसका इस्तेमाल करें।

डा. ऐजाज अली : सर, हमारा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि हमने आपसे तज़क़िरा किया कि आप जिन डाक्टरों को गाँवों की तरफ भेजते हैं, वे शहरों में रह कर पढ़ते हैं, वे देहातों में रहना पसंद नहीं करते हैं। इसी वजह से quacks, जिनको गलती से झोला-छाप डाक्टर कहा जाता है, वे हमारे family members हैं, आज लोग इन पर ही dependent हैं। अगर वे न रहें, तो देहातों में बहुत से लोग ऐसे ही जान दे दें। हम लोग शहर में रह कर इसको देखते हैं। मेरा यह कहना है कि जब डाक्टरों की यह mentality नहीं है कि वे गाँवों में रहें, तो गाँवों में जो quacks इलाज कर रहे हैं, उनके लिए ही कुछ इंतजाम कर दिया जाए, ताकि समाज उनको डाक्टर माने। इसलिए हम इस बात पर आपसे गौर करने के लिए इत्तिजा करेंगे, क्योंकि यह पूरे मुल्क का वाकया है, सिर्फ बिहार या यूपी का नहीं है, पूरे मुल्क में ऐसा है, आपके इलाके में भी ऐसा होगा, quacks लोग तराई इलाकों में या पहाड़ी इलाकों में इलाज करते हैं। मेरा यह कहना है कि उनमें इतनी मेरिट है, आप इस पर गौर करें, उनमें इतनी मेरिट है कि एक अच्छे डाक्टर के साथ तीन-चार साल रह कर वे independently इलाज करते हैं। उनको पढ़ाया नहीं जाता है। हम सिर्फ यही जानना चाहते हैं कि उन quacks को इज्जत देने के लिए और समाज में उनको मान्यता देने के लिए ...(व्यवधान)... आप मेरी बात सुनते ही नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)... हेल्थ मिनिस्टर मेरी बात सुनते ही नहीं हैं। आप सुनिए तो सही, आप इस बात को नहीं जानते होंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

ڈاکٹر اعجاز علی: سر، ہمارا دوسرا سوال یہ ہے کہ ہم نے آپ سے تذکرہ کیا کہ آپ جن ڈاکٹروں کو گاؤں کی طرف بھیجتے ہیں، وہ شہروں میں رہ کر پڑھتے ہیں، وہ دیہاتوں میں رہنا پسند نہیں کرتے ہیں۔ اسی وجہ سے quacks، جن کو غلطی سے جھولا چھاپ ڈاکٹر کہا جاتا ہے، وہ ہمارے family members ہیں، آج لوگ ان پر بی dependent ہیں۔ اگر وہ نہ رہیں، تو دیہاتوں میں بہت سے لوگ ایسے ہی جان دے دیں گے۔ ہم لوگ شہر میں رہ کر اس کو دیکھتے ہیں۔ میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ جب ڈاکٹروں کی یہ mentality نہیں ہے کہ وہ گاؤں میں رہیں، تو گاؤں میں جو quacks علاج کر رہے ہیں، ان کے لئے بی کچھ انتظام کر دیا جائے، تاکہ سماج ان کو ڈاکٹر مانے۔ اس لئے ہم اس بات پر آپ سے غور کرنے کے لئے التجا کریں گے، کیوں کہ یہ پورے ملک کا واقعہ ہے، صرف بہار یا یوپی کا نہیں ہے، پورے ملک میں ایسا ہے، آپ کے علاقے میں بھی ایسا ہوگا، quacks لوگ ترانی علاقوں میں یا پہاڑی علاقوں میں علاج کرتے ہیں۔ میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ ان میں اتنی میرٹ ہے، آپ اس پر

[غور کریں ان میں اتنی میرٹ ہے کہ ایک اچھے ڈاکٹر کے ساتھ تین چار سال رہ کر وہ independently علاج کرتے ہیں۔ ان کو پڑھایا نہیں جاتا ہے۔ ہم صرف یہی جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ ان quacks کو عزت دینے کے لئے اور سماج میں ان کو ماننا دینے کے لئے مداخلت۔ آپ میر بات سنتے ہی نہیں ہیں مداخلت۔ ہیلتھ منسٹر میری بات سنتے ہی نہیں ہیں۔ آپ سنتے تو سہی، آپ اس بات کو نہیں جانتے ہوں گے مداخلت۔]

... (بصधान) ...

ڈا. عیاجز املی : آپ ہلث منیستر ہں، لکین ہم ڈاکٹر ہں اور رولز اس چیز کو feel کرتے ہں۔ آپ ڈاکٹر نہیں ہیں۔ میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ جب تک ڈاکٹروں کی یہ mentality ن بدل جائے کہ وہ دیہات میں جاکر علاج کریں، تب تک ان quacks کے لئے ہی three-year MBBS course کا انتظام کر دیا جائے، تاکہ وہ اس ڈیگری کے ساتھ علاج کر سکیں۔ اس کے بارے میں آپ اپنی رائے دیں۔

[ڈاکٹر اعجاز علی: آپ ہیلتھ منسٹر ہیں، لیکن ہم ڈاکٹر ہیں اور روز اس چیز کو feel کرتے ہیں۔ آپ ڈاکٹر نہیں ہیں۔ میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ جب تک ڈاکٹروں کی یہ mentality نہ بدل جائے کہ وہ دیہات میں جاکر علاج کریں، تب تک ان quacks کے لئے ہی three years MBBS course کا انتظام کیا جائے، تاکہ وہ اس ڈگری کے ساتھ علاج کریں۔ ان کو تھوڑا بہت anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, medicine, surgery پڑھا دی جائے اور کسی انسٹی ٹیوشن میں ٹریننگ کر دیا جائے، تاکہ وہ صحیح علاج کر سکیں۔ اس کے بارے میں آپ اپنی رائے دیں۔]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, they would cease to be quacks.

شری گولام نبی آجادی : ماننیی چیرمین ساہب نے سہی کہا اور مزل سے پہلے ہی اسکا جواب دیا۔ Quacks وہاں تک علاج کرتے ہں، جب تک وہ quacks ہں۔ جب انکو جیادہ ٹریننگ دے دے، تو دوسرے دن آپکو انہں دلی میں ڈھونا پڑےگا یا لکھنؤ میں ڈھونا پڑےگا۔ فیر وہ ہاٹھ نہیں آئے۔ آپکا یہ کہنا بیلکول سہی ہے کہ ہمارے دے میں جو سب سے بڑی دیکت آتی ہے، وہ ہمارے دہاتی علاقوں میں آتی ہے۔ اکتفاک سے ابھی جب میں چیف منیستر تھا، تو میں نے سواستھ منترالے اپنے پاس رخوا۔ دو ڈیپارٹمنٹس، اڈوکیشن اور ہلث میں میں نے اےسا دےکا کہ جیتنے بھی لیڈروں کے رشتہدار اور بکروکریٹس کے رشتہدار ہں اور جان-پہچان

वाले हैं, चाहे वे किसी भी पार्टी के हों, वे सब देहाती इलाकों से अपने रिश्तेदारों को शहर के आसपास नौकरी लगाते हैं। उनकी तनखाह उनके गाँवों से निकलती है। यही वजह है कि गाँवों में जो हम देखते हैं कि लोग मुम्बई आते हैं, दिल्ली आते हैं, कोलकाता आते हैं, हैदराबाद आते हैं, बड़े-बड़े शहरों में आते हैं, क्योंकि गाँवों के लिए जो भी सुविधाएँ प्राप्त की जाती हैं, उसका वे लाभ नहीं उठा पाते हैं। वे वापस फिर शहर में आ जाते हैं और आपने इसी के दो दिन पहले भी यह देखा होगा। एक तरफ हमारा 100 दिन का अनुभव और दूसरी तरफ एक-डेढ़ महीने का मिनिस्ट्री का अनुभव, जिसके बाद मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुँचा हूँ कि यह हाल खाली जम्मू-कश्मीर का नहीं है, यह तो घर-घर की कहानी है, हर गांव की यही कहानी है, चाहे वह उत्तर हो, दक्षिण हो, पूरब हो या पश्चिम हो। खास तौर से पहाड़ी इलाकों में और जो गरीब स्टेट्स हैं, उनमें ज्यादा दिक्कत है। इसीलिए एक तो हमने 100 दिन में जो दूर-दराज़ के क्षेत्र हैं, उनकी तीन कैटेगरीज़ बनाई - Difficult Areas, Very Difficult Areas and Inaccessible Areas. यह डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन तो पूरी कंट्री के स्तर पर हो गया, उसके बाद Hilly Areas, North-Eastern Areas and Tribal Areas इन तीन कैटेगरीज़ में इन्हें डिस्ट्रिब्यूट किया जाएगा। आगे आने वाले तीन महीनों में हम इन्हें आइडेंटिफाई कर लेंगे कि वे कौन से एरियाज़ में आते हैं। इसे हम राज्य सरकारों पर नहीं छोड़ेंगे, खुद उसमें दखल देंगे और मालूम करवाएंगे, क्योंकि देहात का concept हर जगह पर अलग-अलग है। अगर आप किसी कनॉट प्लेस वाले से पूछोगे कि देहात क्या है, तो उसके लिए जामा मस्जिद का एरिया देहात है। लेकिन देहात का जो असली मतलब है, वह Inaccessible Area है, जहाँ गाड़ी, ट्रांसपोर्ट और सड़क न हो। इसलिए एक तो अगले दो-तीन महीनों में हम इन Difficult Areas, Inaccessible Areas को identify करेंगे। जिन एरियाज़ में डॉक्टर्स नहीं जाते हैं, उनमें हम NRHM की तरफ से राज्य सरकारों को पैसा दे देंगे, ताकि वे खुद ही डॉक्टर्स की, नर्सिज़ की और अन्य जिनकी भी जरूरत होगी, उनकी contractual appointments करें। वे appointments - location-specific होंगी। जो जिस जगह के लिए, जिस Primary Health Centre के लिए appoint किया गया है, वहाँ से वह non-transferable होगा। जैसा कि एमपी साहब ने अभी फरमाया कि डॉक्टर वहाँ से भागता है, इसलिए आम तौर पर जितनी तनखाह contractual appointment पर मिलती है, उसे हम उससे दुगुनी देने के लिए तैयार हैं। Normally कई राज्यों में contractual appointments पर उन्हें 8,000 या 10,000 मिलता है, हम उनको 16,000 या 20,000 तक भी देने के लिए तैयार हैं। जब उसे देहात में इतना इन्सेंटिव मिलेगा, तो वह 10,000 या 15,000 के लिए नौकरी छोड़ कर शहर जाने वाला नहीं है, बल्कि होगा यह कि बहुत सारे जो contractual appointments वाले शहरों में हैं, वे वहाँ से reverse करके देहात की ओर आना शुरू कर देंगे। इसलिए मुझे लगता है कि अगर आप हमें साल भर दे दें तो आपको quacks की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी, हमारे डॉक्टर्स ही वहाँ पर पहुँच जाएंगे।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने अभी यह जो दुगुनी तनखाह देने की बात कही है, यह सराहनीय है। यदि आप इसे कर पाएंगे तो निश्चित ही यह स्वागत योग्य होगा।

मैं आपके उत्तर के 'ख' पक्ष की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। आपने एक 1,45,272 Sub-Centres, 22,370 Primary Health Centres और 4,045 Community Health Centres की चर्चा की है। यह पूरी संख्या लगभग 1,80,000 होती है। आपने उत्तर के 'क' पक्ष में कहा है कि सभी 310 जिलों में Mobile Medical Units हैं, इनका लोकेशन किस प्रकार है? अगर टोटल सेंटर्स 1,80,000 हैं, तो क्या हम यह समझें कि हर सेंटर के पास एक-एक Mobile Unit है या सिर्फ एक-एक tokenism के लिए है? गरीबों की चिंता हम सबको होनी चाहिए और यह हम सभी का सामूहिक दायित्व भी है, इसलिए अगर 310 जिलों में Mobile Medical Units हैं, तो उनको आप किस अनुपात में बाँटते हैं? एक Health Centre पर एक Unit है अथवा 20 Health Centres पर एक Unit है? उनका distribution किस प्रकार किया गया है? अगर आप यह क्लीयर करेंगे तो शायद स्थिति को समझने में हमें सहूलियत होगी।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: माननीय मैम्बर ने सवाल पूछा है और आंकड़े बताए हैं। सबसे पहले तो मैं आपको यह बताना चाहूंगा, जैसा कि मैंने पहले भी कहा कि यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है और सेंटर की तरफ से हम केवल उनकी मदद करते हैं। जैसे रोड डिपार्टमेंट है, जिसके माध्यम से नेशनल हाइवेज़ बनते हैं, लेकिन उसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हमने किसी स्टेट की सब सड़कें अपने हाथ में ले ली हैं। स्टेट को जो करना है, उसे तो वह करेंगी ही, हम तो केवल augmentation का काम करते हैं, strengthen करने का काम करते हैं। हमने स्टेट की हेल्थ से रिलेटिड सभी पावर्स को अपने पास रिज़र्व नहीं कर लिया है कि उनको कुछ करना ही नहीं है। इसके माध्यम से हम जो कर रहे हैं, वह केवल augmentation के लिए, उन्हें strengthen करने के लिए और मदद देने के लिए है।

मैंने वाहन की दो-तीन किस्मों का जिक्र किया जो हमारे पास हैं, जिनमें से एक तो Mobile Medical Unit है। यह Mobile Medical Unit एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट में सिर्फ एक दिया जाएगा। जितने डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स होंगे, उतनी ही गाड़ियां होंगी। जैसा आप समझ रहे हैं, वैसी बात नहीं है। वहाँ जितने डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स होंगे, उतनी गाड़ियाँ होंगी, यह तो एक बात हो गयी। इसके साथ ही इनमें जरूरत की जितनी भी चीज़ें होंगी, इसमें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: मंत्री जी, आप कृपा कर के इसको बढ़ाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप इसको बढ़ाइए। यह बहुत जरूरी है। देखिए, अब सच्चाई सामने आ गई। 310 जिलों में सिर्फ 310 मेडिकल वैन्स हैं। देश इतना बड़ा है, ...(व्यवधान)... गरीब इतने हैं तथा गांव इतने हैं। इसको बढ़ाना चाहिए, यह मेरा सुझाव आपको है।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स 595 हैं और अभी ये सिर्फ 310 हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप सुन लीजिए। इनकी संख्या 310 हमारी कमजोरी की वजह से नहीं है, क्योंकि राज्य सरकारों ने इन्हें मांगा ही नहीं। जैसा मैंने दो राज्य सरकारों का जिक्र किया- मुमकिन है और भी होंगे क्योंकि उनका क्वेश्चन था इसलिए- उन्होंने पाँच सालों तक इसे मांगा ही नहीं, इसी साल पहली दफा मांगा। प्रावधान तो एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट में एक वैन देने का है। जिन राज्यों ने माँगे उनके 310 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स को ये मिले। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: अब आप आ गए हैं, आप इसको सुधारिए ...(व्यवधान)... यह अच्छी बात है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज, प्लीज। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: आपको जवाब की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। जितने आपके क्वेश्चंस होंगे मैं उनसे ज्यादा उत्तर दूँगा। ...(व्यवधान)... इसी तरह से जैसा मैंने कहा कि ये 310 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में हैं और 595 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं। डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स बढ़ते ही जाते हैं, घटते नहीं हैं। जितने बढ़ेंगे उनके अनुसार उनको मिलेगा। उसमें रेकरिंग न सिर्फ कैपिटल कास्ट है, बल्कि रेकरिंग कास्ट भी हम NRHM की तरफ से देते हैं। इसके अलावा 2-3 और स्कीम्स हैं। एक है-साधारण एम्बुलेंस। यह तो एक बड़ी गाड़ी हुई। एक साधारण एम्बुलेंस डिस्ट्रिक्ट हॉस्पिटल्स के लिए, सब-डिस्ट्रिक्ट हॉस्पिटल्स के लिए और प्राइमरी हेल्थ सेंटर के लिए देते हैं। उसमें कोई सीमा या नम्बर फिक्स नहीं है। उसमें राज्य सरकार की जितनी किटी है, मान लीजिए किसी राज्य सरकार के लिए 100 करोड़ है, तो उस 100 करोड़ में से अगर वह अपनी जरूरत के अनुसार 20 करोड़ की गाड़ियाँ ही ले ले तो हमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। आप जो बता रहे हैं कि ज्यादा दीजिए, तो यह स्टेट की डिमांड पर निर्भर है कि उसे कितनी एम्बुलेंस चाहिए।

श्री नंदी येल्लैया: माननीय सभापति महोदय, अभी हमारे हेल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब ने बड़ा अच्छा जवाब दिया। मैं इनसे दलितों और मुस्लिम दलितों के बारे में कुछ पूछना चाहता हूँ। आप जानते हैं कि ये लोग देश के बहुत इंटिरियर इलाकों में रहते हैं। क्या वहाँ तक आपकी मेडिकल वैन जा सकती है? दूसरा, अभी आपने जो डॉक्टर्स के बारे में कहा, तो डॉक्टर्स के बारे में आम तौर पर हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर हर स्टेट में शिकायत है कि वे लोग नहीं रहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए। वक्त खत्म हो रहा है।

श्री नंदी येल्लैया: दूसरा मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि जैसे आज हमारे आंध्र प्रदेश में एक बड़ा मिसाल है कि हमने वहाँ पर 'आरोग्य श्री' नामक एक स्कीम प्रिजेंट किया ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री नंदी येल्लैया: सर, यह हैल्थ का मामला है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: वक्त खत्म हो जाएगा। ...(व्यवधान)... आपको जवाब भी नहीं मिलेगा।

श्री नंदी येल्लैया: सर, आंध्र प्रदेश में "आरोग्य श्री" एक बहुत सक्सेसफुल स्कीम रही। आप दलितों और मुस्लिमों के लिए कुल 310 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में इसे लागू कर रहे हैं। मैं माननीय हैल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ पर दलित रहते हैं और जहाँ पर अनुसूचित जाति के लोग रहते हैं, क्या वहाँ पर आपके डॉक्टर्स ईमानदारी से फंक्शन कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please. (*Interruptions*).. प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... आपका सवाल खत्म हो गया? ...(व्यवधान)... Please let's have the answer.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज्ञाद: सर, जहाँ तक आंध्र प्रदेश का सवाल है, मेरे ख्याल में हमारे देश में दो-तीन राज्य ही ऐसे हैं जिनमें आंध्र प्रदेश भी एक है। एक तमिलनाडु और दूसरा आंध्र प्रदेश ऐसे ही राज्य हैं, जहाँ एम्बुलेंस का सबसे एफिशिएंट सिस्टम इस वक्त चल रहा है। इमरजेंसी मेडिकल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट, जो सत्यम कम्प्यूटर ने शुरू किया था और जिसका लाभ अब तकरीबन 10-12 राज्य उठा रहे हैं, लेकिन सबसे पहले ...(व्यवधान)... अब सत्यम से इसे GBK ने ले लिया है। इसलिए आप सत्यम की बात नहीं करिए, लेकिन अच्छा काम कोई भी कर सकता है। इसका एक GPS सिस्टम है जहाँ सैंकड़ों गाड़ियाँ हैं। जैसे आप टैक्सी को बुला लेते हैं, उसी तरह से 10-15 मिनट्स के अन्दर स्टेट के अन्दर कहीं भी गाड़ी पहुँच सकती है। मैं यह कहूँगा कि आंध्र प्रदेश में इस वक्त एम्बुलेंस का यह सिस्टम सबसे अच्छा चल रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Deaths due to Swine Flu

*24. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many cases of H1N1 infection have been reported in our country so far;
- (b) whether it is a fact that more than 20,000 persons have been infected in more than 50 countries with Swine Flu and 117 deaths have been reported so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to tackle the deadly virus?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 30th June, 2009, there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [Swine] in our country.

(b) World Health Organisation has reported 70893 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 infection from 116 countries. There have been 311 deaths [as on 29th June, 2009].

(c) On World Health Organization information about the influenza A/H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu], Government of India took a series of actions, A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints through and informative health screening card and still continuing. On an average, 45,000 passengers are screened daily. About 27 lakh passengers have been screened. 211 passengers with symptoms were isolated in identified health facilities and tested for influenza A/H1N1 infection. The communication efforts have resulted in nearly 500 passengers with symptoms self reporting [as on 30th June, 2009].

All those tested positive are travel related, except for nine who got the infections being close contacts of those who travelled from abroad. All the cases have been detected early, put on treatment and cured. Out of these, 70 have been discharged as on 30th June, 2009. The family and social contacts of the positive cases are traced and put on preventive medication. Timely institution of public health measures have prevented community spread so far.

Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project which has pan India presence. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune, are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing for influenza A H1N1 from 1st of July, 2009.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. In addition to trained rapid response teams and team of physicians at state level, district level teams are undergoing training to investigate outbreak and to manage them. Professional bodies such as Indian Medical Association, Indian Academy of Pediatrics and National Academy of Medical Sciences have been involved for continuing medical education of doctors in the private sector.

There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drug recommended by World Health Organization. Ten million capsules are in stock. Another six million is in stock as banking arrangement with pharmaceutical companies. Stockpile of personal protective equipments is increased from one lakh to ten lakhs. These medical supplies have been decentralized which would be taken up to district level. The Committee under Secretary (Health Research) has explored the possibility of producing a vaccine for H1N1 influenza. Three manufacturers have been given license to import the seed virus for manufacturing the vaccine.

The Task Force in Information and Broadcasting Ministry has already undertaken short term media campaign. The materials prepared by the Ministry with assistance from UNICEF, after approval of the Task Force, are appearing in print and visual media. A comprehensive long term media plan in consultation with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity has been drawn up. The plan covers both electronic and print media which would run throughout the year.

Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Hijacking of train

***26. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unauthorized person/persons drove a local train that was later involved in a head-on collision with a train coming from opposite side near Chennai on 29 April, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of casualties and damages;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to all those who suffered;

(e) whether it was an act of terrorism; and

(f) the action taken against Railway staff, whose negligence caused the hijack of the train?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. As per the Preliminary Report of the statutory inquiry conducted by the Commission of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, the accident was caused due to an unknown person taking control of an Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) Rake which was available on Platform No. 14 at Chennai Moore Market Complex awaiting schedule departure at 5.15 hours on 29th April, 2009. Before the booked crew could reach the respective Cabin of the Electrical Multiple Unit Rake, the unknown person started the engine of the Electrical Multiple Unit at 04.58 hours, entered the wrong line accelerating at a very high speed of 85-90 kilometer per hour and collided at Vysarpadi Jeeva Station with a goods train which was standing at the station due to signal being red. Identify of the person who had taken the Electrical Multiple Unit is yet to be established. The investigation has been entrusted to CB-CID of Tamil Nadu, the report of which is awaited.

As a result of the accident, 4 persons lost their lives, 6 persons suffered grievous injuries and 6 persons suffered simple injuries. Total cost of damage to the Railway in this accident is about Rs. 3.13 crore.

Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no compensation claim has been filed in the tribunal. However, *ex-gratia* has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers as per rules.

The preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety does not indicate any act of terrorism. Necessary action will be taken against the defaulting staff after receipt of final inquiry report of the Commission of Railway Safety.

Modernization of railway stations

*27. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to modernize railway stations into world class standard;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the stations earmarked for the modernization; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) The details are being worked out and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of sugar

*28. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar has considerably gone down during the year 2008-09 compared to previous years resulting in high rise in prices of sugar in the market; and

(b) if so, the reasons for decrease in the production and steps being taken to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and sugar production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar during current sugar season 2008-09 (October-September) is estimated to be lower as compared to last three years' production. Lower production of sugar has put pressure on prices of sugar in the market.

(b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 has been low mainly due to decrease in area under sugarcane, reduction in cane yield, higher diversion of sugarcane for the manufacture of Jiggery (Gur) and Khandsari and fall in recovery rate. The Government has taken the following steps to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and increase sugar production in the country:-

- (i) Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for the sugar season 2009-10 has been increased to Rs. 107.76 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9.5%. The SMP for the previous sugar season was Rs. 81.18 per quintal, with an additional premium of Re.0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9%.
- (ii) A centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is under implementation. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implement, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials etc. The scheme is under implementation in 22 States/Union Territories.
- (iii) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, upgradation of technology, and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management, etc.

Polio cases in the country

*29. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reported two-fold increase in cases of virulent wild polio virus Type I this year as compared to the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), an expert body to the Government of India on Polio, have since been implemented; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the target of zero per cent polio cases is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current year, till 26th June, 09, 25 Wild Polio Virus Type 1 (WPV1) including one case of mixture of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 and Wild Polio Virus Type 3 (WPV3) have been reported. As against this, 8 WPV1 cases were reported till the month of June in the year 2008. State-wise breakup of the WPV1 cases reported in 2009 (till 26th June, 2009) is as under:-

State	WPV1
Uttar Pradesh	11
Bihar	10
Delhi	3
Rajasthan	1
TOTAL:	25

The number of polio cases reported in the country month-wise from 2007-2009 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The India Expert Advisory Group on Polio (IEAG) reviewed the polio epidemiological situation during its meeting held on 10-11th November, 2008 and recommended following Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) to be undertaken in December, 2008, and in the first half of 2009:-

- Mop Up in the high risk districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in December, 2008
- National Immunization Day (NID) in January and February 2009
- Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of spread (including Delhi and Mumbai) in March and May, 2009.
- An additional SNID should be added if Wild Polio Virus 1 (WPV1) transmission continues in the first quarter of 2009.

Based on the recommendations of the IEAG, polio immunization activities have been implemented. The January 2009 NID was preponed and implemented in December 2008 in view of the Parliament Elections and the Mop-up immunization scheduled during December, 2008 was implemented in April, 2009. In view of the reporting of WPV1 cases in low transmission season (January to April), an additional SNID has been implemented in June/July, 2009, in Bihar and UP and neighbouring areas at risk of spread (including Delhi and Mumbai). An additional round with monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine 3 (mOPV3) was implemented in the State of Bihar on 2nd May, 2009, based on the analysis of evolving epidemiology.

The epidemiology of polio was reviewed by the IEAG in its meeting held on 24-25th June, 2009. The IEAG has recommended implementing the SNIDs in August and September, 2009, covering whole of UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of spread. This will be followed by SNID in November and December, 2009, covering infected and high risk zones of UP and Bihar. The IEAG concluded that epidemiologic, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence all suggest that India is firmly on the right path to finish eradication.

Statement

P1, P3 cases by month and year, India

Month	P1			P3		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
January	15	1	7	9	111	7
February	6	2	2	8	51	3
March	8	1	3	6	39	13
April	3	0	4	11	40	9
May	7	1	5	25	33	19
June	1	3	4	29	35	14
July	10	7		54	46	
August	11	21		68	46	
September	5	17		78	32	
October	3	5		95	27	
November	9	8		195	16	
December	5	9		216	8	
TOTAL:	83	75	25	794	484	65

Note: P1 Case included P1+P3 wild mixture; 3 in 2007 (1 in August, 1 in September and 1 in November) and 1 in May 2009.

Data as on 26th June, 2009

Chartering special trains

*30. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the policy guidelines for chartering special trains in Hill Railways and other special trains;

(b) whether Railways have earmarked the circuits where such chartered trains operate;

(c) what is the annual revenue earned from them by the IRCTC during last three years; and

(d) what is the revenue sharing agreement between IRCTC and the Indian Railways in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Chartering trains throughout the Indian Railways network, including the hill sections, are permitted on payment of prescribed charges to railways subject to availability of rake and operational feasibility.

(b) The circuits and the routes depend upon the demand for chartering trains.

(c) The annual revenue of IRCTC from chartering of trains during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Revenue (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	7.49
2007-08	2.33
2008-09	4.45

(d) There is no revenue sharing agreement between Indian Railways and IRCTC in respect of chartering of trains.

Violation of PNDT Act

*31. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of female fetuses aborted in the country in violation of PNDT Act in last two years; and

(b) the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) While it is difficult to determine the exact number of female fetus aborted in the country as these are conducted surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such services, according to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 125 and 96 cases were registered during 2006 and 2007 respectively for foeticide as per the enclosed statement (See below).

The steps taken by the Government include the Constitution of a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for detecting violation of the Act and conducting of raids, Monitoring through the Central Supervisory Board under the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, Sensitizing stake holders including the Judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through Auxilliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), as well as facility for on-line Complaint registration and online filling of 'Form F' by clinics.

Statement

*Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted, Cases Convicted, Cases Conviction Ratio (CVR) Persons Arrested (PAR),
Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under foeticide during 2005-07*

State/UT	2005							2006							2007						
	OR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV	OR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV	OR	CS	CV	CVR	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	—	1	0	0	5	5	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Assam	1	1	1	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	1	1	1	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	33.3	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	21	8	1	—	8	8	0	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	10	4	2	40	8	7	3
Goa	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Gujarat	4	1	0	—	1	0	0	6	2	0	—	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Haryana	8	5	0	0	0	9	0	9	2	0	0	9	9	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	—	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	15	13	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0

Karnataka	7	0	0	—	0	0	0	13	0	0	—	0	0	0	7	0	0	—	0	0	0
Kerala	1	0	0	—	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	12	3	2	33.3	7	7	3	14	4	2	25	6	6	1	10	7	0	0	11	11	0
Maharashtra	4	3	1	50	3	9	1	10	5	0	0	11	11	0	1	0	0	—	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	5	4	0	—	8	8	0
Punjab	12	3	0	0	14	7	0	22	2	0	0	7	2	0	35	8	0	0	9	8	0
Rajasthan	10	1	0	0	3	3	0	25	3	1	33.3	8	8	1	16	0	0	—	0	0	0
Sikkim	1	1	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	2	2	1	100	5	5	2	1	1	1	100	2	2	1
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
West Bengal	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
TOTAL :	83	26	5	26	49	45	5	118	30	5	15.6	77	73	5	92	26	3	18.8	40	39	4
A and N Islands	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
D and N Haveli	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Delhi	3	3	0	—	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	—	1	1	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
TOTAL UTS :	3	3	0	—	6	6	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	—	1	1	0
TOTAL ALL INDIA :	86	29	5	26.3	55	51	5	125	35	5	15.2	77	73	5	96	27	3	17.6	41	40	4

Circular rail between Dumdum and Kolkata airport

***32. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when the section of circular rail between Dumdum to Kolkata airport was sanctioned;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred, so far, for completion of this project;
- (c) the number of passengers travelled in this section in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 year-wise; and
- (d) the revenue earned by Railways during these corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) The details are being collected and information will be laid on the Table of the House.

In-train catering in long distance trains

***33. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:**
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to extend in-train catering in other long distance trains;
- (b) what is the criterion of attaching pantry cars in trains; and
- (c) what steps are being taken to extend the service to all long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Attachment of Pantry Cars to the trains is considered based on various factors such as priority of the train, journey time, commercial justification, availability of pantry cars etc.

(c) Attachment of pantry car to the trains is planned as per the availability of new pantry cars. Further, in order to provide catering services on trains where pantry car is not available, train side vending facilities are provided. Catering requirement of the traveling passengers is also met through static units at the railway stations enroute.

Testing of blood samples of foreign visitors to India

***34. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some new cases of suspected Swine Flu have been reported in various cities of the country during the last two weeks;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether blood samples of foreign tourists are being taken for tests right on their arrival in India, as the persons of suspected Swine Flu identified so far;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government to tackle this dreaded virus from spreading out in the country, particularly States which are recognized as foreign tourists' destination like Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30th June, 2009 there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine] in our country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) On World Health Organization informing about the influenza A/H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu], Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints through an informative health screening card and is still continuing. On an average 45,000 passengers are screened daily. About 27 lakh passengers have been screened. 211 passengers with symptoms were isolated in identified health facilities and tested for influenza A/H1N1 infection. The communication efforts have resulted in nearly 500 passengers with symptoms self reporting [as on 30th June, 2009].

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. In addition to trained rapid response teams and team of physicians at state level, district level teams are undergoing training to investigate outbreak and to manage them. Professional bodies such as Indian Medical Association, Indian Academy of Pediatrics and National Academy of Medical Sciences have been involved for continuing medical education of doctors in the private sector.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Storage of procured wheat stock

*35. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether wheat procurement in the on-going rabi season has surpassed last year's record while the old stocks still block godowns;

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

(c) whether the capacity of various godowns of FCI is not in a position to stock fresh wheat stocks; and

(d) if so, the strategies being adopted by FCI/Government to store the fresh wheat stocks?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) In Rabi Marketing Season 2009-10, a quantity of 248.8 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured till 30.6.2009 as against 226.89 lakh tonnes procured in RMS 2008-09. At the start of wheat procurement in RMS 2009-10, 131.7 lakh tonnes of wheat procured in previous years was available in the central Pool. Due to record procurement of wheat in RMS 2009-10 and of rice in KMS 2008-09, shortage of covered space has been experienced by FCI and state agencies. In order to address the problem of shortage of storage capacity, various steps have been taken by FCI and State agencies which, *inter-alia*, include hiring of additional storage space, direct dispatch from mandis to consuming States and storage of new stocks in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage.

Government policy on tackling Swine Flu

*36. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Swine Flu (H1N1 virus) has been declared a pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of people affected;
- (c) the measures initiated and proposed to be initiated to check its spread in the country;
- (d) the number of hospitals equipped in the country to handle it; and
- (e) the policy guidelines of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Health Organisation [WHO] raised the pandemic alert level from Phase 5 to Phase 6 on 11th June, 2009. As per the WHO assessment, the overall severity of Influenza pandemic is moderate. The disease has as on 29th June, 2009, spread to 116 countries with 70893 laboratory confirmed cases and 311 deaths. In our country, the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009. Since then there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine].

(c) On World Health Organization informing about the influenza A/H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu], Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints through an informative health screening card and still continuing. On an average, 45,000 passengers are screened daily. About 27 lakh passengers have been screened. 211 passengers with symptoms were isolated in identified health facilities and tested for influenza A/H1N1 infection. The communication efforts have resulted in nearly 500 passengers with symptoms self reporting [as on 30th June, 2009].

Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project which has pan India presence. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune, are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing for influenza A H1N1 from 1st of July, 2009.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. In addition to trained rapid response teams and team of physicians at state level, district level teams are undergoing training to investigate outbreak and to manage them.

There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drug recommended by World Health Organization. Ten million capsules are in stock. Another six million is in stock as banking arrangement with pharmaceutical companies. Stockpile of personal protective equipments is increased from one lakh to ten lakhs.

Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

(d) All States wherein ports, airports and international check points are located, have identified hospitals with isolation facilities where patients are now being treated. There are 26 such hospitals. Apart from these, patients progressing to pneumonia can be treated in district and sub-district hospitals and those developing respiratory distress in medical college and other tertiary care referral hospitals.

(e) The policy of the Government is to prevent entry of the disease into India, detect cases early, to prevent and contain spread in the community. If the disease spreads widely in our community, then effort would be to mitigate the pandemic and providing appropriate medical care to those affected. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Suggestion of Planning Commission for sale of foodgrains

† *37. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has suggested alternate way to sell foodgrains in place of selling it through Public Distribution System;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to implement these suggestions; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has not suggested any alternate way to sell foodgrains in place of selling it through the Public Distribution System. However, Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families in lieu foodgrains under TPDS on a pilot basis in five districts - Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of the alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Recommissioning of fertilizer plant at Talcher

† *38. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that United Progressive Alliance Government in its previous tenure had announced many times that the closed fertilizer plant in Talcher in Orissa would be re-commissioned soon;

(b) whether it was also announced that the control of this plant would be transferred from loss-making Fertilizers Corporation of India (FCI) to profit making Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF);

(c) if so, the steps taken and progress made in this regard so far;

(d) whether State Government has sent any memorandum or request letter to Union Government to restart this plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M.K. ALAGIRI): (a) to (e) The Government on 12th April, 2007 decided to examine the feasibility of reviving the various closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including its Talcher Unit and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), subject to confirmed availability of gas. After due examination of technical and economic feasibility, the Government has further decided on 30th October, 2008, to constitute an Empowered Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) and Secretaries of Department of Expenditure, Department of Disinvestment, Planning Commission, Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Members to look into all possible financial models for revival of each of the closed units including the Talcher unit of FCIL. The Committee is also required to look into various linkages including gas for facilitating revival of these units. The Committee will submit its recommendations including the model for revival of each of the closed units to the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government also accorded in principle approval for considering the write off of Government of India loans and interest liabilities of FCIL and HFCL subject to submission of fully tied up proposals.

Pursuant to above decisions, in the first meeting of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, it was decided to appoint Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a premier fertilizer consultancy organization under the Department of Fertilizers for asset evaluation in respect of various closed units including Talcher unit. Further, financial consultants have also been appointed by PDIL in coordination with the Companies for examining the various possible options for revival of each of these units including the Talcher unit. The report of the consultants is yet to be received.

Since the options for revival of Talcher unit are currently under examination, no decision for transfer of this unit to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been taken by the Government. Further, Union Government is not in receipt of any memorandum or request letter from the State Government to restart the Talcher unit of FCIL.

Touts controlling waitlisted ticket confirmation quota

*39. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various quotas under which waitlisted tickets are confirmed;
- (b) the number of waitlisted tickets confirmed under various quotas in Northern Railway during the last four months till date, quota-wise and class-wise;
- (c) whether ticket confirmation under various quotas by Railway Board is under control of middlemen;
- (d) if not, the reasons why tickets are not confirmed against the requisition of MPs and whether any enquiry would be conducted into the said issue and whether officials of Railway Board found guilty will be punished; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Waitlisted tickets are normally confirmed against the cancellation of already confirmed tickets, through Emergency Quota and release of various unutilised quotas provided in the trains viz. Tatkal Quota, Defence Department Quota, Out Station Quota, Foreign Tourist Quota, Senior Citizen Quota, Parliament House Quota etc.

(b) As some of the waitlisted tickets get confirmed against various quotas, cancellations, and passengers not turned up, separate data of waitlisted tickets getting confirmed under various quotas is not feasible to be maintained zone-wise and class-wise due to very large number of trains operating every day.

(c) No, Sir. Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of high official requisition holders, which includes Central/State Government Ministers, Judges of Supreme Court of India, High Courts of various States and MPs/MLAs/VIPs, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as High Official Requisition (HOR) Quota in different trains and in different classes. The HOR quota is released in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. While other requests forwarded by MPs are generally complied with but, sometimes, due to excessive demand, sometime, it is difficult to accommodate all such requests.

Specific cases of misuse of quota are enquired into and officials responsible are taken up.

Capital investment in SMEs

†*40. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small and Medium Scale Industries constitute 39 per cent of the total manufacturing production;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 85 per cent of industrial units of the above said sector are not using modern technology; and

(d) if not, the details in this regard and the average capital investment in small and medium scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The share of micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector in the total manufacturing production of the country during 2006-07 (latest estimates) estimated on the basis of the 3rd All India Census (2001-02) of small scale industries is 38.56 per cent. Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006, information in respect of share in the total manufacturing production of the country for medium enterprise sector for this period is not available.

(c) On the basis of the above Census for the year 2001-02, it is estimated that about 88 per cent of the units were dependent on traditional technology/skills.

(d) It is estimated that the average investment in the micro and small enterprise sector in the country for the year 2006-07 (latest estimates) was Rs. 1.61 lakh.

Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

information in respect of average investment for medium enterprise sector for this period is not available.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants

123. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) for setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants (UMSP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has examined some recommendations for the setting up of UMSPs; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision on the setting up of UMSPs will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries/ Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy and Promotion, Mines, Environment and Forest and the concerned State Governments. However, as per the extant policy of the Government, there is no limit regarding the capacity of setting up a steel plant in the country. As a matter of fact, some of the proposed steel units such as Posco India Limited, Arcelor Mittal Limited and JSW Steel Limited have proposed capacity in the range of 10-12 million tonnes per annum.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received in this Ministry in respect of certain issues concerning setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants in the country. These issues are to be considered in the next Inter Ministerial Group meeting.

Private steel plants

†124. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private steel plants in India at present;

(b) out of these plants the number of those that are operational and the number of steel plants under construction;

(c) the names and number of plants, State-wise;

(d) whether the people who got displaced due to these plants have been completely rehabilitated; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the nature of complaints against these companies with respect to environmental pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Ministry of Steel is monitoring the activities of major private sector integrated steel units in the country. It is also facilitating other small and medium steel units and interacting to these units through registered industry association. The details of major private sector steel plants, with respect to their production capacities, current and projected capacities is given in Statement-I (*See below*). In addition to this, the statistics of other steel units, as per the survey conducted by Joint Plant Committee is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) and (e) The information is being collected from the respective State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement-I

Details of major private sector steel plants with respect to their production capacities, current and projected capacities

(Crude steel in Million Tonnes)				
Sl. No.	Company	Project/State	Present capacity	Proposed capacity by 2019-20
1	2	3	4	5
i.	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jameshpur, Jharkand	6.8	10.0
		Kalinganagar, Orissa	—	6.0
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh	—	5.5
		Saraikela, Jharkhand	—	12.0
ii.	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	4.6	8.5
		Paradeep, Orissa	—	6.0
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	—	3.0
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand	—	3.0
iii.	JSW Steel Ltd.	Vijayanagar, Karnataka	3.8	10.0
		Salem, Tamil Nadu	1.0	—
		Salboni, West Bengal	—	10.0
		Nimidihi, Jharkhand	—	10.0
iv.	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	3.0	6.0

1	2	3	4	5
		Angul, Orissa	—	12.5
		Patratu, Jharkhand	—	8.0
v.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi, Maharashtra	3.0	5.4
		Jharkhand	—	2.8
		Karnataka	—	2.8
vi.	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	—	12.00
vii.	Arcelor Mittal Ltd.	Keonjhar, Orissa	—	12.00
		Jharkhand	—	12.00

Statement-II

State-wise Distribution of small/medium scale steel units (numbers)

State	Electric Arc Furnace	Induction Furnace	Re- rolling	Wire Drawing	HR Sheet Plates/ Coils	CR Sheets/ Coils	GP/GC Sheets/ Coils
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chhattisgarh	2	64	127	2	1		
DNH	—	25	3				
Daman	—	14	—				
Goa	1	22	13				
Gujarat	4	62	136	1	2	4	2
Maharashtra	8	73	130	4	3	10	8
Madhya Pradesh	1	19	42	4	—	3	3
TOTAL :	16	279	451	11	6	17	13
Chandigarh	1	3	3	1			
Delhi	—	10	32				
Haryana	3	33	18	1	2	9	
Himachal Pradesh	—	14	4				
Jammu and Kashmir	—	8	11				
Punjab	4	124	359	3	1	4	
Rajasthan	—	33	190	2	—	1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttar Pradesh	2	130	168	2		4	4
Uttaranchal		27	7				
TOTAL :	10	382	792	9	3	18	4
Tamil Nadu		76	114			1	
Pondicherry		29	13				
Karnataka		21	22	2	1	4	1
Kerala	1	41	39				
A.P.		33	55	1		3	
TOTAL :	1	200	243	3	1	8	1
Assam		11	9				1
Bihar		10	12				
Jharkhand	3	24	30	1		1	1
Orissa	2	57	28				
West Bengal	4	43	70			3	2
Meghalaya		14	9				
TOTAL :	9	159	158	1	0	4	4

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

Rejuvenation programme for pepper in Kerala

125. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a rejuvenation programme for pepper in Kerala to be implemented by the Spices Board; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and what is the criteria adopted to identify the eligible planters for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Horticulture Mission", the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has approved a Project for Pepper Development in Idukki District of Kerala to be implemented by Spices Board in close coordination with State Horticulture Mission, Kerala and Directorate of Spices and Arecanut, Kozhikode, Kerala. The project envisages replanting/rejuvenation of senile pepper plantations in

an area of 60,000 ha over a period of 5 years, at a total cost of Rs.230.58 crore with a Central subsidy of Rs.120.00 crore The component wise details of the project are given in the Statement (See below).

The eligibility criteria adopted to identify the beneficiaries under the scheme areas follows :

1. The planter should have minimum of 10 Nos. of pepper standards with 2 vines per standard.
2. The maximum number of pepper standards per beneficiary should be 1080 Nos. having 2 vines per standard, irrespective of size of the holding.
3. The plantation should maintain a minimum plant spacing of 2.5 M x 2.5 M.

Statement

Project for Pepper Development in Idukki District of Kerala

(Rs. in Crore)

Components	Total Project cost (5 years)	Financial assistance Under NHM (5 years)
A. Production of planting material- Establishing of Small nursery units (300 Nos.-1 Ha each private sector)	9.00	4.50
B. Replanting/Rejuvenation of senile plantations-(60,000 ha)	180.00	90.00
C. Organic farming — construction of Vermi Compost units (3680 units)	22.08	11.00
D. Promotion of IPM — 50000 ha	10.00	5.00
E. HRD — Training for planting material production, GAP etc.	1.00	1.00
G. Functional Infrastructure	2.50	2.50
H. Implementation Cost	6.00	6.00
TOTAL :	230.58	120.00

Harvesting process under crop insurance

†126. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has sought any suggestion and advice and had

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

correspondence with the Union Government in respect of crops harvesting processes under crop insurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any technical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Credit) by the Government in respect of above and it has to issue guidelines;

(d) if so, the details of progress made in this regard;

(e) whether Government is going to issue any amendment in respect of crop harvesting processes under crop insurance at All India Level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) The State Government of Rajasthan vide their communication have expressed difficulty in the maintenance of single series of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) both for production estimates as well as for National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Consultations with National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) have been made and it has been felt that there are difficulties in combining the two series, on account of certain technical reasons/requirements.

(c) The scheme provides, a Standing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at national level which comprise representatives from National Sample Survey Organization, Ministry of Agriculture and Implementing Agency to decide on all technical matters including sample size of CCEs for making assessment of yield.

(d) The efforts made for exploring the possibilities of an alternative methodology for making assessment of yield under NAIS. At the instance of the Government of India, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) have undertaken a study on authenticity and applicability of an alternative methodology namely, Small Area Crop Estimation Approach (SACEA). Similarly, Satellite Remote Sensing Technology is also being tested in the field for its reliability and acceptability through a pilot project.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Road-map for dairy development

127. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the road-map of Government for dairy development in the country;

(b) the proposal that have been received by Government from Rajasthan under Consolidated Dairy Development Planning;

(c) the details of action being taken on those proposals;

(d) the measures being taken by Government for achieving the objectives and targets fixed by Government under this scheme; and

(e) the present status of various parameters of Dairy Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) This department is implementing following schemes for dairy development in the country:

(i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.

(ii) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.

(iii) Assistance to Cooperatives.

(iv) Dairy Venture Capital Fund.

In addition, Planning Commission has recently given 'in principle' approval for a new scheme, namely "National Dairy Plan" proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance, to increase milk production to 180 million tonnes by 2021-22.

(b) to (d) Government does not have any scheme by the name 'Consolidated Dairy Development Planning'. Hence the Question of receiving any proposal from Rajasthan under the scheme does not arise.

(e) Milk production in the country has increased from 17 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 104.80 million tonnes (estimated) in 2007-08. Per capita consumption of milk, which was 124 gms. per day in 1950-51 has increased to about 252 gms. per day during 2007-08. Under various dairy development schemes 1.29 lakh dairy cooperative societies covering 13.40 million dairy farmers have been promoted.

Agricultural research

†128. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research centres being run by Government in the field of agriculture and the number of institutes which are being provided financial aid;

(b) the amount being spent by Government on agricultural research in Central Agricultural Universities and other universities; and

(c) the number of agricultural scientists produced by these universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) The number of research institutes are 97 (consisting of 49 Research Institutes including 4 deemed universities, 6 National Bureaux, 18 National Research Centres, 24 Project Directorates). All the Research Institutes are being fully funded (100 per cent) by the Government (Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research).

(b) The higher Agricultural Education being a state subject, the State Agricultural Universities are established under the State Legislative Act. Accordingly, the financial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

component like establishment and operational cost of the Universities are borne by the respective State Government. The ICAR extends academic support and limited financial assistance for development and strengthening of existing infrastructure facilities to 54 AUs, of which 43 are State Agricultural Universities and 4 Deemed Universities (directly under ICAR). The amount provided by the ICAR to SAUs, DUs and CUs with agricultural faculty during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Remarks
2007-08	35850.00	Actual Expenditure
2008-09	39961.64	Actual Expenditure
2009-10	36700.00	BE

(c) The Agricultural Universities offer admission to fill around 9800 M.Sc. and 2600 Ph.D. seats. All the passed out students do not join as Agricultural Scientists, as some opt for other kind of employment or become entrepreneurs. Those students who deserve to become Agricultural Scientists follow the process of selection.

Stagnation in agricultural productivity

129. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural productivity is almost stagnant in the country for a long time;

(b) if so, the details of the productivity of cereals and pulses during the last five years and how does it compare with that in other countries; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the productivity of the agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Based on the reports of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the tables given below depict the productivity of cereals (rice and wheat) and of pulses in India *vis-a-vis* other major producer countries of these crops from 2003 to 2007:

Rice

Country	Productivity (Kg./Hectare)				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
India	3118	2976	3154	3190	3208

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bangladesh	3577	3536	3781	3884	3884
Brazil	3249	3557	3369	3880	3819
China	6061	6309	6253	6249	6341
Indonesia	4543	4536	4574	4620	4689
Japan	5850	6415	6648	6336	6538
Myanmar	3546	3784	3619	3759	3977
Philippines	3370	3513	3588	3684	3765
Thailand	2652	2856	2963	2906	2691
Viet Nam	4639	4855	4883	4891	4869
Wheat					
India	2610	2713	2602	2619	2671
Canada	2256	2641	2738	2610	2386
China	3932	4252	4275	4489	4781
Pakistan	2388	2373	2586	2519	2769
Russian Federation	1705	1981	1932	1953	2020
South Africa	2068	2033	2366	2752	2780
United States of America	2972	2903	2824	2603	2597
Pulses					
India	750	750	500	755	752
Bangladesh	804	843	1000	839	813
China	2167	2450	2133	3000	3571
Pakistan	815	826	757	763	763
Poland	2461	2874	2615	2500	2500
Thailand	1013	1013	1013	1013	1013
United Kingdom	3873	3699	3833	3571	3333
Viet Nam	727	727	729	729	729

While the productivity of pulses in India has remained almost stagnant at around 750 kg/hectare except in 2005, the productivity of rice and wheat have registered increase during 2007 as compared to the productivity of these crops during 2003.

(c) In order to increase production and productivity of cereals and pulses in the country, the Government has taken many initiatives such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya

Krishi Vikash Yojna, Integrated Cereals Development Programme, etc. Further, for increasing agricultural production and productivity in the country, researches on the improvement of crops and development of production and protection technologies are being carried out. Some of the major steps are as follows:

- Enhancing the per hectare productivity through superior varieties having high diseases resistance and high yield in different crops.
- To evolve appropriate crop management practices and formulate efficient crop based cropping systems.
- Intensification of research on the development of commercially viable hybrid technology for achieving higher yield in various crops.
- Development of varieties/hybrids suitable for mechanization, particularly in sugarcane harvesting, cotton picking etc.
- Development of molecular techniques/tools and their application in crop breeding with emphasis on genetic engineering of crop plants.

Experiment by ARI to promote production

130. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution of agriculture sector in economic development of our country has been declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the benefits of successful experiments carried out at Agro Research Institutions in our country to reach the farmers at grass root level to promote agriculture in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The percentage share of agriculture sector in Gross Domestic Product at constant (1999-2000) prices during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in Crore)

Year	Agriculture	Total GDP	% contribution
2005-06	467984	2616101	17.9
2006-07	487010	2871120	17.0
2007-08	511274	3129717	16.3

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) carried out research on various aspects of agriculture through All-India Coordination Research Projects in State Agricultural Universities and its own ICAR institutes. A large number of field level demonstrations on farmers' fields are conducted to demonstrate the technologies at grass root level.

ICAR has a network of 567 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country. The KVKs aim at assessment, refinement and demonstration of the agricultural technology/products, besides conducting training of farmers and extension personnel.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched during 2005-06 and aims at making the extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable by way of new institutional arrangement in the form of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). ATMA has active participation of farmers, farmer groups, NGOs, KVK, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other stakeholders operating at the district level and below. Over 90 lakh farmers have been benefited under the scheme since its implementation.

Decline in agricultural production

131. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the agricultural production of our country has come down due to various reasons; and

(b) if so, the proposals envisaged by Government to increase the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tones during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tones during 2006-07, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tones and 229.85 million tones respectively.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.

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

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

Shortfall in agricultural production

132. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortfall in agricultural production every year resulting in shortage of foodgrains in our country; and

(b) the steps/measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the agricultural production to meet the needs of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tonnes during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tonnes during 2006-07, the estimated production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tonnes and 229.85 million tonnes respectively. As the estimated demand of foodgrains during 2008-09 is only 219.01 million tonnes against estimated production of 229.85 million tonnes, there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.

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

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

Production of foodgrain

133. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production has risen to 0.9 per cent and is expected to turn growth of 2.6 per cent;

(b) if so, whether rice production has been projected at a record 99.37 MT from 98.89 MT pegged in the second advance estimate released in February;

(c) if so, whether inspite of increase in agriculture growth, India needs 40 per cent more foodgrains by 2025 from the present level to feed huge population which is likely to grow to 1.3 billion by then; and

(d) whether in view of improved position of wheat, Government is likely to open up wheat export soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) No, Madam. The production of foodgrains during 2008-09 is estimated at 229.85 million tonnes (3rd Advance Estimates released on 8th May 2009) as compared to the estimated production of 230.78 million tonnes during 2007-08, *i.e.*, a decline of 0.4%. According to the Revised Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organization, the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture and Allied Sector during 2008-09 is estimated at 1.6% as against the earlier Advance Estimates of 2.6%.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The requirement of foodgrains by the year 2025 has not been projected. However, based on GDP growth rate of 7% and per capita growth rate of 5.5%, the National Development Council (NDC) Sub-Group on Demand and Supply has projected total demand of 252.80 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2020 as against the projected demand of 219.00 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2008-09, *i.e.*, an increase of 15.43%.

(d) No, Madam. For the present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to open up wheat export from the Central Pool.

Need to help sugar cane farmers

134. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's sugarcane belt is yet to reap the benefits as the indifference of the Central and the State Governments has only increased plight of cane farmers in the last five years with no support from Government sector to cane farmers or turning to other agriculture items like wheat and pulses and seasonal vegetables due to less remuneration awarded by mill owners;

(b) if so, whether sharp fall in sugar production has already stoked up prices in the retail market to Rs. 25-28 per kg.; and

(c) the concrete measures and steps Government considers to take to improve its output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture is implemented in 23 States/Union Territories. The scheme provides assistance to the farmer for extension and developmental activities to increase production and productivity of the sugarcane.

Besides, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is providing soft loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for cane development in mill areas for production of planting materials, irrigation purposes, incentive to farmers for switching over to improved varieties, ratoon management, tissue culture laboratories etc.

Apart from the above Central Govt. has been fixing the SMP of sugarcane for each sugar season, having regard to the various factors viz., cost of production of sugarcane; return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agriculture commodities; availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price; price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers; and recovery of sugar from sugarcane realization made from sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse and presumed or their imputed value.

In view of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and paddy in the recent past, shift in area from sugarcane, ensuring profitability of sugarcane cultivation *vis-a-vis* wheat and paddy and to ensure adequate production of sugarcane and sugar, the Government has recently approved fixation of SMP of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs. 107.76 per quintal linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5%, subject to premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1 percentage point

increase in recovery about that level. This is significantly higher than the SMP for the previous sugar season which was Rs. 81.18 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9 percent subject to a premium of 0.90 for every 0.1 percent increase in the recovery above that level for the sugar season 2008-09. Sugar production is decreased in (2008-09) compared to previous years mainly because of adverse climatic conditions, decrease in sugarcane area, reduction in productivity, delay and intermittent cane price payment, higher diversion of cane towards the Gur, Jaggary and Khandsari units and better return from the competitive crops resulted decrease in sugar production and consequently increase in sugar price. The above mentioned measures are meant for increasing production of sugarcane and sugar in the coming years.

Kuttanad Package proposal of Government of Kerala

135. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the Kuttanad Package proposed by Government of Kerala as a whole;
- (b) if so, to what extent the Central assistance can be received by the State under the package;
- (c) what are the conditions for acceptance of project proposals made by Government of Kerala;
- (d) the position with regard to the project proposals made by the State;
- (e) what are the reasons for rejection of the proposals, if any; and
- (f) whether the guidelines under the Central Schemes are in conformity with the recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan foundation report on Kuttanad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) For development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system as a part of Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide-prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation. The Government has also approved that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs.50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(c) The approved programmes/interventions are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments within their existing schemes and funding pattern for which the Government of Kerala will, after identifying the activities to be undertaken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for release of necessary funds.

(d) and (e) The Government of Kerala has so far submitted 26 projects amounting to Rs.364.90 crores under Kuttanad package. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has sanctioned one project on “Measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters (Vembanad Wetland)” and has already released an amount of Rs.15.75 lakhs to the State Government. Other projects require some modification/rectification and the State Government of Kerala has already been advised to effectively coordinate and interact with the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India for sorting out the issues coming in way of sanction of projects.

(f) M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in its report has not made any observation or recommendations on the guidelines of Central Schemes. Therefore, this question does not arise.

Production under Rabi, Kharif crop during 2008-09

†136. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area that was under cultivation of mustard, groundnut, soyabean and palm oil in Rabi and Kharif during the year 2008-09 and quantum of production thereof;
- (b) to what extent it was more or less in comparison to last three years;
- (c) the reasons for the same;
- (d) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge import of edible oils during the last three years;
- (e) if so, item-wise details thereof; and
- (f) whether it is also a fact that due to corruption in obtaining support price of oilseeds and non-payment of arrears to the farmers, this situation has arisen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) The area and production of Rapeseed and Mustard, Groundnut, Soyabean and total Oilseeds for Rabi and Kharif for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the following tables:

Area:

(Lakh Hectares)

Year	Rapeseed and Mustard	Groundnut		Soyabean		Total Oilseeds
	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Kharif	Rabi
2005-06	72.77	57.40	9.96	77.08	173.68	104.94
2006-07	67.90	47.80	8.35	83.29	167.70	97.43
2007-08	58.26	53.12	9.80	88.82	179.49	87.43
2008-09*	63.32	52.34	10.16	95.17	185.38	91.53

*3rd Advance Estimates

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Production:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Rapeseed and Mustard	Groundnut		Soyabean		Total Oilseeds
	Rabi	Kharif	Rabi	Kharif	Kharif	Rabi
2005-06	81.31	62.98	26.95	82.74	167.68	112.11
2006-07	74.38	32.94	15.69	88.51	140.12	102.77
2007-08	58.34	73.62	18.20	109.68	207.13	90.42
2008-09*	73.15	57.12	15.95	101.53	181.70	99.57

*3rd Advance Estimates

The area and production of above oilseeds during 2005-06 onwards have shown fluctuating trends. The data on area under cultivation and production of Palm oil are not regularly monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) and (e) The domestic availability of edible oils falls short due to lower production of oilseeds and the demand of edible oils has been increasing at a pace faster than the production due to growth in population and improvement in living standards. The demand supply gap in edible oils is filled through imports. As per the reports from the Office of Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce, the year-wise details of Import of Edible Oils in terms of quantity and value from the year 2005-06 onwards are given in the table below:-

Year	Import of Edible Oils	
	Quantity (‘000 Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)
2005-06	4288.10	8960.99
2006-07	4269.38	9539.90
2007-08@	4902.81	10298.68
2008-09*	5608.62	12917.20

@Provisional

*Upto January 2009

(f) During Kharif 2008 and Rabi 2009 Season, the prices of major oilseeds like Soyabean and Mustard prevailed well above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level. As such, the need for commencing procurement of these oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) did not arise. However, the prices of sunflower seed were ruling below the MSP level in some States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. NAFED immediately intervened

in the market and commenced purchases under PSS to provide benefit of the scheme to the farmers. NAFED is also undertaking procurement of Copra under PSS in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshdweep Islands.

NAFED being the central nodal agency for implementation of PSS with respect to Oilseeds and Pulses, remains in full preparedness for implementation of the Scheme and intervenes in the market as and when required. A close monitoring of prices of commodities prevailing in different States is done on regular basis for this purpose. At the time of undertaking purchases, timely payment is released to the farmers and there have been no complaints in this regard. Best efforts are made by NAFED to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are passed on to the maximum number of farmers and the procurement operations are carried out as efficiently and smoothly as possible.

Plant protection strategy

137. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the plant protection strategy and activities;
- (b) what are the arrangements in place for the purpose; and
- (c) the steps being taken to make the farmers aware of the need for plant protection and what are the facilities available for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) Government has launched a scheme titled "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme.

The Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory (UT). The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Basic aim of FFSs is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decisions in pest management operation. Under the scheme 12,111 FFSs have been organized wherein 50,716 farmers in different States/UTs have been trained. Also IPM package of practices for pest/disease management have been developed for 77 major crops in collaboration with State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and are available at the website www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by the extension functionaries and farmers.

Integrated Nutrients Management

138. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Integrated Nutrients Management;
- (b) the achievements in this regard during the last two years; and
- (c) the details of plans for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) is an approach to improve and maintain soil fertility, sustain agricultural productivity and improve farmer's profitability through judicious and efficient use of chemical fertilizers, organic manures and bio-fertilizers in an integrated manner. INM is promoted through National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) and National project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF).

(b) During 2007-08 under NPOF, 572 vermiculture hatcheries, 19 bio-fertilizer production units, 11 fruit and vegetable waste compost units and 164 model organic farms and 1,954 field demonstrations on organic inputs were sanctioned. Similarly, during 2008-09, 108 vermiculture hatcheries, 3 bio-fertilizer units, 1 fruit and vegetable waste compost units, 51 model organic farms and 887 field demonstrations on organic inputs sanctioned.

A new scheme, "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility" was launched during 2008-09. 42 new static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), 44 new mobile STLs strengthening of 39 existing STLs, establishment of 2 new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) and strengthening of 19 existing FQCLs were sanctioned for 16 States during 2008-09 under the new scheme.

(c) Item-wise details of plans for the current financial year are:

- (i) Promotion of balanced use of fertilizers based on soil test reports;
- (ii) Promotion of micronutrient deficiencies in deficient zone based on soil test reports;
- (iii) Amelioration of problematic soils with the application of soil amendments such as lime, gypsum, rock phosphate and basic slag;
- (iv) Trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers;
- (v) Establishment of new STLs, mobile STLs and strengthening existing STLs;
- (vi) Promoting use of bio-fertilizers and organic manures, capacity building through training, demonstrations as well as organic farming approaches;
- (vii) Establishment of production unit of bio-fertilizers, vermi-compost and fruit and vegetable waste compost,
- (viii) Strengthening of existing fertilizer quality control laboratories and opening new laboratories.

Sanctions are made based on the proposals received from the State Governments.

Impact of climatic change on agriculture

139. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken serious cognizance of the climatic change which has disrupted the monsoon and the entire cycle of seasons consequently affecting agriculture; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and to be taken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken cognizance of the impact of climate change and has prepared the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to meet the challenges of the climate change. There are eight National Missions under the NAPCC including the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for making Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Department of Agricultural Research and Education have jointly prepared the Mission Document on National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) which contains the adaptation measures required to combat the likely adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture.

Second Green Revolution

140. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feels it necessary to launch second green revolution in the country to increase food production which is likely to fall short because of the ever growing population; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) The green revolution experienced in India paid rich dividends and the country became self-sufficient in foodgrains. The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set a target to accelerate agricultural growth to 4% per annum. To achieve this objective, the plan outlay for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been increased from Rs.13,883 crore in Tenth Plan to Rs.41,337 crore in the Eleventh Plan (excluding State Plan Schemes). Similarly, the plan outlay for the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has increased from Rs.4,422 crore and Rs.2,208 crore in Tenth Plan to Rs.12,588 crore and Rs.8,054 crore respectively during the Eleventh Plan. The Eleventh Plan also envisages improving efficiency of investment, bringing technologies to the farmers and diversifying agriculture to enhance farmers' income while also protecting food security. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore in the Eleventh Plan, National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4,883 crore, National Horticulture

Mission with an outlay of Rs.8,809 crore, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms with an outlay of Rs.2,000 crore and Macro Management of Agriculture with an outlay of Rs.5,500 crore are some of the major programmes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to achieve the envisaged objectives.

All these schemes and programmes are expected to substantially increase foodgrain production in the country.

National Bamboo Mission in North-East Region

141. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of National Bamboo Mission with special reference to the States of North East Region; and

(b) the details of proposed plan for execution during Eleventh Five Year Plan in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Government of India has approved on 27th October, 2006 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "National Bamboo Mission" under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the financial year 2006-07 of the Tenth Plan and first four year (2007-2011) of the Eleventh Five Year Plan at a total outlay of Rs.56823.00 lakhs. The Scheme is being implemented in 27 States, including 8 in North East Region. During 2008-09, a total amount of Rs.8342.86 lakhs was released out of which an amount of Rs.4482.43 lakhs was released to North Eastern States. The year-wise funds released to the North East region including to Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati are given in the Statement (*See below*).

An area of 67564 ha has been brought under bamboo plantation and 18412 ha. of the existing plantations have been improved in North East region. To supply quality Planting material, 548 bamboo nurseries have been established in the region.

The Annual Action Plans for the year 2009-10 from the States, including those in the North East region, are under consideration of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(b) State Bamboo Steering Committee, Assam under National Bamboo Mission has not approved any consolidated plan for the full Eleventh Five year plan. However, the State proposes to raise about 12,000 ha of bamboo plantation and improve 10,000 ha. of existing degraded bamboo stock during Eleventh Five year plan. Seasoning and treatment plant at Kokrajhar and Silchar will be developed. Capacity building through institutional trainings, both within and outside State, for farmers and field functionaries, will be carried out. Innovation in bamboo handicraft and utility products will be encouraged. The artisans will be provided marketing support for the sale of their bamboo products. Bamboo will be encouraged as industrial raw material in the State.

Statement

Year-wise funds released to the States of North-East Region

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No	Name of States	Year		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1510.35	873.60	196.00
2.	Assam	1080.31	601.36	755.16
3.	Manipur	647.17	371.21	497.77
4.	Meghalaya	508.31	332.54	355.28
5.	Mizoram	865.45	1001.97	825.27
6.	Nagaland	1315.96	1484.17	1370.44
7.	Sikkim	429.32	450.44	213.84
8.	Tripura	122.16	646.63	137.67
9.	CBTC (Guwahati)	91.95	100.20	130.84
TOTAL:		6570.98	5862.12	4482.27

Agricultural schemes for Jharkhand

142. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any planning to set up Agriculture Technology Park/Agro Economic Zone/ Floriculture Research Center/Logistics chain in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): No, Sir. There is no planning in Ministry of Agriculture to set up an Agriculture Technology Park/Agro Economic Zone/ Floriculture Research Center/Logistics chain in Jharkhand.

However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved setting up of a Mega Food Park at Ranchi, under Infrastructure Development Scheme in the Eleventh Plan Period.

The Department of Commerce had approved and signed one MoU for setting up of Agri Export Zone for Vegetables in Jharkhand in February 2003. However, there has been no further progress.

Advances for agriculture and animal husbandry activities in Jharkhand

143. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of total advances for agriculture and animal husbandry activities to the farmers of Jharkhand and plan to enhance the agriculture limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

1. During the Years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, agricultural credit flow to Jharkhand was Rs.505.88 crore, Rs.619.49 crore, Rs.565.18 crore. During 2008-09, the credit flow was Rs.159.17 crore (excluding the commercial banks).

2. Funds amounting to Rs.7.51 lakh have been provided to the state of Jharkhand for demonstration of newly developed agricultural equipment under the Division's Central Sector Scheme "Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization" through Training, Testing and Demonstration during 2009-10. In addition to this, Rs. 6.00 lakh have also been provided to the State Government for farm mechanization component under Macro Management Scheme during 2009-10.

3. Details of grants-in-aid released to Jharkhand in seed sector from the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

4. A Central Sector Scheme namely Venture Capital Fund for Dairy and Poultry Sector was started during 2004-05. Since inception of the Scheme, a total of 29 Dairy Units and 2 Poultry Units have been sanctioned in the State of Jharkhand with a total interest free loan amounting to Rs.56.345 lakh till May 31, 2009.

5. The Central Government is implementing a comprehensive centrally sponsored Scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" since October 2000 over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years duration, with an allocation of Rs.402 crore and Rs.775.87 crore for the 1st and 2nd Phase respectively throughout the country, on 100% grant-in-aid basis. Jharkhand is participating under the project since 2006-07 and central assistance to the tune of Rs.617.40 lakh has been released to the State for implementation of the project upto 2008-09.

Statement

Details of grants-in-aid released to Jharkhand in Seed Sector from the year 2005-06 to 2008-09

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of Component	Name of Implementing Agency/State	2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		Total		Unspent balance
		Funds released	Amount utilized	Funds released	Amount utilised	Funds released	Amount utilized	Funds released	Amount utilized	Funds released	Amount utilized	
Creation of Infrastructure	Birsa Agricultural University	85.32	85.32	—	—	—	—	—	—	85.32	85.32	—
TOTAL :		85.32	85.32	—	—	—	—	—	—	85.32	85.32	—
Quality	State	—	—	41.00	—	—	—	—	—	41.00	—	41.00
	Birsa Agricultural University	—	—	—	—	76.00	—	—	—	76.00	—	76.00
TOTAL :		—	—	41.00	—	76.00	—	—	—	117.00	—	117.00
Use of Biotechno-logy	Birsa Agricultural University	—	—	152.00	145.45	—	—	—	—	152.00	145.45	6.55
TOTAL :		—	—	152.00	145.45	—	—	—	—	152.00	145.45	6.55
GRAND TOTAL :		85.32	85.32	193.00	145.45	76.00	—	—	—	354.32	230.77	123.55

Decline in fertility of land in Western U.P.

†144. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fertile land in Western Uttar Pradesh is turning into barren land;
- (b) the reasons for decreasing fertility of the land; and
- (c) the steps being taken to improve the fertility of the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) Over exploitation of natural resources, imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and lesser use of organic matter over years have resulted deterioration of soil health and fertility in the intensively cultivated areas, especially in Western Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has intimated the following steps to improve soil health and fertility during 2009.10:

- (i) Green Manuring in 59,630 ha.
- (ii) Demonstration of 58444 Vermi/NADEP Compost.
- (iii) Testing of 5,79,000 soil sample for the recommendation of balanced use of fertilizers/manures and distribution of 5,79,000 Soil Health Cards.
- (iv) Opening of 63 Tehsil Level Soil Testing Labs.
- (v) Distribution of 816706 bio-fertilizer packets.
- (vi) Distribution of 34457 metric tones of gypsum.

The Government of India is implementing two major schemes in the country;

(i) National Project on Organic Farming to promote organic manures for improvement of soil health; and (ii) National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures.

Container freight station at Kochi

145. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to set up a container freight station at Kochi in Kerala in near future;
- (b) if so, the cost involved in the project; and
- (c) the jobs likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Yes, Sir. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

administrative control of Department of Food and Public Distribution, has planned to set up a Container Freight Station facility at Udyogmandal, Kochi in association with Fertilizer and Chemical Travancore Ltd. (FACT) Kochi, a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with FACT on 03.05.2008.

(b) and (c) The cost involved in the project and the jobs likely to be created are yet to be worked out.

SAZ to boost agriculture production

†146. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the steep fall in production of agriculture items and phenomenal increase in the prices of essential food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is working on a plan for setting up Special Agriculture Zone to boost agriculture production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) There has been no steep fall in the production of food grains. As per final estimates of 2007-08 food grain production at 230.78 Million tones was recorded. As per third Advance Estimates for the year 2008-09, production of food grain is likely to be at 229.85 Million Tonnes. The Government is aware of the increase in prices of essential food items during the year 2008-09. The prices of essential commodities were closely monitored and various measures were taken to augment supplies and stabilize prices of certain essential commodities. Rise in domestic prices was owing to the combined effect of factors such as, growing demand on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, etc. Government has been taking effective steps to moderate the prices.

(c) to (e) As of now there is no proposal under consideration to Establish SAZ. However, for the development of Agriculture Sector, a number of initiatives and plan scheme are being implemented, which includes Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) and Micro Irrigation etc.

Cultivation problems in small agriculture plots

147. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that with the division of agricultural land, number of agriculture plots have increased specially in hilly areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether small farmers are finding it difficult to cultivate their small portion of land in the absence of small tractors; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to manufacture small tractors for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Yes, Sir. A comparative statement indicating the distribution of number of operational holdings in the hilly States is annexed (*See below*).

(b) and (c) There is no information about the farmers facing difficulty in cultivation of small land holdings in absence of small tractors. Different models of small tractors upto 18 HP are being manufactured in the country. Besides, the power tillers have also been the most suitable source of power for carrying out different field operations in the small holdings, particularly in the hilly areas. The light weight power tillers of 5.8 Kw (7.9 Ps) to 9.2 Kw (12.5 Ps) are also being manufactured in the country which are suitable for hilly areas. Assistance in the form of subsidy is also available to the farmers for purchase of tractors and power tillers under Macro Management Scheme.

Statement

Distribution of number of operational holdings in major Hilly States in India as per Agriculture Census 1995-96 and 2000-01

Sl. No.	States	Number of operational holdings		Percentage change during 2000-01 over 1995-96
		1995-96	2000-01	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	103734	106783	2.94
2.	Assam	2682997	2712137	1.09
3.	Himachal Pradesh	862897	913914	5.91
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	1335779	1442894	8.02
5.	Manipur	142755	149328	4.60
6.	Meghalaya	160341	214110	35.53
7.	Mizoram	65919	75523	14.57
8.	Nagaland	149171	143791	-3.61
9.	Sikkim	44245	66635	50.60

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Tripura	301032	479428	59.26
11.	Uttarakhand*	—	890667	—
TOTAL HILLY AREA:		5848870	6304543	22.70

*Total and percentages excludes Uttarakhand as comparative data is not available.

Use of sub-standard pesticides

148. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in the country lose their crops worth several crore annually due to use of sub-standard pesticides and insecticides;

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

(c) whether in the absence of any proper check on the manufacturers and distributors of pesticides and insecticides on the quality of their products, the farmers who are using such products are badly affected; and

(d) if so, the details of corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) The Government has received representations from the pesticide industry regarding manufacture and sale of spurious pesticides in the market. A news item published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' dated 22/09/2008 had mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs. 6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Quality of pesticides is checked by the State Governments through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples by Insecticide Inspectors, Insecticide Analysts and Pesticide Testing Laboratories under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. 21 States and one UT have set up 55 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories with an annual capacity of analyzing over 52,940 pesticide samples. Two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur with annual capacity of 2,000 samples supplement the resources of States/UTs in analysis of pesticides. Besides, the Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory at Faridabad as referral laboratory.

Demand of Bt. Cotton seeds in the country

149. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Bt. Cotton seeds demand in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute of Cotton Research has developed indigenous Bt. Cotton seeds for distribution to farmers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the use of above seeds, farmers have to use very little fertilizer and pesticides and thereby a farmer can save nearly Rs. 4,000 per acre in the first year itself;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how the Ministry is planning to distribute the above seeds to farmers, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) Based on information of area under Bt. Cotton received from States, the estimated quantity of Bt. Cotton seeds sold to the farmers during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has informed that the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has developed indigenous Bt. Cotton seeds of BN Bt. Cotton (a selection from Bikaneri Narma) and a hybrid called NHH-44 Bt. Cotton. Farmers may save on account of seed cost and pesticides by the cultivation of BN Bt. Cotton variety. The saving on seed cost and insecticides is estimated to be about Rs. 4000/ per acre. The use of insecticides will be less on the BN Bt. Cotton variety since it has better tolerance to bollworms.

(e) Andhra Pradesh State Seeds Development Corporation has placed a demand with CICR, Nagpur for BN Bt. Cotton Seeds.

Statement

*Bt. Cotton seeds supplied by various private Seed Companies
during last three years*

(In Quintals)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7396	11261	11756
2.	Gujarat	4534	4826	14625
3.	Karnataka	833	1650	1823
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3488	5400	5738
5.	Maharashtra	18619	28823	32400
6.	Tamil Nadu	450	518	793

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Punjab	1800	5513	6053
8.	Haryana	563	3135	3938
9.	Rajasthan	43	436	1361
TOTAL :		37726	61562	78487

Funds released for rabi and kharif crops

150. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government has released for the kharif and rabi season for the crops production in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details thereof especially in rural agency areas like Andhra Pradesh in East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam districts where SC/ST people are working in fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Settlement of dues of Andhra Pradesh Government

151. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to settle dues of Rs. 62.00 crores towards procurement of maize under Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSPS) to Markfed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released so far to Markfed on the above said request; and

(d) by when this demand is likely to be met fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has preferred claims for Rs.48 crores towards procurement of maize under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Government of India have forwarded its views regarding the admissible amount against the claims for KMS 2003-04 and KMS 2004-05 and has sought comments of the State Government to finalize the admissible amount. Claims for KMS 2005-06 are under process for similar action.

(d) The admissible amount against these claims will be finalized only after the receipt of the response from the State Government.

Cultivation in low rainfed areas

152. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the functions/role of National Rainfed Area Authority;
- (b) the details of the report of Parthasarathi Committee and its main recommendations;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to implement those recommendations;
- (d) the details of action taken by Government to increase production of crops in low rainfed areas;
- (e) the achievement made, so far, in the country, particularly in Rajasthan; and
- (f) how much additional land has been brought under plough?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) The functions/role of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), for development of rainfed areas of the country, are as follows:

- (i) NRAA shall be an expert body to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's Dryland and Rainfed Agriculture.
- (ii) NRAA shall be an Advisory, Policy Making and Monitoring Body, it is charged with the role of examining guidelines in various existing schemes and in the formation of new schemes including all externally aided projects in the rainfed areas.
- (iii) NRAA shall specially focus on issues relating to landless and marginal farmers who constitute the large majority of inhabitants of rainfed areas.
- (iv) NRAA shall bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes and shall advise, guide and monitor their progress.
- (v) NRAA shall cover all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches.

(b) The Report of the Technical Committee under the Chairpersonship of Shri S. Parthasarthy on Watershed Programmes in India [From Hariyali to Neeranchal] can be viewed from the website <http://www.dolr.nic.in/freport.htm>.

The Parthasarthy Committee Report mainly deals with two major areas viz.,

- Proposed National Authority for Sustainable Development of Rainfed Areas (NASDORA).
- Neeranchal Guidelines for Watershed Development 2006.

The main recommendations of the Report are:

- Establishment of a National Authority for Sustainable Development of Rainfed Areas (NASDORA) as a quasi independent body to address various problems of

farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas and to manage the entire primarily Central Government funded watershed programmes. At the state level also similar setup with independent CEO and professionals were proposed.

- A new set of Neeranchal guidelines for watershed development was also included as a Chapter in the Report. The Guidelines recommended specific institutional set up at National, State and District levels. An independent District Watershed Development Agency was recommended as the Nodal Agency at the district for all watershed programmes supported by Milli Watershed Council, Village Watershed Committee, Watershed Development Team etc. Milli Watershed Concept was proposed with size of watershed from 4000 to 10000 ha. A three phase implementation strategy spread over a project duration of 8 years namely, preparatory, resource augmentation and institutional building and watershed plus was recommended.
- The Committee proposed that the cost norm for the programme be raised to Rs. 12000 per ha and recommended for convergence of all other non land based programmes in the project area to enhance ultimate output and for sustainable economic development of the village committee

(c) Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. A Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Project have been issued with dedicated institutions at State, district and village levels for implementation of watershed projects. The sub watershed concept has been adopted with watershed dimension ranging from 1000 to 5000 ha comprising of clusters of micro watersheds. The cost norms for watershed development has also been enhanced upto Rs. 12000/ha. and in case of difficult hilly terrains the unit cost upto Rs. 15000/ha. may be adopted. The concept of three phases of project implementation has also been adopted in the new Common Guidelines.

(d) Government has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach. Following major schemes are being implemented by Government to enhance soil and water conservation:-

Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
- (ii) Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR)
- (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

Ministry of Rural Development

- (iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP): Integration and modification of the schemes of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

Programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission are also giving special emphasis for increasing the agricultural production in rainfed areas.

(e) An area of 50.8 million Ha. area has so far been covered through various watershed development programmes till the end of Tenth Five Year Plan in the country. In Rajasthan 1419, 410 micro watersheds have so far been developed and 286, 69 micro watersheds are ongoing in the Eleventh Five Year Plan under NWDPRA and RVP and FPR respectively by Ministry of Agriculture. Under the programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, 8775 projects have so far been sanctioned which include completed and ongoing watersheds.

(f) The assessment of actual land brought under plough in Rajasthan has not been made. However, the impact evaluations of watershed programmes have revealed that due to implementation of watershed interventions, additional land has been brought under productive use.

Use of low quality insecticides

†153. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops amounting to the tune of about Rs. 25,000 crore are being destroyed every year in the country due to the use of low quality insecticides;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made sufficient arrangements to check the quality of insecticides in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of such arrangements along with the names of places where it has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) The estimates of value of crops lost due to use of low quality insecticides are not available with the Government. A news item published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' dated 22-09-2008 had mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs. 6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Quality of pesticides is checked by the State Governments through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples by Insecticide Inspectors, Insecticide Analysts and Pesticide Testing Laboratories under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968. 21 States

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and one UT have set up 55 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories with an annual capacity of analyzing over 52,940 pesticide samples. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*). Two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur with annual capacity of 2,000 samples supplement the resources of States/UTs in analysis of pesticides. Besides the Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory at Faridabad as referral laboratory under section 16 of Insecticides Act, 1968.

Statement

Pesticide Testing Laboratories in States/UTs

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number of Laboratories	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Rajendra Nagar, Guntur, Anantapur, Tadepalligudem and Warangal
2.	Assam	1	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	1	Patna
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
5.	Gujarat	2	Junagarh and Gandhinagar
6.	Haryana	4	Karnal, Sirsa, Rohtak and Panchkula
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	Srinagar and Jammu
9.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore, Bellary, Dharwad, Shimoga and Kotnoor
10.	Kerala	1	Trivendrum
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Jabalpur
12.	Maharashtra	4	Pune, Amaravathi, Thane and Aurangabad
13.	Manipur	1	Mantripukhri
14.	Orissa	1	Bhubaneshwar
15.	Punjab	3	Amritsar, Ludhiana and Bhatinda
16.	Rajasthan	5	Jaipur, Bikaner, Udaipur, Kota, Jodhpur
17.	Tamil Nadu	9	Coimbatore, Kovilpatti, Erode, Madurai, Trichy, Aduthrai, Salem, Cuddalore and Kanchipuram

1	2	3	4
18.	Tripura	1	Agartala
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Meerut, Lucknow (2 SPTLs) and Varanasi
20.	Uttarakhand	1	Rudrapur
21.	West Bengal	1	Midnapore
22.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
TOTAL:		55	

National policy for regulating prices of medicines

154. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new national pharmaceuticals policy to regulate the prices of vital medicines has been finalized; and

(b) if so, the names of essential drugs likely to be cheaper as a result of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Selling of medicines at higher prices

155. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at higher prices to consumers; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies so far identified and the steps Government propose to take to prevent such overcharging and to penalize the concerned companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its Scheduled I and the formulation containing any of those Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Govt. fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than that price fixed by NPPA/Govt.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like

the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R and D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. The Government takes corrective measures as per para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a result of constant monitoring of the prices of medicines by NPPA, a number of drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at a higher price to consumers. In such cases, NPPA initiates action against the companies to recover the overcharged amount from them as per the provisions of the DPCO 1995. Since the inception of NPPA in August 1997 till 31st May, 2009, NPPA has raised demands for overcharging against 471 Pharma companies. The names of these companies are available at NPPA website www.nppaindia.nic.in.

Pharma export

156. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to give stimulus to the pharma exports from the country;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the recent cases of trade mark violations by the Chinese spurious drug exports; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government at the multilateral forums to protect Indian pharma exports from such unfair practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) With a view to boost the export and earn foreign exchange, duty free import of raw materials required for production is allowed alongwith neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy. Besides under Market Access Initiative and Marketing Development Assistance Scheme financial assistance is given to exporters for promotion of exports. For promotion of pharmaceuticals exports, assistance is also provided to exporters through Pharma Export Promotion Council, particularly aiming at Small and Medium Enterprises.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has requested its Mission in Beijing to take up the matter with concerned Chinese authorities. The Government of India has also conveyed to the Ambassador of China in New Delhi its serious concern on the damage caused to India's name and reputation in Africa, on account of the misdeeds of some of its citizens. The matter is being followed up with both Embassy of India, Beijing and Embassy of China, New Delhi, on the follow up action taken by the Chinese authorities.

High Commissioners of Indian Missions in Africa have also been apprised of these developments and requested to be extra vigilant.

Black marketing of fertilizers

†157. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are uniform criteria for supply of fertilizers to all States of the country during Kharif and Rabi seasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the rampant black marketing of fertilizers during sowing season in the country; and
- (d) if so, efforts made/being made by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Government have approved the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage III to be implemented with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the NPS III, the effort is to reach urea to each and every State. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when it reaches the district. The urea is allotted as per monthly requirement project by State Government through Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The requirement of urea is met through indigenous production and gap between demand assessment and indigenous production is met through imports.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/decanalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Department of Fertilizers gives Statewise/monthwise supply plan indicated by manufacturers/importers of these fertilizers as per the requirement and ensures availability through the instrument of subsidy.

(c) and (d) The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing.

Destruction of toxic waste generated by Union Carbide Plant

158. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken measures or proposes to take the same for the destruction of tonnes of toxic waste generated by Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal 25 years ago;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh while hearing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 regarding removal of toxic wasters from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) Plant site at Bhopal, constituted a Task Force *vide* Order dated 30th March, 2005 for implementation of toxic waste removal/destruction. *Vide* order dated 13th May, 2005, the High Court also considered a roadmap submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, prepared in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, for environmental remediation of the former UCIL plant site. The Task Force has been monitoring the implementation of the roadmap, as per the Orders/directions issued by the High Court and in compliance thereof, 40 MT of Lime Sludge was disposed of at the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur, near Indore in the last week of June, 2008. The High Court had directed *vide* Orders dated 15th July, 2008 and 16th December, 2008, that 350 MT of other toxic wastes will be transported to Ankleshwar for incineration in the incinerator of M/s. Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited, at Ankleshwar, Gujarat. However, the Government of Gujarat has filed Special Leave Petitions in the Supreme Court against these orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Awareness about drug pricing and availability

159. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has recently started a nationwide consumer campaign to create awareness about drug pricing and the availability of low cost off label drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price differentiate between generic and branded drugs have increased manifold and doctors are mostly prescribing branded drugs in nexus with the manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the manufacturers of branded drugs do not sell drugs at higher prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No nation-wide consumer campaign to create awareness about drug pricing and the availability of low cost off label drugs have recently been started by NPPA. However, apart from dissemination of information through the NPPA website efforts are being made to create consumer awareness with the help of Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Department of Pharmaceuticals through advertisements in the electronic and print media.

(c) and (d) The prices of branded drugs are generally found to be high as compared to generic drugs. Government is committed to promote the use of generic medicines.

There were some reports in the newspaper in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by pharma companies. The reports suggest that there are some unethical

marketing practices being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media report, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of consumers/patients as such promotional expenses as stated to be extended to doctors has direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issue with the major Pharma Associations/Industry this Department has persuaded them to have code of marketing ethics.

In order to make available unbranded quality generic drugs at affordable prices, this department has launched Generic Drug Campaign by opening Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores with the cooperation of State Governments and Pharma CPSUs. The generic medicines available in these stores will be cheaper as compared to the branded drugs available in the market.

Life saving medicines

160. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that taxes and tariffs are contributing significantly towards raising the prices of life saving medicines;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that economically weaker segments are able to purchase life-saving medicines so that poor patients' lives are saved; and

(c) what are the details of the reduction in taxes, tariffs, etc. to keep the life-saving medicines within the reach of poor patients, during 2006, 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Drug Policy as amended from time to time envisages that quality medicines at reasonable price are made available to the masses. This Department has started 'Janaushadhi' programme where generic drugs are available at a price cheaper than their branded version.

(c) In 2006 Union Budget, a concessional basic duty @ 5% were provided on 10 specified anti-AIDS; 14 specified anti-cancer and 4 specified life saving drugs including their bulk drugs. These drugs were also exempted from countervailing duty by way of excise duty exemption. In 2007 Union Budget, there was no change in duty structure of drugs. In 2008, Union Budget five specified life saving drugs including their bulk drugs and one specified anti-cancer diagnostic kit, were provided a concessional 5% basic custom duty with nil countervailing duty by way of excise duty exemption. Further one anti-AIDS drug and the bulk drugs for the manufacturer of the said drug were also fully exempted from excise duty. In same

year, the central excise duty on pharmaceutical products including drugs/medicines were reduced from 16% to 8%. Thereafter, the central excise duty on drugs/medicines was further reduced from 8% to 4% with effect from 7th December, 2008.

Vaccine for Swine Flu

161. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has taken initiatives to develop vaccine injection or medicine to prevent/cure Swine Flu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Health Services has issued the Test License to following firms for the import of strains in respect of Swine Flue for the purpose of examination, test or analysis:

- (i) M/s Serum Institute of India Limited, Pune
- (ii) M/s Panacea Biotec, New Delhi
- (iii) M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad.

Delay in finalization of National Pharmaceutical policy

162. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Parliamentary Standing Committee has expressed concern over delay in finalizing drug policy;
- (b) whether policy aims to bring 354 essential medicines in price control;
- (c) whether panel has pointed out that no headway has been made in finalization of national pharmaceutical policy and have pointed out that the policy is pending with GoMs on pharmaceutical policy for almost two years;
- (d) whether he has sought Prime Minister's intervention to clear the policy; and
- (e) what are the other main recommendations made by the Committee for policy and how many of its recommendations have so far been considered and accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court *vide* its interim order dated 10.3.2003 in SLP (C) No.3668/2003 directed the Government, *Inter alia*, to "consider and formulate appropriate criterion for ensuring

essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003). Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995.

(c) Yes please.

(d) Yes please. In September, 2008 the then Minister (C&F&S) has requested Prime Minister to intervene in the matter to ensure that the Pharmaceutical Policy is cleared from the GOM at an early date.

(e) Some of the main recommendations made by the Committee with the objective of making available quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses related to strengthening of drug regulatory system, price negotiations mechanism for patented drugs, reduction in trade margins, strengthening of NPPA, promotion of generic drugs, amendment to Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995 emphasis on R&D, system of pool procurement of medicines etc. The recommendations made by the Standing Committee had already been taken into consideration by the Government in the proposed draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006.

Supply of fertilizers to Andhra Pradesh

163. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to ensure supply of required quantity of fertilizers during Rabi/Kharif season 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the quantum of fertilizer released to the State so far; and

(c) by when the entire demand of the State Government is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply.

The availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilisers in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2008-09 are as under:-

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)					
State	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
Andhra Pradesh	Demand/Assessed requirement	2750.00	850.00	585.00	2050.00
	Supply (Availability)	2783.63	997.50	627.49	1649.79
	Sales	2733.00	997.39	603.57	1629.86

As can be seen, there is no shortage of Urea, DAP and MOP in Andhra Pradesh. As regards to complex fertilizers, there is slight tightness in availability because of low level of indigenous production. But the shortage in complex fertilizers has been compensated by additional supplies of DAP to the tune of 1.47 LMT. As such there is no shortage of 'P' in the State.

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains for Kerala

164. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any reduction in the monthly allocation of rice and wheat for Kerala;
- (b) if so, what is the reason for the reduction in allocation;
- (c) whether there is any reduction in the offtake of rice for APL card holders in the last six months; and
- (d) what is the offtake of rice for APL card holders in the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Allocation of food grains for BPL and AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg. per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs, including Kerala. However, allocations of APL rice and wheat to States and UTs are being made based on availability of food grains in the Central Pool.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years. However, allocation of wheat was made at 2007-08 level. Kerala was thus made initial monthly allocation of 17056 tons of rice and 11777 tons of wheat in 2008-09. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the State and higher availability of food grains in the central pool, *adhoc*/additional/festival allocation of 1.46 lakh tons of rice was made taking the total rice allocation to the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons. In addition, annual allocation of 1.61 lakh tons of wheat under APL category has also been made.

For current year 2009-10, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice and 11777 tons of wheat under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons.

The allocation and offtake of rice under APL category during the last one year month-wise have been as follows:-

Month 2008	Allocation (tons)	Offtake (tons)
April	17056	19592
May	27056	39773
June	27056	19604
July	17056	14174
August	27056	11048
September	22056	10030
October	22056	15000
November	22056	26399
December	28056	30018
January	47056	28031
February	47056	42631
March	47056	49565
TOTAL:	350672	305865

Food Bank for SAARC countries

165. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to contribute foodgrains for a Food Bank being set up to meet the emergency food demands of SAARC countries;

(b) if so, the share of each country, country-wise, proposed to be contributed for the purpose; and

(c) the process to be adopted for operationalization of the proposed Food Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has contributed 1,53,200 tons of foodgrains for SAARC Food Bank which has initial capacity of 2,43,000 tons to meet emergency food demands of members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The assured share of each SAARC member country in the SAARC Food Bank is given below:-

Name of the Member States	Assessed share of foodgrains (in tons)
Afghanistan	1420
Bangladesh	40,000
Bhutan	180
India	1,53,200
Maldives	200
Nepal	4,000
Pakistan	40,000
Sri Lanka	4,000
TOTAL :	2,43,000

(c) Based on the Colombo Statement on Food Security adopted in the Fifteenth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 2-3 August, 2008, SAARC Food Bank has been operationalised. In the Second meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board held in Colombo, 12-13 February, 2009, the SAARC Food Bank Board has agreed for transacting its business in terms of drawal of food grains by Member States from their own reserves as well as from reserves of other Member States. As provided under articles VI and VIII of the Agreement on establishing the SAARC Food Bank, in case of food emergencies a member country may withdraw foodgrains from its own assessed reserve by intimating other members and from shares of other member countries by approaching them.

Allocation of PDS rice to Kerala

166. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Central Government recently for higher allocation of PDS rice to Kerala and special assistance for supporting cash crops; and

(b) if so, the details in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A request from Kerala Government has been received in June, 2009 for allocation of 1.13 lakh tons of APL rice which was the level of such allocation during 2006-07. The State Government of Kerala also requested in March, 2009 for sanction of enhanced financial assistance for replantation programme for natural rubber.

Import of edible oil

167. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's unsatiated demand for edible oils has once again set global oil market

on fire by an ever growing demand for the cooking medium from India which led to jump in country's edible oil imports to 34.34 lakh tonnes between November, 2008 and March, 2009, the crude palm oil prices in international market jumped to \$800 per tonne in April;

(b) if so, what is quantity of oil imported till January, 2009 and what steps Government proposes to take to reduce import of edible oil;

(c) whether Government is considering measures to produce edible oil in the country itself to meet demand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The world export of edible oils during 2007-08 (Oct.-Sept.) was 608 lakh tons out of which the export of these oils to India was about 10% (Oil World Annual Report' 2009). Therefore, influence of India's import of edible oils on international prices would be limited to that extent.

The domestic production is unable to meet the demand for edible oils in the country. The gap between demand and supply is met through imports. During the current oil year (November, 2008—March, 2009), the total import of edible oils is reported to be 34.34 lakh tons as compared to 19.34 lakh tons during the same period last year.

(b) to (c) Import of edible oils from November, 2008 to January 2009 was 20.95 lakh tons. In the year 2008-09, the deficit of edible oils is about 66 lakh tons, which has to be met through imports to ensure adequate availability. The Government has taken various steps to enhance the production and productivity of oilseeds in the country. A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major oilseeds growing States for increasing production. The States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat etc. are implementing the Oilpalm Development Programme under ISOPOM.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow these crops. Block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and ICAR. A Budget of Rs.320 crore has been kept for 2009-10 for ISOPOM Scheme.

(d) Does not arise

Financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Rs. 2 a kilo rice scheme

168. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial assistance for Rs. 2 per kilo rice scheme which is popular in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, by when action would be taken to help the poor people like SCs/STs in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Allotment of rice at subsidized rates is being made to Government of Andhra Pradesh under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme. For Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card holders, Government is allocating 35 kg. of rice per month at Rs. 3 per kg. to the State Government. Further, under Annapurna Scheme, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are eligible for old age pension under the National Old age Pension Scheme but are not getting pension, are supplied 10 kg. of foodgrains free of cost.

Sale of wheat below support price

†169. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat has been purchased at less than the stipulated support price in several States of the country recently;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard, alongwith the name of the States where farmers were forced to sell their wheat at a rate below the support price; and

(c) the quantum of wheat procured by the Central and State Government agencies in each State of the country during the last procurement season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In RMS 2009-10, no report of distress sale *i.e.* sale of wheat below the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government has been received from any State Government or from Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(c) State-wise procurement of wheat by FCI and State agencies during RMS 2008-09 and RMS 2009-10 (as on 26.6.2009) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Statement

State-wise procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09 and 2009-10

(in lakh tonnes)

Name of State/UT	2008-09	2009-10#
1	2	3
Punjab	99.40	107.19

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
Haryana	52.37	69.12
Uttar Pradesh	31.37	36.70
Madhya Pradesh	24.10	19.18
Bihar	5.00	1.86
Rajasthan	9.35	11.45
Uttarakhand	0.85	1.40
Chandigarh	0.10	0.12
Delhi	0.07	0.00
Gujarat	4.15	0.75
Jharkhand	0.02	0.00
Maharashtra	0.10	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.01
Jammu and Kashmir	0.01	0.01
TOTAL:	226.89	247.78

#Procurement position as on 26.6.2009.

Subsidy for edible oil

170. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government gives subsidy for edible oil; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal to give subsidy to coconut oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) There is no proposal to give subsidy to coconut oil.

PDS outlets/ration dealers

171. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of PDS outlets/ration dealers in the country;
- (b) out of above, how many ration dealers were sentenced with imprisonment for malpractices/misappropriation/selling/diverting the items in open market, during the last three years;
- (c) the persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted/FIRs filed during the last three years for

hoarding black-marketing etc. of PDS commodities under Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;

- (d) the cases detected/registered and their disposal;
- (e) in view of above, whether PDS has fulfilled people's aspirations; and
- (f) the steps taken to streamline PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) There are 5.01 lakh TPDS outlets *i.e.* fair price shops in the country. During the last three years (2006, 2007 and 2008), State/UT Governments have reported arrests/prosecution of 15,553 persons under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Further detention orders in 442 cases were passed by the State Governments/UT Administrations during this period under provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

(e) Implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System in the country since June, 1997 has ensured food security to the poor sections of the society *i.e.* BPL families. They have been provided with foodgrains and other essential commodities at highly subsidized prices.

- (f) Government has taken a series of measures to streamline TPDS by:
 - (i) improving functioning of TPDS through continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, door step delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops, timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops and training of staff as well as vigilance committee members;
 - (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS through display of lists of BPL and AAY families at fair price shops, display of allocated quantities on web sites, adoption and implementation of revised Citizens' Charter, monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and their distribution to ration card holders and taking up publicity-cum-awareness campaign;
 - (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and strict penal action against those involved in malpractices, including action against staff responsible for issuing ineligible ration cards and persons found in possession of such ration cards;
 - (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, use of global positioning system on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities, bar coding of ration cards, etc. and
 - (v) getting periodical evaluation of the functioning of TPDS.

National Food Security Act

172. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to pass a National Food Security Act to give 25 kilogram of

rice or wheat to about 260 million people below poverty line or those who earn less than \$1 per day at just Rs. 3 per kilogram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when such Act would be implemented in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs. of rice or wheat per month @ Rs. 3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Different aspects of the proposed law are being examined in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders.

Ban on future trading in sugar

173. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to ban future trading in sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it would be beneficial to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) which is the regulator for commodity futures trading under the provisions of Forward Contract (Regulation) Act, 1952 suspended futures trading in sugar on 26.5.2009 as a measure of abundant caution and directed the Exchanges that no new sugar contracts would be launched and suspended the permissions granted for yet-to-be launched contracts, till 31.12.2009. As regards the running contracts, the Exchanges were directed that no new position would be allowed to be taken and only squaring off of the existing positions would be allowed.

(c) Considering the concerns of the Government about the higher price expectations in sugar in the wake of the drastic fall in sugar production during 2008-09 by over 40% from the previous years and depleting stocks, FMC has taken the decision on futures trading as an abundant caution so that the perceived inflationary expectations are contained. The prices of the commodities are governed by the supply and demand factors. The futures market is a platform for price discovery and price risk hedging. Hence, futures trading in commodities play two important roles of price discovery and price risk management for various stakeholders. To the extent that the expectations of inflation are contained, the decision to suspension may benefit consumers.

Procurement and allocation of foodgrains

†174. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether any order has been issued by his Ministry regarding nontransportations of “Usana” and “Arawa” rice outside Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the acquisition of 9.30 lac metric tonnes of levy rice has been targeted for Central pool to the State of Chhattisgarh by Government of India;

(c) the allocation of wheat and rice in lac metric tonnes under APL scheme for every month in the current financial year 2009-10; and

(d) whether the paddy of farmers is being purchased at very low price in crop markets due to non-purchase of summer paddy at support price and there is grave dissatisfaction among farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On the request of the State Government of Chhattisgarh, Food Corporation of India has been asked to accept delivery of 9 lakh tonnes of levy rice in the period June, 09 to September, 09.

(c) 1401 tonnes of rice and 23959 tonnes of wheat have been allocated to Government of Chhattisgarh every month under the APL Scheme (including *ad hoc*/additional and equity-based allocations) from April to June, 2009. From July, 2009 to March 2010, 10360 tonnes of rice and 15000 tonnes of wheat have been allocated to Government of Chhattisgarh every month under the APL Scheme (including *ad hoc*/additional and equity-based allocations) during the current financial year 2009-10.

(d) No report of sale of paddy below the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government has been received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

Procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh

175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether paddy has been sown in about 2 lac hectares in summer season in Chhattisgarh and there has been a yield of 6 lac metric tonnes and whether the procurement of paddy by Government is not being made at minimum support price;

(b) whether the paddy from farmers is being purchased by traders at a price lower by Rs. 200 to 250 per quintal than the support price in grain markets; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the quantity of paddy in lac metric tonnes procured by Government at minimum support price for the central pool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that summer paddy has been sown in 1.70 lakh hectare and production of paddy is estimated at 5.5 lakh tonnes. During current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09, 30.59 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured in Chhattisgarh, as on 30.6.2009 at MSP plus incentive bonus announced by the Government of India and State Government.

(b) No report of distress sale *i.e.* sale of paddy by farmers of Chhattisgarh below the Minimum Support Price and bonus has been received from Government of Chhattisgarh or from the FCI.

(c) 307.82 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured as on 30.06.2009 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 under the support price scheme.

Food security agenda

176. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in pursuance of the food security agenda spelt out in the President Address to Parliament;

(b) the number of below poverty line families identified in different States in the country; and

(c) the foodgrain allocated and supplied to each State and Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs. of rice or wheat per month @ Rs. 3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is in progress.

Presently, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of foodgrains is made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. However, different State Governments have issued ration cards to more number of BPL families. The total number of BPL (including AAY) ration cards issued by the States at present is 10.86 crore.

As per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 2004-05, the percentage of population living below the poverty line has come down to 27.5%. Based on these poverty estimates and the population estimates of Registrar General of India for March, 2009 the number of BPL families in the country works out to about 5.91 crore only. Allocations of food grains based on the new norms are likely to come down. However, the Government is continuing to allocate food grains for the 6.52 crore BPL families, including AAY families as per the earlier estimates.

State-wise details of the allocation and off take of food grains for the BPL (including AAY) category for 2008-09 are given in the Statement (See below).

Statement

State-wise Allocation and Offtake of Rice and Wheat for the year 2008-2009 (P) under TPDS

(in '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake		
		BPL	AAY	BPL+ AAY	BPL	AAY	BPL+ AAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1052.088	654.288	1706.376	1035.657	644.569	1680.226
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.524	15.972	41.496	25.309	15.86	41.169
3.	Assam	475.224	295.692	770.916	473.79	295.009	768.799
4.	Bihar	1719.804	1019.988	2739.792	738.798	772.495	1511.293
5.	Chhattisgarh	485.688	301.944	787.632	472.694	301.944	774.638
6.	Delhi	108.696	63.084	171.78	88.359	53.161	141.52
7.	Goa	5.46	6.108	11.568	5.46	5.356	10.816
8.	Gujarat	486.469	340.08	826.549	445.348	340.753	786.101
9.	Haryana	208.572	122.82	331.392	197.589	112.235	309.824
10.	Himachal Pradesh	133.14	82.74	215.88	125.083	83.703	208.786
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	201.696	107.388	309.084	204.558	111.223	315.781
12.	Jharkhand	619.956	385.536	1005.492	505.608	367.101	872.709
13.	Karnataka	798.864	503.892	1302.756	799.817	503.729	1303.546
14.	Kerala	402.348	250.26	652.608	402.458	250.585	653.043
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1068.216	664.26	1732.476	1147.915	655.125	1803.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Maharashtra	1709.424	1034.88	2744.304	1545.76	902.623	2448.383
17.	Manipur	43.008	26.724	69.732	37.272	22.905	60.177
18.	Meghalaya	47.376	29.484	76.86	48.021	29.739	77.76
19.	Mizoram	17.64	10.92	28.56	15.44	10.07	25.51
20.	Nagaland	32.112	19.968	52.08	34.375	21.246	55.621
21.	Orissa	1165.572	531.12	1696.692	1159.265	531.95	1691.215
22.	Punjab	121.176	75.36	196.536	104.231	46.533	150.764
23.	Rajasthan	629.532	391.488	1021.02	614.179	377.563	991.742
24.	Sikkim	11.304	6.936	18.24	12.123	6.936	19.059
25.	Tamil Nadu	1259.232	783.144	2042.376	1349.833	827.174	2177.007
26.	Tripura	76.38	47.52	123.9	77.797	48.879	126.676
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2765.7	1719.48	4485.18	2456.513	1608.775	4065.288
28.	Uttaranchal	145.656	63.516	209.172	125.746	55.065	180.811
29.	West Bengal	1553.58	621.684	2175.264	1381.671	512.809	1894.48
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.04	1.8	6.84	4.01	1.449	5.459
31.	Chandigarh	3.006	0.822	3.828	2.984	0.526	3.51
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.524	2.196	6.72	4.524	2.196	6.72
33.	Daman and Diu	1.044	0.636	1.68	0.235	0.1	0.335
34.	Lakshadweep	0.756	0.492	1.248	0.756	0.492	1.248
35.	Pondicherry	21.564	13.548	35.112	12.605	4.759	17.364
TOTAL :		17405.371	10195.770	27601.141	15655.783	9524.637	25180.420

Price rise of sugar

177. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the retail price of a kilogram of sugar which was Rs. 22 a month ago is now approximately Rs. 35 per kilogram;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price seems to be moving towards Rs. 30 per kilogram from the present Rs. 23 per kilogram and the retail price may soon reach Rs. 40 per kilogram according to the Delhi Grain Merchant Association; and

(c) if so, what steps Government has taken so far to check the price hike which is hurting the common man including fixing a limit for traders not to store more than required sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A new report appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 30.04.2009 under the caption 'Sugar becomes bitterly costly' in which it was reported that price of 1 kg. of sugar has risen to over Rs. 35 at retail counters across the capital. Quoting from one Shri Vijay Prakash of the Delhi Grain Merchant Association, it was reported that "even wholesale prices seem to be moving towards Rs. 30 per kg. from the present Rs. 23 per kg. So, retail price may soon go past Rs. 40 per kg." The Government immediately, issued a Press Release dated 30.04.2009 contradicting the news report and clarifying that the retail prices of loose sugar in Delhi during the month of April, 2009 have never exceeded Rs. 28 per kg. The Central Government had taken a number of steps to augment the availability of sugar in the country, as such, there is hardly any possibility of retail prices touching Rs. 40 per kg.

(c) The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to check the price hike as indicated below:-

- (i) The stock-holding and turnover limits on sugar have been imposed *vide* Notifications dated 09.03.2009 and 12.03.2009 for a period of four months *i.e.* upto 08.07.2009. The Government has recently decided to extend these limits by another six months, *i.e.*, upto 08.01.2010;
- (ii) Additional release of non-levy sugar quota were given during the quarter April-June, 2009
- (iii) Futures trading in sugar on NCDEX has since been suspended to check speculative tendencies in sugar trade with effect from 27th May, 2009.

Apart from the above, the Central Government has also taken steps to augment sugar stocks by permitting import of raw sugar by sugar mills, and one million ton of white/refined sugar by designated agencies, at zero customs duty for a specified period.

Introduction of smart card or food coupons

178. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce smart cards or food coupons for the poor to buy foodgrains from any outlet in the country at reduced prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In order to make delivery of services efficient under TPDS and to access replicability of use of smart cards for this purpose, Govt. has approved in December, 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme of smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have biometric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the fair price shops.

For commencing implementation of this scheme, work is in progress by the implementing agencies *i.e.* Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh UT Administration and National Informatics Centre.

Supply of rice and wheat to BPL families at Rs. 3 per kilogram

179. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI DARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is planning to supply rice and wheat to BPL families at Rs. 3 per kg. during the next financial year;

(b) if so, what would be the total outflow of funds during the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 year-wise for this purpose; and

(c) how Government proposes to supply rice and wheat to needy persons as well as to ensure that black marketing/misuse would not take place otherwise the rice and wheat may not reach the needy persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs. of rice or wheat per month @ Rs.3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is presently in progress.

Presently, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of food grains @ 35 kg per family per month is made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 and for 7.4 lakh families in the KBK districts in Orissa.

With the existing scale of allocations, Central Issue Prices for the BPL and AAY category, number of BPL and AAY families, and economic cost of FCI, annual subsidy during 2009-10 is estimated as approximately Rs.37,010 crores.

However, for the next year, the annual subsidy would depend on changes in the component factors of economic cost of food grains, Central Issue Prices, scale of Issue, number of BPL families to be covered, etc.

Government has taken a series of measures to streamline TPDS to check diversion of food grains and ensure delivery of food grains to identified BPL families by:

- (i) improving functioning of TPDS through continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, door step delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops, timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops and training of staff as well as vigilance committee members;
- (ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS through display of lists of BPL and AAY families at fair price shops, display of allocated quantities on web sites, adoption and implementation of revised Citizens' Charter, monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and their distribution to ration card holders, and taking up publicity-cum-awareness campaign;
- (iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and strict penal action against those involved in malpractices, including action against staff responsible for issuing ineligible ration cards and persons found in possession of such ration cards;
- (iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, use of global positioning system on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities, bar coding of ration cards, etc. and
- (v) getting functioning of TPDS periodically evaluated.

Cash for food programme

180. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

- (a) whether it was proposed to end the public distribution system and provide cash for food pilot project;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry is still awaiting Central go ahead for project under cash for food programme;
- (c) if so, whether Government had asked Union Territory of Delhi to start this project in one district and commitment was made to assess beneficiaries after implementation;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in this project and by when it is likely to start; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) There was no proposal before the Government to end the Public Distribution System by providing case for food. However, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals to approve a scheme on pilot basis in five districts — Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families instead of distribution of foodgrains to them under TPDS. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under the TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Use of mobil oil to enhance size and shining of pulses

†181. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mobil oil and other toxicants are being used by black marketers to enhance the size and shining of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified such black marketers and punished them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foodgrain quota for Kerala

182. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrain quota for Kerala was cut for the last few months thereby jeopardizing the statutory rationing system in the State;

(b) if so, the quota demanded by the State Government, actually allocated the Central Government and off take by the State Government during the year 2008 and 2009, month-wise so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what are the reasons for cutting the monthly quota for the State; and

(d) whether the State Government has demanded restoration of State's full quota needed to maintain the public distribution system in the State and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Allocation of food grains for APL and AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs, including Kerala. However, allocations of APL rice to States and UTs are being made based on availability of food grains in the Central Pool.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years. However, allocation of wheat was made at 2007-08 level. Kerala was thus made initial annual allocation of 2.05 lakh tons of rice and 1.41 lakh tons of wheat in 2008-09. However, subsequently, *ad hoc*/additional/festival allocation of 1.46 lakh tons of rice was made taking the total rice allocation to the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons. In addition, annual allocation of 1.61 lakh tons of wheat under APL category has also been made.

Requests have been received from the State Government for restoration of monthly rice allocation to 1.13 lakh tons as it was in 2006-07. However, considering the fact that offtake of APL rice during 2008-09 in Kerala was less than the allocation of 3.51 lakh tons, for 2009-10, monthly allocation of APL rice has been made at 36056 tons, which makes the annual allocation to 4.33 lakh tons, substantively higher as compared to last year. The State is also being made normal monthly allocation of 11777 tons wheat per month under APL category.

National Food Security Act

183. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs of rice or wheat per month @ Rs.3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is presently in progress.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

184. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the buffer stock of foodgrains with FCI and other stocking bodies;
- (b) whether a ban was imposed on their export;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to lift the ban on exports;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures to check possible price rise of such essential commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool held by Food Corporation of India and State agencies reported by FCI, as on 1.6.2009 was 331.22 lakh tonnes and 204.03 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is ban on wheat exports since February, 2007 whereas export of non-basmati rice was banned with effect from 1.4.2008.

(d) to (f) Decision regarding lifting of ban on export of wheat and non-basmati rice would be taken by Government only after reviewing the production, procurement, Central Pool stocks and the likely impact on the open market prices.

Establishment of AIIMS in Chhattisgarh

†185. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target of establishing 'AIIMS' in Chhattisgarh and to what extent targets has been achieved;
- (b) whether it is being delayed; if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether State Government has given required co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Government approved the proposal for setting up of AIIMS-like institution in Chhattisgarh along with 5 such institutions in other States on 16.3.2006 with the time frame for completion of the project in three years from the start of construction. Design-DPR Consultant appointed for preparation of Designs and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for AIIMS, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

October, 2007. Project Consultant appointed in March, 2008. Lay-out Master Plan approved in March 2008 and Preliminary Architectural Design approved in May, 2008. Project Management Committee (PMC) reviewed the DPR along with revised cost estimates, in February 2009 and the same is under examination of the appraising authorities.

Construction of residential complex of AIIMS, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), has been taken up as a separate activity and civil work started in September, 2008.

(b) The process for setting up of the institutions was initially delayed due to failure of bids for selection of single Project Consultant and prototype architectural design for all the six AIIMS-like institutions. Several methodological changes were made to ensure better bid response and the whole process had to be initiated de novo in December, 2006. There has also been delay in finalization of DPRs.

(c) Yes.

Rural Health Mission Yojana

†186. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the provisions made under Rural Health Mission Yojana in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Naturopathy and Yoga therapy and its practitioners;

(b) the extent to which provisions have been availed against the provision made, and the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any plan for deliberation on this issue at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The details of the provisions made under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) by the Department of Health and Family Welfare for promotion of AYUSH health care facilities comprising of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 of the Eleventh Five Year Plan state-wise are given in the Statement-I (See below). No separate allocation is made for Yoga and Naturopathy.

The funds provided under NRHM are being supplemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hospitals and Dispensaries. Details of funds released by the Department of AYUSH under the scheme statewise during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in Statement-II (See below). Besides the above, assistance is also being released for Yoga and Naturopathy to State owned institutions and non-profit making organizations under the scheme. Details of fund released so far during Eleventh Plan are given in Statement-III (See below).

(c) The Department of AYUSH has also taken steps for promotion of Yoga and Naturopathy through Special Public Campaigns at the National/State levels.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*Funds approved under NRHM for promotion of AYUSH health care facilities
including appointment of AYUSH doctors/para-medics and their training*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Funds released (Rs. In lakhs)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	139.585
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1576.00	1722.10	1722.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	174.60
4.	Assam	360.00	457.00	679.68
5.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	3915.85
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	178.00	424.27
7.	Chandigarh	20.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	12.00
10.	Delhi	12.00	20.00	1.70
11.	Goa	0.00	0.00	162.12
12.	Gujarat	447.00	1677.00	1474.14
13.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	134.00	0.00
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	300.00	181.00	71.59
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	129.37
17.	Karnataka	0.00	791.00	1322.53
18.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	983.77
19.	Laksadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1130.00
21.	Maharashtra	114.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Manipur	0.00	162.00	187.32
23.	Meghalaya	36.00	85.00	159.243
24.	Mizoram	18.00	18.00	18.00

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Nagaland	38.00	38.00	37.80
26.	Orissa	225.00	649.00	2125.44
27.	Punjab	0.00	424.80	0.00
28.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	83.24
29.	Rajasthan	950.00	0.00	17.48
30.	Sikkim	0.00	16.00	13.80
31.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	701.10
32.	Tripura	378.00	176.00	10.44
33.	Uttarakhand	541.00	75.00	1.80
34.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	4150.08
35.	West Bengal	27.00	100.00	0.00
TOTAL :		5042.00	6903.90	19849.048

Statement-II

*Funds released by Department of AYUSH under the Centrally sponsored
Scheme of Hospitals and Dispensaries*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Funds released (Rs. In lakhs)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 1.7.09)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	201.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	108.25	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	162.50	162.50	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	0.00	44.00	0.00
7.	Delhi	6.52	34.75	0.00
8.	Gujarat	2339.23	2622.84	0.00
9.	Haryana	130.75	645.50	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	273.25	2172.50	288.50

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	110.25	265.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	22.00	180.35	0.00
14.	Kerala	330.75	200.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	290.00	398.68	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	229.31	66.00	27.00
17.	Manipur	882.13	280.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	1.30	174.82	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	375.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	35.00	50.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	3212.70	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	142.00	96.85	0.00
23.	Puducherry	0.00	44.88	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	783.53	3571.68	22.00
25.	Sikkim	169.25	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	1065.00	20.00	0.00
27.	Tripura	0.00	26.06	0.00
28.	Uttarakhand	1629.02	188.62	0.00
29.	Uttar Pradesh	857.19	997.80	0.00
30.	West Bengal	0.00	323.66	0.00
TOTAL :		12872.68	13049.74	337.50

Statement-III

Funds released during Eleventh Five Year Plan for setting up of Yoga and Naturopathy centres and wings

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Purpose	Amount of grant-in-aid (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Setting up Yoga and Naturopathy Therapy Centre at Sri Maitri Hospital, Dharward District, Karnataka	22.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Chandigarh	For establishment of Yoga and Naturopathy Centre at the Govt. Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh	22.00
3.	Nagaland	For setting up Yoga and Naturopathy Wing at Naga Hospital Authority, Kohima.	35.00

Programmes for eradication of AIDS

†187. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of AIDS patients in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) the present status of programmes being run by Government for eradication of AIDS; and
- (c) the total fund which has been allocated for these programmes till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There are estimated 23 Lakh HIV positive persons in the country. At present, 232908 AIDS patients are being treated in the country. State-wise information is given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) Following Programmes are being implemented by the Government to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in the country:-

1. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
2. Integrated Counseling and Testing Services
3. Bloods Safety Programme
4. Targetted Intervention for High Risk Groups and vulnerable population
5. Sexually Transmitted Infection Control Programme
6. Care, Support and Treatment Programme
7. Public awareness Programme

(c) Funds allocated to States under NACP-III since 2007-08 under NACP-III is as per Statement-II (See below).

Statement-I

HIV/AIDS Patients Alive and on ART as on 31st May 2009

S.No.	State	No. of patients currently on ART		
		Adults	Children	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamil Nadu	31,964	2,153	34,117

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Maharashtra	53,454	4,014	57,468
3.	Andhra Pradesh	44,956	2,628	47,584
4.	Karnataka	23,617	2,163	25,780
5.	Manipur	3,976	359	4,335
6.	Nagaland	1,154	75	1,229
7.	Delhi	5,806	541	6,347
8.	Chandigarh	1,228	141	1,369
9.	Rajasthan	4,714	320	5,034
10.	Gujarat	9,435	487	9,922
11.	West Bengal	3,788	177	3,965
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7,820	429	8,249
13.	Goa	749	47	796
14.	Kerala	3,373	189	3,562
15.	Himachal Pradesh	519	72	591
16.	Pondicherry	415	43	458
17.	Bihar	2,925	105	3,030
18.	Madhya Pradesh	2,579	182	2,761
19.	Assam	621	22	643
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	0	23
21.	Mizoram	401	31	432
22.	Punjab	3,558	223	3,781
23.	Sikkim	22	1	23
24.	Jharkhand	1,063	47	1,110
25.	Haryana	1,163	67	1,230
26.	Uttarakhand	55	1	56
27.	Tripura	422	39	461
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	468	34	502
29.	Orissa	1,379	43	1,422
30.	Chhattisgarh	1,029	112	1,141

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Meghalaya	43	2	45
	Total patients on ART in NACO ART Centres	212,719	14,747	227,466
	Patients on ART in Intersectoral Health Sector	2,458	21	2,479
	Patients on ART in GFATM Round II Centres	2,423	66	2,489
	Patients on ART in NGO Sector	435	39	474
	GRAND TOTAL :	218,035	14,873	232,908

Statement-II

Allocation under National AIDS Control Programme for three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.66	1.86	1.59
2.	Andhra Pradesh	64.90	67.66	83.60
3.	Bihar	19.66	23.01	23.75
4.	Chandigarh	4.73	4.93	5.95
5.	Chattisgarh	5.04	11.86	12.82
6.	Daman and Diu	1.50	1.19	1.67
7.	Delhi	23.52	24.89	28.43
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.16	1.19	1.36
9.	Goa	4.81	6.04	6.50
10.	Gujarat (including Ahmedabad)	32.67	40.45	47.90
11.	Haryana	6.79	10.73	17.46
12.	Himachal Pradesh	8.42	8.70	11.25
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.74	6.55	6.78
14.	Jharkhand	5.99	14.54	16.45
15.	Karnataka	47.27	52.16	52.70

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Kerala	18.44	23.42	24.83
17.	Lakshadweep	0.50	0.40	0.37
18.	Madhya Pradesh	13.60	24.58	34.36
19.	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	70.44	79.56	88.27
20.	Orissa	14.91	23.66	25.26
21.	Pondicherry	3.67	3.59	3.46
22.	Punjab	7.96	13.42	18.15
23.	Rajasthan	10.63	22.37	27.53
24.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	73.88	82.37	75.29
25.	Uttar Pradesh	33.94	37.92	36.03
26.	Uttarakhand	5.81	7.63	9.92
27.	West Bengal	48.65	37.88	45.17
SUB TOTAL:		536.28	632.57	706.87
NE States				
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.44	7.07	8.14
29.	Assam	16.24	19.12	17.63
30.	Manipur	27.00	26.27	25.20
31.	Meghalaya	1.52	4.76	4.60
32.	Mizoram	11.43	13.53	13.06
33.	Nagaland	24.44	20.93	19.39
34.	Sikkim	3.58	3.10	3.94
35.	Tripura	4.51	5.69	6.95
SUB TOTAL:		94.15	100.47	98.91
Total Allocation to States		630.43	733.05	805.78
Total Allocation including for Expenditure at the central level and commodity assistance (R.E. Figures)		953.89	1123.36	1100.00

Special quota for Bodo students

188. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry to solve shortage of Doctors in different States to provide basic health facilities to everyone;

(b) the policy to establish more medical colleges in different States; and

(c) whether his Ministry can provide 3 per cent special Quota to Bodoland Students from Central Government quota in (i) Guwahati and Silchar Medical College and (ii) RIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In order to facilitate establishment of more medical colleges in different States and to increase the number of doctors, Medical Council of India Regulations are being amended to rationalize the existing norms of requirement of land; encouraging Public Private Partnership (PPP), allowing Corporate sector to set up medical colleges; altering the teacher student ratio etc.

Further, this Ministry proposes to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

(c) The Central Government will examine the matter relating to provision of 3 per cent quota to Bodoland Students in these three institutions.

Grievances of employees and workers

189. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Health Employees and Workers Confederation, New Delhi had submitted Memorandum dated 4th June, 2009 to Hon'ble Minister;

(b) if so, the status of the legitimate grievances of the employees; and

(c) whether he will call the Union representatives for discussion?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The demands of All India Health Employees and Workers Confederation, New Delhi have already been discussed with the representatives. They have also been advised to raise this legitimate demands through existing mechanisms of grievance redressal.

Upgradation of CGHS facilities

190. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the CGHS hospitals require to upgrade the existing medical facilities;

(b) whether Government intend to appoint more doctors to provide proper medical care; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) CGHS has not set up any hospital for serving its beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) The number of doctors to be posted in CGHS Dispensaries is regulated by the norms determined by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. Currently these norms provide for 1 doctor for 75 patients in the dispensary. To fill up vacancies against sanctioned posts, Government appointed 79 GDMOs on contract basis in Delhi, of whom 55 have joined.

Action taken by States to contain Swine Flu

191. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swine Flu cases in India have been on an increase for last two/three months;

(b) if so, whether some States like Andhra Pradesh, Delhi have detected number of cases of Swine Flu;

(c) if so, whether India has prepared itself to tackle Swine Flu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether all States have been urged to take necessary steps in checking this disease; and

(e) whether WHO has also warned countries of HIV infected which are at greater risk of contracting the deadly Swine Flu virus and should be considered as priority population for preventive strategies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. In our country the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009. Since then there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine]. Delhi has reported 38 cases and Andhra Pradesh 18 cases.

(c) and (d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National

Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian Manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at districts level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

(e) No such warning has been received from WHO.

Malpractices by the private medical colleges

192. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for new medical colleges to obtain prior approval of Medical Council of India (MCI) before commencing academic curriculum, including admission of students;

(b) if so, salient details of the extant rules;

(c) the details of instances, if any, during the last five years where newly set up private medical colleges carried on with their business of admitting students despite refusal of MCI to grant them requisite approval;

(d) the action taken, if any, by Government against them for violation of statutory rules; and

(e) steps contemplated, if any, for strengthening MCI, including reinforcement of its autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per Section 10A(4) of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956, the Central Government may, after considering the scheme and the recommendations of Council and after obtaining such other particulars as may be considered necessary from the person or college concerned either approve or disapprove the scheme and any such approval shall be a permission under Section 10A(1). Hence, Medical Council of India (MCI) is a recommendatory body and the Central Government is the final authority to grant permission for establishment of new medical college in country.

(c) and (d) As per information available, during the last five years, no newly set up private medical college has admitted students without seeking prior approval of the Central Government.

(e) In order to improve the functioning of Medical Council of India, the Central Government has introduced Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill 2005 in August 2005 for consideration.

Establishing of AIIMS like hospitals in States

193. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government promises included setting up of AIIMS, New Delhi category hospitals in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status of realization of the said promise;

(c) whether Government has estimated cost involved in setting up facilities of AIIMS category, including cost of land at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating recurring cost involved in running of each; and

(e) the details of time-frame contemplated, if any, for completion of establishment of the promised AIIMS category hospitals in States indicating funds allocated for the said purpose for respective sites?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up six AIIMS-like institutions one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh).

The Design-DPR consultants appointed for preparation of Designs and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for medical college and hospital complex have submitted the Detailed Project Report with revised cost estimates in December, 2008. The same is under circulation to the appraising Authorities for eliciting their comments before obtaining the formal approval to the revised cost estimates. Tenders for selection of contractor is proposed to be issued in July, 2009. Project Consultants have been appointed for each site for expeditious execution of the work.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of each AIMS-like institution as per Detailed Projects Report and firmed up cost for residential complex is Rs.847 Crore. The State Governments have provided about 100 acres of Land free of cost at each site. The recurring expenditure for each institution is estimated around Rs.125 Crore approximate.

(e) Hospital-medical college complex is likely to be completed by September, 2011. The institutions will be functional by the end of 2011. In so far as construction of residential complex is concerned, the work is started at all the sites and it is expected to complete in 2009-10.

Unfair practice of private hospitals

194. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many private hospitals in the country hire unregistered doctors at meager salaries and risk the lives of patients;

(b) whether Government proposes to ask Medical Council of India to examine the matter and submit report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health being a state subject, it is for State Government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals and to ensure that the hospitals comply with the norms/regulations prescribed by the respective State Government as well as to take punitive action against these hospitals in case of proven unethical/unscrupulous conduct.

Medical Council of India only regulates medical education and registration of qualified medical professionals of Allopathic System of Medicine and has no role in regulating the functioning of private hospitals.

Nutrition related diseases in women

195. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-centric study (2005-08) on nutrition related diseases in women has indicated high prevalence of obesity and high cholesterol levels in women over 35 years of age in India;

(b) whether Government has examined the report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per information available, Department of Science and Technology had funded a multi-centric study in 2005 on Development of appropriate prevention and interventions strategies for nutrition related non-communicable disorders amongst women in post reproductive period with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi as the coordination centre. The study is still in progress.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Government spending on health care

196. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Common Minimum Programme had suggested raising public spending on health to at least 2.3 per cent of GDP; and what was actually spent, during last three years;

(b) percentage share of GDP utilized for public health by neighbouring/advanced countries;

(c) the details of private and Government spending on health care for the last three years;

(d) whether the provision of various health service by Government could be considered to be adequate; and

(e) compared on various health parameters, where does India stand, *vis-a-vis* neighbouring/advanced countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government, health care is one of the seven thrust areas. The NCMP had mandated that Public spending will be raised to at least 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with focus on public health care. Public spending on health as % of GDP for the last three years has been in the vicinity of one percent.

(b) and (c) The details of percentage share of GDP utilized for public health by neighbouring / advanced countries as also data relating to private and Government spending on health care for the available last three years are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) Recognizing the fact that health care services in the country are inadequate, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in April, 2005. Under the NRHM, a wide range of policy initiatives have been taken for improving health infrastructure and address the health care needs of the population to achieve better health indicators. The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Improvements in health services is a continuous process and initiatives already implemented would be further strengthened.

(e) Select health parameters in respect of neighbouring/advanced countries are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Government spending on Health as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Government Expenditure and Private Expenditure on Health as % of total expenditure on Health

Country	Govt. Health Expenditure as % of GDP			Total Expenditure on Health as % of GDP			Government Expenditure on Health as % of total Expenditure on Health			Private expenditure on Health as % of total expenditure on health		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
India	0.87	0.95	0.90	5.0	5.0	3.6	17.3	19.0	25.0	82.7	81.0	75.0
Pakistan	0.43	0.37	0.33	2.2	2.1	2.0	19.6	17.5	16.4	80.4	82.5	83.6
Bangladesh	0.87	0.81	1.02	3.1	2.8	3.2	28.1	29.1	31.8	71.9	70.9	68.2
Sri Lanka	1.96	1.89	2.00	4.3	4.1	4.2	45.6	46.2	47.5	54.4	53.8	52.5
China	1.79	1.82	1.87	4.7	4.7	4.6	38.0	38.8	40.7	62.0	61.2	59.3
Nepal	1.47	1.63	1.56	5.6	5.8	5.1	26.3	28.1	30.5	73.7	71.9	69.5
Bhutan	2.95	2.84	2.52	4.6	4.0	3.5	64.2	71.0	72.1	35.8	29.0	27.9
Philippines	1.35	1.17	1.25	3.4	3.2	3.8	39.8	36.6	32.9	60.2	63.4	67.1
USA	6.88	6.86	7.01	15.4	15.2	15.3	44.7	45.1	45.8	55.3	54.9	54.2
UK	6.99	7.14	7.16	8.1	8.2	8.2	86.3	87.1	87.3	13.7	12.9	12.7
Canada	6.84	6.82	7.04	9.8	9.7	10.0	69.8	70.3	70.4	30.2	29.7	29.6

Source: World Health Statistics, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Government Expenditure as % of GDP derived from data contained in the Reports quoted)

Statement-II

Select Health Parameters in respect of countries neighbouring and advanced

Country	Life expectancy at Birth (years)	Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	Infant Mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	Maternal Mortality ratio (per 100000 live births)
	Both Sexes 2007	Both Sexes 2007	Both Sexes 2007	Female 2005
India	64	72	54	450#
Pakistan	63	90	73	320
Bangladesh	64	61	47	570
Sri Lanka	71	21	17	58
China	74	22	19	45
Nepal	63	55	43	830
Bhutan	63	84	56	440
Philippines	71	28	23	230
USA	78	8	6	11
UK	80	6	5	8
Canada	81	6	5	7

Source: World Health Statistics, 2009

#As per Registrar General of India; Sample Registration System (SRS) 2004-06, MMR is 254.

Public spending on health

197. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Common Minimum Programme had committed to allocate 2 to 3 per cent of the GDP as public expenditure on health, a target to be achieved by 2010;

(b) whether public spending on health had declined from 1.16 per cent in 2002 to 0.87 per cent in 2004;

(c) if so, the present status and how does it compare with neighbouring/advanced countries;

(d) how do various health parameters/women and child health norms/MMR and IMR, compare with other countries; and

(e) maternal/infant deaths per day/year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As per the Reports of World Health Statistics 2006 and 2007 public spending on health as percentage of GDP has been 1.16% in 2002, 1.19 in 2003 and 0.87 in 2004. Public spending on Health as percentage of GDP in India in comparison with neighbouring and select advanced countries according to available information is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) Select health parameters/women and child health norms/MMR and IMR, in India in comparison with neighbouring and select advanced countries according to available information are given the Statement. [Refer to Statement-II appended to USQ 196 Pt. (e).]

(e) As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) data of Registrar General of India (RGI) Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for 2004-2006 and Infant Mortality Rate for 2007 in respect of select major States is given in Statement-II and Statement-III respectively (*See below*). Data on Maternal/Infant death per day/per year is not available.

Statement-I

Public spending on Health as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Country	Total Expenditure on Health as on % GDP					Government Health Expenditure as % of GDP				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
India	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	3.6	1.16	1.19	0.87	0.95	0.90
Pakistan	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	0.90	0.66	0.43	0.37	0.33
Bangladesh	3.3	3.4	3.1	2.8	3.2	0.98	1.16	0.87	0.81	1.02
Sri Lanka	3.6	3.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	1.62	1.58	1.96	1.89	2.00
China	5.5	5.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	1.97	2.03	1.79	1.82	1.87
Nepal	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.1	1.80	1.47	1.47	1.63	1.56
Bhutan	3.6	3.1	4.6	4.0	3.5	3.07	2.59	2.95	2.84	2.52
Philippines	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.8	1.20	1.40	1.35	1.17	1.25
USA	14.7	15.2	15.4	15.2	15.3	6.59	6.78	6.88	6.86	7.01
UK	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.2	6.42	6.86	6.99	7.14	7.16
Canada	9.6	9.9	9.8	9.7	10.0	6.69	6.92	6.84	6.82	7.04

Source: World Health Statistics 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Government Expenditure as % of GDP derived from data contained in the Report quoted).

Statement-II

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) India and bigger States

India/States	Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) (2004-06) (per 1,00,000 live births)
India Total	254
Assam	480
Bihar/ Jharkhand	312
Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	335
Orissa	303
Rajasthan	388
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	440
Andhra Pradesh	154
Karnataka	213
Kerala	95
Tamil Nadu	111
Gujarat	160
Haryana	186
Maharashtra	130
Punjab	192
West Bengal	141

Source: Registrar General of India Sample Registration System (SRS)

Statement-III

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), India and bigger States

India/States	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) 2007 (per 1000 live births)
1	2
India Total	55
Assam	66
Bihar	58
Chhattisgarh	59
Madhya Pradesh	72

1	2
Orissa	71
Rajasthan	65
Uttar Pradesh	69
Andhra Pradesh	54
Karnataka	47
Kerala	13
Tamil Nadu	35
Gujarat	52
Haryana	55
Maharashtra	34
Punjab	43
West Bengal	37
Jammu and Kashmir	51
Himachal	47

Source: Registrar General of India Sample Registration System

Testing of adulteration in food items

†198. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and non-Government laboratories, capable of testing of adulteration in food items, throughout the country; State-wise details thereof under Food Security and Standard Act 2006;

(b) testing fee to be charged in these laboratories, the extent to which this fee will be more or less against the one payable at present; and

(c) whether microbiological, antioxidant preservative emulsifier tests will be possible within 14 days prescribed for sample testing?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There are 72 States and Central Government Food Testing Laboratories under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955. The Section 43 of Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 relating to *inter-alia* establishment as well as notification of laboratories for testing of food articles and fee chargeable therefor is yet to be enforced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The samples of food can be tested for analysis of antioxidants, preservatives and microbiological tests within 14 days but in some cases microbiological tests may take some more time.

Anthrax prevention measures

199. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are dying due to anthrax in every State especially in the agency areas like East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam rural areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the funds being released and spent for this purpose; and

(e) what steps Government will take to prevent it early by taking precautions and creating awareness among the people in rural agency areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No. In Andhra Pradesh human anthrax cases are reported only from Visakhapatnam District.

(b) and (c) 18 confirmed human anthrax cases with 3 deaths among 75 suspected anthrax cases have been reported from Visakhapatnam District which is due to handling and consumption of deceased animals.

(d) As informed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, no funds have been released for this purpose. However, the funds required to tackle this disease are being arranged by them from the regular budgetary allocations. For supplementing State Government's efforts in controlling animal diseases (including anthrax), funds are also being provided by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to states under centrally sponsored scheme 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)'.

(e) The State Government has informed that their Health Department, in coordination with Animal Husbandry, Panchayath Raj and Revenue Departments, is taking all possible preventive and control measures and creating awareness among the people in rural agency areas.

Opening of equipped hospitals in rural areas

200. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only 34 per cent hospitals which can find diseases at an early stage by doing medical check-ups in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low percentage in rural areas; and

(c) the number of such hospitals to be constructed in the current year, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)
No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise details including the State of Andhra Pradesh indicating the number of Sub Centres/Primary Health Centres/Community Health Centres to be constructed and amount approved under National Rural Health Mission for the year 2009-10 are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of SC/PHC/CHC to be constructed and amount approved under NRHM for the year 2009-10

Sl. No.	State	SC/PHC/CHC to be constructed	No of units and rate	Amount approved in 2009-10 (Rs. in lac)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Sub Centres (New)	750 units @ Rs.7.5 lac	5625.00
	--do--	PHCs (New)	50 units @ Rs.53.00 lac	No grants
2.	Manipur	PHCs (New)	9 units @ Rs.67.62 lac for PHC and Rs.68.07 lac for dtaff qtrs.	1017.55
		SCs (New)	66 @ Rs.15.52 lac valley and Rs.17.27 lacfor hilly districts	Proposed but not approved by NPCC
3.	Meghalaya	PHCs (New)	3 units @ Rs.1.51 crore	453.00
4.	Mizoram	SCs() (New)	28 units	382.18
		PHCs (New)	4 units	275.31
5.	Nagaland	Scs (New)	25 units @ Rs.12.33 lac	308.25
		PHCs (New)	5 units @ Rs.65.88 lac	328.4
6.	Tripura	SCs (New)	20 units @ Rs.10.87 lac	217.4
		SCs for bldg. less SCs	40 @ Rs.1035 lac	414.00
		PHCs (New)	8 units @ Rs.412 lac	2472.00
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	SCs	25 units @ Rs.9 lac	225.00
		PHC	One unit @ Rs.12 lac	12.00

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Punjab	CHCs (New)	4 units @ Rs.200 lac	300.00
9.	Bihar	HSCs	315 units @ Rs.9.5 lac	2992.50
		PHCs	121 units	4000.00
10.	Gujarat	CHCs	4 units @ Rs.1.65 crore	
		PHCs	5 units @ Rs.50 lac	
		SCs	One unit @ Rs.16 lakh	
11.	Kerala	CHCs	52 units	759.40
		SCs	100 units	660.00
12.	Jharkhand	SCs	55 units	1095.00
		PHCs	4 units	200.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	SCs	3000 units	24000.00
		CHCs	110 units	11000.00
14.	Orissa	SCs	6 units	6000.00
15.	Andhra Pradesh	CHCs	Not indicated	2025.00
16.	Himachal Pradesh	SCs	85 units	2700.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	PHCs	22 units	110.00
18.	West Bengal	SCs (non Gram Panchayat HQ SCs)	300 units @ Rs.12.47 lac	6384.64
19.	M.P.	SCs	100 units	150.00
		PHCs	20 units	200.00
		CHCs	30 CHCs	700.00

Imported fake drugs

201. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake Chinese drugs are identified frequently while inspecting imported drugs recently;

(b) if so, the number of cases identified by the Drug Controller General of India Officials and the value of those identified spurious drugs imported recently; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such bulk inflow of spurious drugs since it will harm the health of our people and economy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The import of drugs from unregistered source is not permitted under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules, 1945. The total value of drugs detained is Rs. 73,87,141/- only.

(c) The CDSCO under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up the issue of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and all port officials to curb such import into the country under Custom Act.

India labelled fake drugs consignment from China

202. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nigerian Government had recently confiscated consignment of fake drugs with made in India labels shipped from China;

(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of new hospitals under NRHM

203. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute the National Rural Health Mission to compete the deficiency of health professionals especially in rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal with the Government to set up fully equipped hospitals under this scheme (NRHM) in all rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for comprehensive and sector wise rejuvenation of Public Health delivery system in the states. The NRHM was launched on 12th April, 2005. As part of NRHM, the Government of India supports the states in operationalising fully equipped health facilities for fully equipped health facilities for delivering services as per Indian Public Health Standards at all levels in rural areas. The setting up of new public health facilities and rejuvenation/renovation of existing facilities is undertaken on the basis of Annual State Programme Implementation Plans which are prepared by each state and appraised/approved by the Government of India.

Prevention of Swine Flu

204. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRI N. BALAGANGA:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is tackling the Swine Flu cases in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the cases registered, State-wise;
- (d) whether the root cause of the disease has been ascertained; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Yes. Swine Flu (now called Influenza A H1N1) is caused by a novel influenza virus which has components from existing avian, human and swine flu viruses.

To tackle this disease, Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level..

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

The cases registered State-wise are given in the Statement.

Statement

States that have registered Influenza A H1N1

(As on 30th June, 2009)

Sl.No.	State	City	No of cases
Imported cases (100)			
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore	16
2.	Tamil Naidu	Chennai	6
		Coimbatore	2
		Madurai	1
3.	Delhi	Delhi	32
4.	Punjab	Fatehgarh	1
		Jalandhar	7
		Gurdaspur	1
		Hoshiarpur	1
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	17
6.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	6
		Pune	2
7.	Goa	Panjim	1
8.	Haryana	Gurgaon	2
9.	West Bengal	Kolkata	2
10.	Kerala	Calicut	1
		Perumbavoor	2
Indigenous Cases (9)			
1.	Delhi	Delhi	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	1
3.	Punjab	Gurdaspur	1
4.	Haryana	Gurgaon	1

Detection, cure and prevention of H1N1 virus

205. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of H1N1 virus/influenza in the country; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government for detection, cure and prevention of the spread of H1N1?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As on 30th June, 2009 there are 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine]. All these are travel related cases being brought into India by passengers coming from affected countries, except for nine, which are secondary cases reported in the immediate family contacts. These nine cases are geographically scattered. All the cases have been detected early, put on treatment and cured. Out of these, 70 have been discharged as on 30th June, 2009. Timely institution of public health measures have prevented community spread so far.

(b) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Blood testing facilities to detect Swine Flu

206. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of persons affected by Swine Flu (positive) have increased in the country;

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

(c) whether the laboratories in various parts of the country are not adequate to check the samples of blood of patients affected by H1N1 virus; and

(d) if so, the strategies formulated by Government to check the increasing number of H1N1 positive persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. In our country the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009. Since then there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine]. State-wise list is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e)]. All these are travel

related cases being brought into India by passengers coming from affected countries, except for nine, which are secondary cases reported in the immediate family contacts. These nine cases are geographically scattered. All the cases have been detected early, put on treatment and cured. Out of these, 70 have been discharged as on 30th June, 2009. Timely institution of public health measures have prevented community spread so far.

(c) There are adequate number of laboratories to check the clinical samples of suspected cases. List of laboratories is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Statement

Distribution of Laboratories having Real Time PCR facilities for Diagnostic Test of H1N1 for different States

Sl.No.	Laboratory	State
1	2	3
1.	NIV, Pune	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
2.	KIPM, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
3.	AIIMS, New Delhi	UP and Uttaranchal Pradesh
4.	NICED, Kolkata	West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkand
5.	RMRC, Dibrugarh	NE States
6.	CMC, Vellore	Kerala

1	2	3
7.	VPVI, Delhi	Rajasthan
8.	PGI, Chandigarh	Chandigarh, J&K and Punjab
9.	NICD, Delhi	Delhi
10.	SGPGI, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
11.	CRI, Kasauli	Himachal Pradesh And Haryana
12.	BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad	Gujarat
13.	NIMHANS, Bangalore	Karnataka and Goa
14.	KMC, Manipal	Karnataka
15.	IGMC, Shimla	Shimla and Upper Himachal
16.	IPM, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
17.	JIPMER, Puducherry	Tamil Nadu
18.	Haffkine Institute, Mumbai	Maharashtra

NIV and NICD are reference Lab for ICMR's influenza surveillance network and IDSP Laboratories respectively.

Trans Fatty Acid in edible oils and ghee

†207. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the recent report of Centre for Science and Environment (C.S.E.) according to which the quantity of Trans Fatty Acid in edible oils which is very detrimental to the health, has been found more than 5 to 12 times compare to two per cent as per international standards;

(b) if so, the names of companies from which samples of oil and ghee were taken;

(c) the action being taken by Government against guilty companies; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to bring the level of Trans Fatty Acid upto two per cent in edible oils, ghee and butter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir. As reported in the newspapers, and also available on the website of the Centre for Science and Environment (C.S.E.), a report titled "Fatty acid profile of edible oils and fats in India" has been brought out in January, 2009.

(b) The companies from whom the samples were drawn by CSE as per the Report are M/s. Adani Wilmer Ltd., M/s Cargil India Pvt., Ltd., M/s Bungee India Ltd., M/s Marico Ltd.,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

M/s Agrotech Foods Ltd., M/s RR Oomerbhoy Pvt. Ltd., M/s Dhara Vegetable Oils and Foods Company Ltd., M/s Jindal Oils and Fats Ltd., M/s Milk Food Ltd., M/s Seil Edible Oils Ltd., M/s Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., M/s Amrit Banaspati Company Ltd., M/s. Consumer Marketing India Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Recon Oil Industries Pvt. Ltd., M/s Shalimar Agro Tech Pvt. Ltd., M/s Sarda Agro Oil Ltd. and M/s Ruchi Infrastructure Ltd.

(c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 do not prescribe any limit of Trans Fatty Acid in edible oils and fats.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide its notification GSR 664(E) dated 19.9.2008 (effective from 19.03.2009) has made it compulsory:-

- to declare that the products containing Hydrogenated vegetable fat or bakery shortening shall declare on the label that it contains Trans Fatty Acid.
- that in case it is claimed on the label of the product that it is free from Trans Fatty Acids then the amount of Trans Fatty Acids shall not be more than 0.2g per serving.

AIIMS like hospital in Madurai

208 SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build a super speciality hospital on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Madurai, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No, But a proposal to upgrade the Government Medical College, Madurai at an outlay of Rs.150 crore comprising Central contribution of Rs.125 Crore and State's contribution of Rs.25 Crore under the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been approved on 5.2.2009.

Arrangements for tackling swine flu

†209. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that swine flu is spreading in the country, particularly in Delhi and northern India;

(b) if so, number of swine flu cases came to light during last month;

(c) whether the country lacks anti-swine flu drugs being supplied to the patients;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of extensive arrangements made by Government to tackle swine flu and take up the matter on priority basis?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Since 13th May, 2009 till 30th June, 2009 there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [Swine]

(c) There is adequate stock of anti-flu drugs in the national stockpile.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term Media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Radiation dangers from radio diagnostic tests

210. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking measures to make doctors aware of the dangers of radiation in radio diagnostic tests to which patients are subjected to;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Radiation protection measures and dangers of radiation are included in the curriculum of undergraduate and post graduate medical students of Radio Diagnosis and Radio Therapy courses.

Fake Chinese drugs

211. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake Chinese drugs are landing in Indian cities;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to check it;
- (d) the officials held responsible for allowing such life-threatening drugs; and
- (e) the action proposed to be initiated against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The import of drugs from unregistered source is not permitted under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules, 1945.

(c) The CDSCO under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up the issue of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and all port officials to curb such import into the country.

(d) The import of bulk drugs from unregistered source has not been allowed by the officials of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.

(e) Does not arise.

Swine Flu infected foreigners visiting India

†212. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that foreign passengers infected with swine flu have entered India in recent past;
- (b) if so, the names of the States where such cases have been reported, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made arrangements on airports for medical examination of all the passengers coming from foreign countries;
- (d) if so, whether Government has made any arrangement for sending back the infected foreign passengers immediately; the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by Government to check infection from spreading in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Details are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).]

(c) Arrangements have been made for entry screening of passengers at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Passengers from affected countries are subjected to temperature monitoring. On being detected having fever, the passenger is subjected to medical examination.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir. All the airports have attached isolation facilities where they are isolated and treated.

(e) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Abnormalities due to alarming level of uranium

213. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abnormalities among more than 150 children in a pocket of Faridkot district in Punjab has been found due to alarming levels of uranium, which was detected by tests conducted by a toxicologist from Johannesburg during April, 2009 while unraveling the mystery of uranium in the afflicted kids admitted to a local hospital; and

(b) if so, whether preventive measures would be devised by Government and circulated to States for strict observance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any scientific report on alarming levels of uranium among children in Faridkot District in Punjab. A news report mentions about high levels of uranium in 150 mentally disabled children in Faridkot. The news report also mentions about an exercise being carried out by the Department of Atomic Energy to confirm levels of uranium among children and its possible sources.

Charging of capitation fee by private medical colleges

214. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there have been complaints against some medical colleges demanding capitation fee from the students for admission;

(b) whether Government is aware that some colleges have been demanding capitation fee under different names;

(c) if so, whether an inquiry has been conducted against such colleges and the colleges de-recognised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) On the basis of newspaper reports that two medical colleges in Tamil Nadu namely, Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Porur (Deemed University) and Sri Balaji Medical College, Chennai (Deemed University) were allegedly demanding capitation fees, the Central Government sought reports from the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Medical Council of India (MCI). The Government of Tamil Nadu have replied that notices have been issued to these two medical colleges but reply is awaited. Government of Tamil Nadu have further stated that action would be taken against aforesaid two medical colleges on the receipt of their replies. The MCI constituted an Inquiry Committee to investigate into the matter. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Central Government which is under consideration.

Strict norms for controlling private medical colleges

215. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what recommendations have been made by the Knowledge Commission concerning health care education system in the country;

(b) how many recommendations have been accepted by Government so far;

(c) what are the reasons for not accepting recommendations of the Knowledge Commission;

(d) whether Government will review existing medical education system and enforce strict norms for private medical colleges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The main recommendations of the Knowledge Commission are as follows:

- Constitution of a Standing Committee within the structure of the Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE).
- The Indian Medical Council Act should be amended such that MCI functions only as a professional association, with powers to conduct nationwide examinations, and to provide licenses for those who wish to join the profession.
- Similar changes are needed for all the other Councils viz. Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council, Dental Council and Rehabilitation Council.
- IRAHE should be empowered to license suitable agencies for accreditation.

- Policies of admission and fee structure of private college have to be regulated, not only to stop them from becoming sources of political and financial power but also to arrest falling standards.
- All institutions must constitute Curriculum Committees that plan curricula and instructional methods, which are regularly updated.
- Attracting and retaining quality faculty should be accorded top priority. Measures such as opportunities to attend international conferences regularly, sabbaticals, dual appointments, regarding research, fast-track promotions, and dissociating remuneration from Government pay scales should be explored.
- The medical profession needs to be structured like a pyramid with the base made up of general physicians. At present there is little if any space for such doctors in postgraduate courses, Therefore.
- Adequate representation should be given to general physicians while carrying out expansion of post graduate seats such that fifty percent seats are reserved for general physicians.
- New streams for post graduation should be looked at based on needs.
- Admission to post graduate courses should be done on the basis of credits received in the National Exit Examination and pre and post internship clinically oriented exams after internship.
- Need to reserve post graduate seats (upto 20% of total available seats) for graduates who have worked in rural areas for at least 3 years.
- The number of medical colleges in relation to population in some states is much higher than in other states. The Central Government should aid new colleges in these states to address this regional disparity. For instance, north eastern states require urgent attention in this context. The Central Government can develop a list of priority sites for establishing new colleges where the impact of new clinical facilities would benefit the surrounding rural population.
- Further at least one institution should be identified in each State that can serve as a center of excellence and role model for the other institutions of the state.
- Medical education cannot be standalone. It requires support in the form of trained nurses, pharmacists, paramedic workers. It must all also serve the essential purpose of delivering health care to the people. Therefore, we also set out some recommendations on education for supporting services and public health.

The recommendations of Knowledge Commission are under consideration. However, this Ministry proposes to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance

supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

Human clinical trials

216. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mandated all human clinical trials being done in the country to be registered with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR);

(b) if so, whether the offenders of unethical trials and those who violate the norms would be punished;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of unethical human clinical trials came to the notice of Government during the past few months and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Prior to 17th November 2008, registration of clinical trial was voluntary. For all the clinical trials, permission of which were granted between 17th November 2008 to 14th June 2009, applicants were advised to get the trials registered at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) registry at www.ctri.in. However for all clinical trials permitted on or after 15th June 2009, applicants are being informed that it is now mandatory to register the trial at the said ICMR site before enrolling first patient in the study.

(b) and (c) Under Rule 122DB of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, if any applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions of clinical trial permission, Drugs Controller General (India) can suspend or cancel the permission.

(d) The inspection of one of the sites of a clinical trial by a team constituted by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), revealed various Good Clinical Practices (GCP) violations. Therefore, the concerned investigator, sponsor and monitor were issued warning letters asking them to take corrective actions to prevent such violations in future. The clinical trial remained suspended at all the twelve sites from 06.11.2008 to 22.04.2009. The sponsor submitted various corrective actions taken to ensure GCP compliance. CDSCO scrutinized the same and decided to revoke the suspension on 23.04.2009 from all the sites except the inspected site. Further monitor and investigator of the inspected site also submitted details of corrective actions taken by them, based on which the suspension from the inspected site was also revoked on 02.06.2009.

Swine flu affected countries

217. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) in its swine flu alert level has warned that world was on brink of an epidemic;

(b) if so, which are the countries affected with swine flu;

(c) whether India has begun tracking passengers who travelled to New Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Mumbai etc. from Mexico and neighbouring countries like Canada, Europe and United States etc. indicating number of passengers suspected/found suffering from swine flu till date; and

(d) what preventive measures Government has taken in this regard indicating whether any travel advisory issued for Indian citizens for not travelling to affected countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The World Health Organization has raised the level of pandemic alert from level five to level six implying wide spread infection of Influenza A H1N1 (earlier called Swine Flu).

(b) The list of countries affected by influenza A H1N1 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Arrangements have been made for entry screening of passengers at 22 international airports. So far 109 cases have tested positive (as on 30.06.09) of which 100 are passengers who travelled from affected countries.

(d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Statement

*Laboratory-confirmed cases of new influenza A(H1N1) as officially reported to WHO by States
Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005)*

29 June 2009 09:00 GMT

Sl.No.	Country, territory and area	Cumulative total	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Algeria	2	0
2.	Antigua and Barbuda	2	0
3.	Argentina	1488	23
4.	Australia	4028	7
5.	Austria	12	0
6.	Bahamas	4	0
7.	Bahrain	15	0
8.	Bangladesh	1	0
9.	Barbados	10	0
10.	Belgium	43	0
11.	Bermuda, UKOT	1	0
12.	Bolivia	126	0
13.	Brazil	452	0
14.	British Virgin Islands, UKOT	1	0
15.	Brunei Darussalam	29	0
16.	Bulgaria	7	0
17.	Cambodia	6	0
18.	Canada	7775	21
19.	Cap Verde	3	0
20.	Cayman Islands, UKOT	9	0
21.	Chile	5186	7
22.	China	1442	0
23.	Colombia	88	2
24.	Costa Rica	255	1

1	2	3	4
25.	Cote d'Ivoire	2	0
26.	Cuba	34	0
27.	Cyprus	25	0
28.	Czech Republic	9	0
29.	Denmark	44	0
30.	Dominica	1	0
31.	Dominican Republic	108	2
32.	Ecuador	125	0
33.	Egypt	50	0
34.	El Salvador	226	0
35.	Estonia	13	0
36.	Ethiopia	2	0
37.	Fiji	2	0
38.	Finland	26	0
39.	France	235	0
40.	French Polynesia, FOC	3	0
41.	Martinique, FOC	2	0
42.	Germany	366	0
43.	Greece	86	0
44.	Guatemala	254	2
45.	Honduras	118	1
46.	Hungary	8	0
47.	Iceland	4	0
48.	India	64	0
49.	Indonesia	8	0
50.	Iran	1	0
51.	Iraq	10	0
52.	Ireland	39	0
53.	Israel	469	0
54.	Italy	112	0
55.	Jamaica	21	0

1	2	3	4
56.	Japan	1212	0
57.	Jordan	18	0
58.	Korea, Republic of	202	0
59.	Kuwait	30	0
60.	Laos	3	0
61.	Latvia	1	0
62.	Lebanon	25	
63.	Lithuania	1	0
64.	Luxembourg	4	0
65.	Malaysia	112	0
66.	Mexico	8279	116
67.	Monaco	1	0
68.	Montenegro	1	0
69.	Morocco	11	0
70.	Nepal	3	0
71.	Netherlands	118	0
72.	Netherlands Antilles, Curacao *	3	0
73.	Netherlands Antilles, Sint Maarten	1	0
74.	New Zealand	587	0
75.	Nicaragua	277	0
76.	Norway	31	0
77.	Oman	3	0
78.	Panama	403	0
79.	Papua New Guinea	1	0
80.	Paraguay	85	0
81.	Peru	360	0
82.	Philippines	861	1
83.	Poland	14	0
84.	Portugal	11	0
85.	Qatar	10	0
86.	Romania	24	0

1	2	3	4
87.	Russia	3	0
88.	Samoa	1	0
89.	Saudi Arabia	69	0
90.	Serbia	5	0
91.	Singapore	599	0
92.	Slovakia	9	0
93.	Slovenia	4	0
94.	South Africa	1	0
95.	Spain	541	0
96.	Sri Lanka	9	0
97.	Suriname	11	0
98.	Sweden	67	0
99.	Switzerland	49	0
100.	Thailand	774	0
101.	Trinidad and Tobago	53	0
102.	Tunisia	2	0
103.	Turkey	27	0
104.	Ukraine	1	0
105.	United Arab Emirates	8	0
106.	United Kingdom	4250	1
107.	Guernsey, Crown Dependency	1	0
108.	Isle of Man, Crown Dependency	1	0
109.	Jersey, Crown Dependency	8	0
110.	United States of America	27717	127
111.	Uruguay	195	0
112.	Vanuatu	2	0
113.	Venezuela	172	0
114.	Viet Nam	84	0
115.	West Bank and Gaza Strip	9	0
116.	Yemen	6	0
GRAND TOTAL :		70893	311

Steps to prevent swine flu

218. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients who have been tested positive for H1N1 virus in the country, State-wise, city-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to tackle the situation to treat the patients and prevent the spread of H1N1 virus flu?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As on 30th June 2009, 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 is reported in India. State-wise and City-Wise list is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).].

(b) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Pictorial warning on cigarette packets

219. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently cleared for pictorial warnings on cigarette, beedi and other chewed tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details of the directive;

(c) whether his Ministry has prepared any action plan, in coordination with the Labour Ministry, with regard to rehabilitation of beedi workers in the country, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Details of the directive of Hon'ble Supreme Court are as under:-

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition No. 549/08 titled "Health for Millions TR. Legal Advisor versus Union of India and Others" in order dated 06.05.2009 has observed that the Additional Solicitor General appearing on behalf of Union of India undertakes to implement Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and labelling) Rules, 2008 with effect from 31st May, 2009 and enforcement thereof shall not be further extended under any circumstances. In view of the undertaking made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Hon'ble Court has observed that it is not necessary to pass any further order in these writ petitions by way of interim measure. However, Hon'ble Court has directed that no court in the country shall pass any order, which is inconsistent with this order.

(c) Yes. The ministry of Health and FW is in the process of preparation of action plan to rehabilitate the bidi workers in the country.

(d) Earlier a Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted *vide* Cabinet Secretariat letter No 601/2/1/2007-Cab dated 17th May, 2007 with the mandate to look into issues concerning warning on injury to health and suggest alternative livelihood/ rehabilitation to bidi rollers. The GoM in its meeting held on 11.07.2007 gave directions to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) to suggest intermediate/long term arrangement for alternative livelihood for bidi rollers. Accordingly, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the pilot scheme of providing training to bidi workers so as to provide them alternative sources of employment through viable sources of livelihood. These trainings have been conducted in 6 regions of the country namely Bangalore, Nagpur, Ajmer, Jabalpur, Hyderabad, Kolkata. Further, Ministry of Health and FW (MoH&FW) in collaboration with Central Tobacco Research Institute (Ministry of Agriculture) has also launched a pilot initiative of providing alternative cropping system to bidi/chewing tobacco crops in 5 different agro-ecological sub-regions viz.. West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

In order to address the issue on long term basis the Ministry of Health and FW has also constituted an expert group at National Level with representation from different Ministries like Rural Development, Women and Child Development, National Dairy Development Board, civil society etc. This group will look into the issue of alternative livelihood to the bidi rollers and chalk out a long term rehabilitation strategy.

As per the recommendations of the EFC meeting of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) held on Third March, 2009 all project regarding alternative livelihoods to people engaged in tobacco sector should be taken up by Ministry of Rural Development through their ongoing programme like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and other similar schemes rather than be piloted by MoH&FW.

(e) Does not arise.

Emergency Management and Research Institute

220. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in which Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) services run in the country; State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Report of the National Health Systems Resource Centre clearly points out lack of Transparency with this model, particularly with regard to finances;

(c) if so, the details of the study carried out by NHSRC;

(d) whether it is a fact that the States are using NRHM funds for this programme;

(e) if so, whether the States have taken prior permission from the Government of India; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The GVK Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) services are presently available in nine states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Goa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam and Meghalaya.

A study of EMRI conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan by National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) has in its finding appreciated the efficiency and quality of services by EMRI which has led to its utilization in more than 85% of the Medical Emergencies in some of the States. However, it has suggested some areas of improvements including financial management. The findings of study have been shared with the respective States.

(c) The details of the study carried out by NHSRC are available on this Ministry's official web-site i.e. www.mohfw.nic.in.

(d) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to State/UT Governments for ambulance services and other emergency response mechanisms. In some cases, State Governments have preferred to operate ambulance services run by their own facilities. In other cases, the State Governments have chosen to provide emergency response services through the PPP route. In both these cases, funds have been released to State Governments as per their requests under the NRHM.

- (f) Does not arise.

Use of metals in cosmetics

221. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Research states that most of the branded companies are using copper, lead and other chemicals in more than the specified quantity in various cosmetics like, Shampoo, hair dye, powder and lipstick which cause various diseases including cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to constitute an agency to monitor the cosmetic manufacturing companies to control quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. A private study conducted by a group has made claims that certain cosmetic products available in the country, contain higher amount of copper, lead and other heavy metals.

(c) and (d) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, Licensing authorities appointed by the State Governments grant licences for manufacture of cosmetics and ensure that the cosmetic products marketed by licensed manufactures conform to the specified standards prescribed under the Rules.

Sale of synthetic milk products

†222. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large scale trade of synthetic milk and poisonous spurious ghee has been exposed;

(b) if so, the numbers of persons against whom action have been initiated as on date during last six months, State-wise;

(c) whether Government would take effective steps to stop the trade of synthetic and poisonous milk and ghee keeping in view the health of common people; and

(d) if so, the details of the effective steps taken and if not, the reasons for the callous attitude of Government towards common people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government through certain press reports about the production and sale of spurious milk in some parts of the country.

(b) Action against such persons is taken by the concerned State Governments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has already issued instructions to the Food (Health) Authority of the States/U.T.s. who are responsible for implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in their State/U.T. to keep a strict vigil on quality of milk and milk products and take necessary preventive action under the provisions of the PFA Act 1954 and Rules 1955 made thereunder.

Installation of thermal scanners at major airports

223. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent declaration of H1N1 virus as pandemic by World Health Organisation, the Union Government has decided to install thermal scanners at all the major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of installation of thermal scanners at major airports, a large number of persons with H1N1 virus have been noticed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that people coming from abroad are free from H1N1 virus?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The utility of thermal scanners to detect passengers with fever have been assessed and it has been decided to install four such units on a pilot basis at Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi.

(d) Arrangements have been made for entry screening of passengers at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Passengers from affected countries are subjected to temperature monitoring through digital/mercury thermometer. On being detected having fever, the passenger is subjected to medical examination. Suspect cases are isolated to identified health facilities. A part of the screening proforma is retained by the passenger that informs the passenger on further actions he has to follow in case he reports symptoms subsequently.

Availability of adequate medicines for swine flu treatment

224. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cases of swine flu, a contagious disease have been detected in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in the absence of any effective allopathic medicines or vaccine how patients are proposed to be treated;

(d) has Government approached experts of other systems of medicines for treatment of this disease; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent spreading of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As on 30th June, 2009 there are 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine]. All these are travel related cases being brought into India by passengers coming from affected countries, except for nine, which are secondary cases reported in the immediate family contacts. These nine cases are geographically scattered. All the cases have been detected early, put on treatment and cured. Out of these, 70 have been discharged as on 30th June, 2009. State-wise details of cases are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).]

(c) and (d) There is an effective allopathic medicine named Oseltamivir [also called Tamiflu] to treat patients of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu]. This is the drug recommended by World Health Organization. All patients treated in India has responded to treatment with this drug. There is adequate stock of this drug in the national stockpile.

(e) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Swine flu cases in the country

225. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many swine flu cases have been detected in the country so far; and

(b) what arrangements are being made for providing testing and treatment facilities in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier called swine flu] as on 30th June, 2009.

(b) There are eighteen laboratories identified to check the clinical samples of suspected cases. List of laboratories is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 206 Pt. (c).]

There are isolation facilities in 26 identified hospitals attached to international airports where patients of Influenza A H1N1 are treated. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or other tertiary care hospitals.

Screening exam. for Foreign Medical Graduates

226. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for Foreign Medical Graduates to clear the screening exam. conducted by National Board of Examination to register with Medical Council of India;

(b) whether very few FMGs pass this test despite repeated appearance;

(c) how many FMGs appeared for the test during 2007, 2008 and 2009 so far;

(d) whether Government is aware of their complaints that NBE does not have a fixed syllabus for the exam. and their marks are not revealed etc.;

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) steps proposed to be taken to make the exam more transparent and help FMGs to get registered with MCI?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A status of candidates appeared and passed is stated below:

Year	Appeared	Passed
2007	3143	536
2008	4211	1326
2009	2289	460

(d) to (f) According to National Board of Examinations there is a well defined and prescribed syllabus for examination which is contained in the information bulletin for the Screening Test. Since, examination is not merit based and only qualifying examination, personal marks obtained by the candidates are not revealed. The examination system is transparent and papers are evaluated on computer and results generated and notified within few hours of conducting the examination.

Review of examination system is an ongoing process.

Treatment facilities for swine flu affected patients

227. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether number of persons affected by H1N1 virus have increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether facilities and treatment provided by the Union Government/State Governments to such affected persons are inadequate; and
- (d) if so, the concrete plans formulated by the Union Government in consultation with State Governments to challenge the outbreak of H1N1 virus in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Since the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009, there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier called swine flu] as on 30th June, 2009. All these are travel related cases being brought into India by passengers coming from affected countries, except for nine, which are secondary cases reported in the immediate family contacts.

(c) There are adequate isolation facilities in 26 identified hospitals attached to international airports where patients of Influenza A H1N1 are treated. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or tertiary care hospitals with isolation facilities.

(d) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Educating people against swine flu

228. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people have been affected by H1N1 virus in the country, city-wise and State-wise;

(b) the steps taken or being taken to treat these patients and prevent the spread of virus; and

(c) the steps taken to educate the public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier called swine flu] as on 30 June, 2009. City-wise and State-wise list of cases is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).]

(b) There are isolation facilities in 26 identified hospitals attached to international airports where patients of Influenza A H1N1 are treated. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or other tertiary care hospitals. All the family and social contacts of the positive cases are traced, provided with required medication to prevent the disease. The passengers sitting in close proximity are also traced and administered drug to prevent the disease.

(c) Short term media plan has been implemented. Public is informed of simple public health measures to prevent the disease such as personal hygiene, hand wash, cough etiquettes and need to report early to health facility etc. through print, audio and visual media. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and helpline number has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

Fake drugs from China

229. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chennai has become a major landing point for Chinese fake drugs;

(b) if so, the stock of fake drugs seized during the year, so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The following bulk drugs were not released from Chennai port:

1. Roxithromycine	—	500 Kgs.
2. Progesterone	—	400 Kgs.
3. Cimetidine	—	2000 Kgs.

(c) The CDSCO under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up the issue of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and all port officials to curb such import into the country under Customs Act.

Fake and spurious drugs from China

230. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards recent fake and spurious Chinese drug supply in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken against such unlawful activities in the country;

(d) whether Government is formulating any action plan to check spurious drugs being manufactured and sold in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

The CDSCO under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up the issue of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and all port officials to curb such import into the country under Custom Act.

(d) and (e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent manufacture and sale of fake drugs in the country:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetic Act has been amended *vide* Gazette notification dated December 2008, to increase the penalty and punishment of spurious drugs manufacturing.
2. A committee has been formed in 39th Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to look into the problems of spurious drugs in the country. Guidelines are being framed to ensure that the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetic Act are implemented uniformly in all the States across the country.
3. In order to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
4. Under the Capacity Building Project through World Bank, assistance has been provided to upgrade testing facilities and to establish new drug testing laboratories so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under

this project 23 States and 6 Central Drugs Laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended to make it at par with the International standards and it is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them.
6. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

Implementation of Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme

231. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to implement the Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, by when such scheme would be implemented all over India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh to implement Rajiv Arogyasri Medical Scheme all over the country.

Treatment of swine flu

232. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of swine flu has increased during the last two months;
- (b) if so, how many cases, so far, have been reported in various States, State-wise;
- (c) whether adequate medicines are available in the country to combat this disease; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and what other measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. In our country the first case was reported on 13th May, 2009. Since then there have been 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [swine]. State-wise list is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).]

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is adequate stock of medicines. Ten million capsules of Oseltamivir are in the national stockpile and an additional 6 million kept in banking arrangement with manufacturers.

Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Special schemes for coir industry

233. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any special scheme to ward off the crisis in the coir industry arising out of the global melt down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on 'Export Market Promotion' through Coir Board, a statutory body under the administrative control of this Ministry, for developing the exports of coir and coir products. The Government is not contemplating any special scheme to ward off the crisis in coir industry exclusively as a result of the global meltdown. Though the global meltdown began impacting the exports in general, during mid 2008-09, the export of coir products during the year 2008-09 was 1, 94,791.08 MT valued at Rs. 634.17 crore which is about 4% higher in terms of quantity and 7% higher in terms of value as compared to the previous year, 2007-08. Exports of coir industry were not under affected by the global meltdown in 2008-2009, as such.

Revival of MSMEs

234. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of micro, small and medium enterprises as on 1st January, 2009, in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) how many units in the above categories are closed as on 1st January, 2009; and

(c) what actions are proposed by Government to revive small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Based on the 3rd All India Census with 2001-02 as the reference year, the State-wise estimated number of micro and small enterprises during 2006-07 (latest available) is given as under:

Name of States	Estimated No. of units
Gujarat	6,46,379
Maharashtra	9,89,254
Madhya Pradesh	9,76,981
Rajasthan	5,38,728

(b) The number of units found closed during the above Census in 2001-02 is as under:

Name of States	No. of units found closed
Gujarat	39,159
Maharashtra	54,243
Madhya Pradesh	65,649
Rajasthan	36,847

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced several measures for reviving MSMEs which, inter alia, includes: (i) As a one time measure, the second restructuring done by banks of exposures up to June 30, 2009, will also be eligible for exceptional regulatory treatment; and (ii) While sanctioning/renewing credit limits to their large corporate borrowers, banks have been advised to six separate sub-limits, within the overall limits, specifically for meeting payment obligations in respect of purchases from MSEs. Recently, the RBI has advised the banks to apply the Reserve Bank's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and to put in place a non-discretionary one-time settlement scheme for the MSMEs. The Government has also issued an advisory to central public sector enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs.

In addition, the Government has promulgated the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness. The Act, inter alia, provides for rigorous provisions to counter the problems of delayed payments to the micro and small enterprises.

Anti-dumping cases filed by MSMEs

235. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many anti-dumping cases have been filed by our MSMEs during 2007, 2008 and 2009 with the Anti-dumping Directorate;

(b) in how many cases was anti-dumping duty levied; and

(c) what has been the estimated loss of production and employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government does not maintain separate data for cases filed by our MSMEs with Directorate General of Antidumping (DGAD) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. However total number of anti-dumping cases initiated in 2007, 2008 and 2009 as intimated by designated authority DGAD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry are 15, 19 and 07 respectively.

(b) Total cases in which final findings have been issued by DGAD and definitive duty imposed by the Department of Revenue are 13 and cases in which only preliminary findings have been issued and provisional duty imposed by the Department of Revenue are 10.

(c) Since DGAD does not keep any record regarding losses (in terms of production and/or employment) suffered by MSMEs due to import of dumped goods into India, estimation of loss of production and employment is not available.

Effect of economic recession of SMEs

†236. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and medium scale industries of the country have been affected by international economic recession;

(b) if so, the sectors to which affected industries are associated with, as well as the percentage of small and medium scale industries estimated to be working in each sector;

(c) whether the industries of this sector have been benefited from the economic measures taken by Government to control this recession; and

(d) if so, the number of benefited industrial units upto June, 2009?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The international economic recession has adversely affected the export market of Indian industry, including the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and in particular, sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, etc. have been mainly affected. The micro and small enterprises (MSEs) working in these sectors, as a percentage of total MSEs, are 3.7% (textiles), 1.4% (leather), 1.3% (gems and jewellery) and 0.2% (auto components).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the impact of international economic recession, the Government has announced several economic measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs. According to available information, the auto component sector and textile products have shown signs of recovery. Full impact of the stimulus packages, however, is expected to be seen in the coming months.

Reduction of tatkal charges

237. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the charges of tatkal tickets to protect the interests of poor passengers at least for the sleeper class;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The matter is under review.

Encroachment of Railway land

†238. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large expanse of prime land under Railways ownership has been encroached upon by unauthorized person and land mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railways to clear the encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Railway land measuring 1023 hectares is under encroachments involving a total of 140177 encroachments. These encroachments are existing since long. Railways are engaged in continuous exercise to remove encroachments from Railway land.

Rail projects in NER

239. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway lines from Rangia to Murkongsilec being upgraded from meter gauge to broad gauge;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the schedule of completion;
- (c) the Indian Railways are being converted from meter gauge to broad gauge but why has the railway line from Lumding to Agartala made a meter gauge;
- (d) the reasons for not providing broad gauge instead; and
- (e) whether there was a demand for railway coach factory in Bongaigaon, Assam and by when is it being implemented?

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

(b) The target for completion of the project is March 2013.

(c) and (d) The existing rail network beyond Lumding Southward is on Meter Gauge for which gauge conversion has been taken up. The line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been constructed to Broad Gauge standards but laid with meter gauge as the connecting Lumding-Badarpur-Kumarghat line is on meter gauge. The line will be converted to Broad Gauge once gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur-Kumarghat is completed.

(e) Demands for establishing railway coach factory are received from different zones. However, there is no proposal at present to set up a Rail Coach Factory in the region.

Demands for rail projects from North Gujarat

240. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various demands for North Gujarat pending with the Railway Ministry;
- (b) whether Ministry respond to the demand of reducing running hours of S.J. Rajdhani Express in between Ahmedabad-New Delhi;
- (c) what is the status of direct train from Patan in North Gujarat to Mumbai; and
- (d) what is the status of direct train from Palanpur to Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Details of each and every demand is not maintained. However, a request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat some time back containing some of the railway projects of North Gujarat. The details are as under:

1. Harij-Mahsana-Radhanpur: Survey completed and proposed new line not taken up.
2. Gauge conversion of Mahsana-Taranga Hill with extension to Ambaji: Survey completed and proposal not taken up.

3. Gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Ambaji:
Survey taken up for gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Abu Road.

(b) Speeding up of passenger carrying trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways. Speeding up of 2957/2958 New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express is not feasible at present.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to run direct train from Patan and Palanpur to Mumbai owing to resource and terminal constraints.

Conversion of trains into super fast train

241. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for converting a train into super fast trains;
- (b) whether there has been significant reduction in the time taken to reach the destination by super fast trains after conversion;
- (c) if so, on an average the percentage of reduction; and
- (d) the additional cost passengers in different classes have to bear after conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Trains whose average speed on the entire run in both directions is minimum 55 kmph on broad gauge and 45 kmph on metre gauge are designated as superfast trains.

(b) and (c) The average percentage reduction in the time taken varies from about 2% to 6% for the trains converted to superfast during the last two years.

(d) The superfast surcharge is Rs. 8/- for second class, Rs. 20 for sleeper class, Rs. 30 for A.C. Chair Car/first class/A.C. 3-tier/A.C. 2-tier, Rs. 50 for A.C. first class, Rs. 150/- for second class monthly season tickets, Rs. 450 for second class quarterly season tickets, Rs. 450 for first class monthly season tickets and Rs. 1350/- for first class quarterly season tickets. Superfast surcharge is, however, not levied on season ticket holders travelling by those superfast trains whose total journey is less than 325 kms.

Rail coach factory in Kerala

242. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made, so far, for setting up of the proposed railway coach factory in the State of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Requisite approval for the setting up of a Rail Coach Factory at Kerala, is under process.

New railway line between Aligarh and Kasganj

243. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to conduct survey for a new railway line between Aligarh and Kasganj;

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

(c) by when the work is likely to start?

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

(b) and (c) The Survey has been completed by North-Eastern Railway. The report is under examination of the Ministry of Railways.

Inter linking of Kanpur-Mathura rail line with main line

244. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kanpur-Mathura meter gauge line has in the recent past been converted to broad gauge line;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this newly converted broad gauge line has not been interlinked with the main lines at Hathras and Mathura respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the full benefit of this broad gauge line would not accrue without interlinking; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to interlink this broad gauge line with the main lines at Hathras and Mathura?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the converted line will get linked with the main line at Mathura alongwith gauge conversion of Mathura-Achnera section.

(c) and (d) Full benefit will accrue after interlinking at Mathura Junction which is planned with Mathura—Achnera gauge conversion.

Ratio of berths and toilets

245. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of berths and toilets in trains in sleeper class, 3AC and 2AC compartments as per norms;

(b) whether it is a fact that one toilet has been provided for every 36 berths in sleeper class;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Railways had already taken a decision about a year ago to remove two toilets, out of four in every compartment, and set up berths so as to accommodate more passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As per International norms (UIC), there should be at least one toilet for 40 passengers. The ratio of berths and toilets in Indian Railways coaches is however as under:

	Type of coach		
	Sleeper class	3AC	2AC
No. of passengers per coach	72	64	48
No. of Toilets per coach	4	4	4
Ratio between toilet and berths	1:18	1:16	1:12

(b) No, Sir. One toilet has been provided for every 18 berths in Sleeper Class Coaches.

(c) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Railway underbridges in South Central Railway

246. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any amount for railway underbridges to the South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what amount the SCR has spent, so far, on each bridge;

(d) the details of the pending bridges in SCR; and

(e) how Government is ensuring safety of passengers at each bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2008-09 an amount of Rs.444.13 lakh was allocated for the works of Road under bridges (RUBs) on South Central Railway detailed below:

(Rs. in Crore)					
S. No.	Work	Railway's cost	State Govt's cost	Expenditure incurred	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	RUB between Tirupati-Renigunta at LC No. 105	1.47	1.67	1.33	Commissioned to traffic.
2.	RUB between Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam sec. on LC No. 346	0.63	0.63	0.83	Commissioned to traffic.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	RUB between Budvel-Umdanagar at LC No. 9/T Km. 21/13-14.	4.85	12.42	1.42	One Box of 12m out of 72m length has been cast.
4.	RUB at Mehboobabad between Kazipet and Vijayawada at LC No.81	5.82	12.33	0.00	General Arrangement Drawing prepared and sent to State Govt. for acceptance.
5.	RUB between Sanatnagar — Maula Ali Bye-pass line on LC No. BP-8 and BP-11.	3.50	13.35	0.01	Sanctioned as ROB but GAD approved for RUB sent to State Govt. for acceptance.

(d) No other firm proposal of the RUB sponsored by State Govt. duly fulfilling all the preliminary prerequisites is pending for sanction on cost sharing basis with the Railways.

(e) Traffic passing through the under bridges is regulated in consultation with the State Authorities to ensure safety. In addition height gauges etc. are provided at the road approaches.

Pending railway projects in Karnataka

247. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the rail projects in Karnataka running behind schedule; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation alongwith the detail in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects under New Lines, Gauge Conversions, Doublings, Railway Electrifications and Metropolitan Transport Projects. Due to limited availability of resources, the projects take long time for completion. The targets for projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the projects get completed in phases. Some of the projects in Karnataka State where targets had been fixed and projects would have completed in full/part but have been delayed alongwith steps taken to expedite these works are given as under:-

S.No.	Project	Steps taken to expedite work
1	2	3
NEW LINE		
1.	Kottur-Harihar (65 Km.)	Contracts had been re-invited where works were abandoned due to steep hike in steel

1	2	3
.....		prices and fresh contracts have been fixed. This project is likely to be completed by 31.3.2010.
GAUGE CONVERSION		
1.	Shimoga-Talguppa (97 Km.)	Delay caused due to heavy rains in 2008-09 and problems in getting stone quarry products. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
DOUBLING		
1.	Dharwad-Kambarganvi (26 Km.)	Land acquisition problems were experienced in this project. After lot of efforts, land at Dharwad has been acquired. Land at Kambarganvi and Mugad has still not been handed over. Dharwad-Mugad section is targeted for completion by 31.3.2010.
2.	Arasikere-Birur (44 Km)	Regular meetings are held with state authorities to sort out land acquisition problems. Section 4(1) for land acquisition has been issued recently. Work is likely to be completed by 31.3.2010 from Arasikere to Devanur.
3.	Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling (92 Km) with electrification of Kengeri-Mysore section	Regular meetings are held with Regional Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Karnataka to sort out land acquisition problems between Settihalli, Mandya and Mysore.

Gauge conversion

248. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to convert all small gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(b) whether it has prepared a plan with time-frame; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Direct train between Delhi and Kanpur

249. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct train between Delhi and Kanpur via Mathura/Hathras and Kasganj; and

(b) if so, by when Government proposes to provide such a train to the passengers?

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

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Passenger halt at Nalco Nagar

†250. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of the announcement made by the then Hon'ble Railway Minister in his last rail budget speech regarding providing a halt at "Nalco Nagar" between Talcher Road and Angul under East Coastal Railway in Orissa;

(b) whether her Ministry is also aware that heavy profit earning public sector company National Aluminium Company (NALCO) is ready to bear the expenditure to be incurred on construction of platform at proposed Nalco Nagar passenger halt; and

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

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

Additional berth adjacent to windows in trains

†251. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have fixed an additional berth between two berths adjacent to the window in three thousand IInd Sleeper coaches, as a result of which passengers are facing so many difficulties;

(b) whether the Railways had made any survey to get the opinion of people regarding this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 97 per cent people in south-west zone had made objection on it;

(d) whether her Ministry is contemplating to cancel the scheme after the objection by people; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on fixing additional berth between two berths in IInd Sleeper till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In order to enhance the passenger carrying capacity, it was programmed to provide additional longitudinal middle berths in sleeper class coaches. About 5000 sleeper class coaches have been provided with such berths.

(b) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) During the survey conducted on South Western Railway, 91% of the people objected to the introduction of additional side berths in coaches.

(d) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to discontinue the scheme.

(e) A comprehensive assessment of the expenditure incurred is not available at this juncture.

Bogibeel bridge project

252. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the execution of Bogibeel bridge project over river Brahmaputra, total allocation made during the year 2008-09, executing agencies finalized for various component of work including the work done departmentally;

(b) the target set for each component of work including both side approach road;

(c) whether payment of compensation to the people affected by land acquisition is completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The work on various activities of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge has been taken up including land acquisition, earthwork, minor and major bridges on the link lines. The land acquisition and boulder collection for guide bund and protection works has almost been completed. Earthwork to the tune of 248.53 lakh cum out of 298.78 lakh cum, 13 super structure out of 19 major bridges and 90 out of 98 minor bridges have already been completed. For the main bridge, sub-structure, well foundations have been taken up and for the super structure, tender is under process. The work of South guide bund has also been taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 439.46 crore was incurred on the project during 2008-09. The target for completion of the project is now revised to March, 2014.

(b) Targets for completion of various components of work is as under:-

(i) Chalkhowa-Moranhat South Bank rail link—completed.

(ii) Guide Bunds — June, 2011.

(iii) Main bridge substructure — March, 2012.

(iv) Road approaches by PWD — March, 2013.

(v) North Bank rail link — Dec., 2013.

(vi) Main bridge super structure road deck and track linking — March, 2014.

(c) The payment towards land acquisition has already been made to the District Authorities. The disbursement to the affected people is to be done by the State Authorities.

(d) Does not arise.

Tatkal scheme

253. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to cut the premium on talkal tickets and reduce its booking period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether premium on tatkal tickets is very high and Government proposes to reduce the amount; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to

(d) The matter is under review.

Introduction of pilgrimage express trains

254. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plans to introduce pilgrimage express trains throughout the country at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts Railways have put in to promote pilgrimage tourism in the country, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a)

No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Facility for booking special trains by private parties is already in force on Indian Railways. Further, Special trains are run and trains are augmented to the extent feasible and justified to clear the extra rush of passengers during Kumbh Mela, Urs, Puja, Haj, Melas and other large festivals held in pilgrimage centers as per demand.

Cheaper food packets and mineral water at stations

255. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce cheaper food packets at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering providing mineral water to passengers at railway stations at subsidized rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Action has been initiated to increase easy availability of Janata Meals in trains and on platforms. The agency and modalities are under review.

(c) and (d) Potable water is available at Railway stations. Measures to further improve the quality of drinking water are underway.

Quality and quantity of food served in trains

256. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of complaints about quality and quantity of food served in the trains and the behaviour of catering staff;

(b) whether the mechanism provided to passengers for ready redressal of their grievances in the journey is inadequate; and

(c) what steps have been taken to improve grievance redressal system and to improve the quality of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Catering Policy of the Indian Railways is under review.

Income and expenditure of railway zones

†257. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any link between the incomes earned by the railway zones and the expenditures incurred thereon; and

(b) the details of the income earned by each zone and the expenditure incurred thereon under Tenth Five Year Plan?

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

(b) The zone wise Gross Earning and total Working Expenses during the Tenth five year plan are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Zone	Gross Earnings	Total Working Expenses
1	2	3
Central	26658.34	21719.74
Eastern	13125.35	18659.80
East Central	13404.56	11987.74
East Coast	14675.37	8541.72

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
Northern	30386.21	26752.06
North Central	16695.57	10747.77
North Eastern	5719.46	8470.46
Northeast Frontier	6358.34	9205.34
North Western	6780.60	6552.85
Southern	14095.38	16259.70
South Central	22511.67	18274.62
South Eastern	21912.31	15522.95
South East Central	13779.36	7294.32
South Western	6283.84	5141.83
Western	23226.82	19869.49
West Central	11949.93	9301.45
Metro	240.09	585.06

Shortage of wagons

258. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of wagons in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether shortage of wagons has hit cement distribution; and
- (d) if so, the action taken to increase the production of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Cement loading on Indian Railways has grown by 8.9 percent in the current financial year (up to May'09) over corresponding period of last year.

Building of world class railway stations

259. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to build world class railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The Details are being worked out and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending proposals of Andhra Pradesh

260. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh pending with her Ministry as on date for clearance along with the complete details of each such proposal;

(b) the reasons for delay, if any, in giving clearance to these proposals; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per the available records, the proposals with their current status, received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the proposal	Current Status
1	2	3
1.	Manuguru-Ramagundam New Line (190Km)	Survey completed.
2.	Marakpur Road-Srisaillam New Line (65Km)	Survey taken up.
3.	Cuddapah-Bangalore New Line (225Km)	Project has been taken up for execution. 50% cost of the project is being shared by Andhra Pradesh Government. Work of final location survey commenced.
4.	Bhadrachalam Road-Kovvur New Line (151Km)	Survey completed.
5.	Bhadrachalam Road-Bhavanapalem New Line (36Km)	Survey completed.
6.	Nadikudi-Srikalahasti New Line (307Km)	Survey completed.
7.	Akkanapet-Medak-Manoharabad New line	Updation of earlier survey completed.
8.	Akkanapet-Medak-Patancheru New Line	Patancheru-Akkanapet survey was carried in 1998-99 and project was shelved due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
9.	Pandurangapuram-Sarapaka New Line	The survey for this line from Pandurangapuram to Muthyalampeta

1	2	3
		(Sarapaka) was conducted earlier in 2002-03 and was not considered due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
10.	Jadcherla — Nandyal New Line (182Km)	This proposal was not considered due to unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
11.	Armoor Adilabad New Line	Survey completed and project was not taken up.
12.	Dharmavaram-Pakala gauge conversion	Out of 227 km., 82 km. completed. Balance targeted for 2009-10
13.	Vijayawada-Gudivada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/Narsapur-Nidadavolu Doubling and Electrification (175Km)	Survey completed.
14.	Bibinagar-Nadikudi/Macherla-Nallapadu (Guntur) Doubling and Electrification	Survey completed and project shelved.
15.	Guntur-Tenali-Repalle (27Km)	Survey not taken up.
16.	Gadwal-Macherla (233Km)	Survey taken up.

MULTI MODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM (MMTS)

1.	Secunderabad-Manoharabad Doubling and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction
2.	Falaknuma-Umdanagar Doubling and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.
3.	Secunderabad-Bhongir 3rd line and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction

Fraud cases against railway officers

261. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 8,500 railway officers have reportedly been booked for fraud by the Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, in how many cases Government has ordered departmental enquiry against such officers for their alleged involvement in various fraudulent practices;
- (c) what are the details/outcome thereof, zone-wise; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) In the year 2008, 280 Gazetted officers were booked in Vigilance cases.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Fraud cases against Railway Officers

S.No.	Zonal Railway	Details/outcome/action taken by Government
1	2	3
1.	Central	Out of the 17 cases, 05 cases have been remitted for departmental inquiry and in another 05 cases Minor penalty has been imposed. The remaining 07 cases are under different stages of DAR proceedings.
2.	Eastern	Out of 08 cases, 03 cases have been remitted for departmental inquiry and in remaining 05 cases Minor penalty has been imposed.
3.	East Central	Out of 16 cases, the departmental inquiry has been completed in 04 cases, which have been sent for 2nd stage advice of CVC. In another 07 cases, the departmental inquiry is in progress. The remaining 05 cases, are under various stages of DAR proceedings.
4.	East Coast	NIL
5.	Northern	Out of 18 cases, in 07 cases minor penalty have been imposed. In 01 case, administrative action has been recommended. 02 cases are being processed for minor penalty action. In 01 case, recorded warning has been issued. In another 01 case, the officer has been counseled. The remaining 06 cases are under various stages of DAR proceedings.
6.	North Central	In all the 03 cases, departmental inquiry is in progress.
7.	North Eastern	Out of the 20 cases, 04 officers have been taken up under major penalty proceedings and the remaining 16 officers have been taken under minor penalty action.
8.	Northeast Frontier	Major penalty charge-sheet has been issued in the 02 cases obtaining in the Zonal Railway and the departmental inquiry is in progress in both the cases.

1	2	3
9.	North Western	Out of 31 cases, 16 officers have been taken up under major penalty proceedings and the remaining 15 officers have been taken up under minor penalty proceedings.
10.	Southern	Out of 46 cases, 14 officers have been taken up under major penalty action, 08 officers have been taken up under minor penalty action, 11 officers have been issued recorded warning, 07 officers have been counseled and in the remaining 06 cases, no disciplinary action has been initiated.
11.	South Central	Out of the 23 cases, departmental inquiry has been ordered in 02 cases, 02 cases have been transferred to other Zonal Railways, in another 02 cases, no action was recommended by CVC and the remaining 17 cases are under various stages of disciplinary proceedings.
12.	South Eastern	Out of the 09 cases, departmental inquiry has been initiated in 06 cases and the remaining 03 cases are under various stages of disciplinary proceedings.
13.	South East Central	Out of the 08 cases, departmental inquiry is in progress in 07 cases and in remaining 01 case the defense reply of the delinquent officer is yet to be received.
14.	South Western	In all the 04 cases, the departmental proceedings are in progress.
15.	Western	Out of the 27 cases, administrative action has been taken in 04 cases and another 02 cases are under CBI investigation. 20 cases are being investigated by Vigilance and in the remaining 01 case major penalty charge-sheet is under issue.
16.	West Central	Out of the 17 cases, departmental inquiry has been ordered in 02 cases. In another 02 cases departmental inquiry is in progress. In 06 cases minor penalty have been imposed or administrative action has been taken and the remaining 07 cases are under various stages of disciplinary proceedings.
17.	Chittaranjan - Locomotive Works	NIL
18.	Diesel Locomotive Works	NIL

1	2	3
19.	Diesel Locomotive Modernisation Works	Out of 03 cases, major penalty charge-sheet has been issued to 01 officer on the recommendation of CBI and in the remaining 02 cases, imposition of major penalty has been recommended by the DA.
20.	Integral Coach Factory	All the 09 cases are under various stages of disciplinary proceedings.
21.	Rail Coach Factory	Out of the 06 cases, 02 officers have been issued major penalty charge-sheets and in the remaining 04 cases, 01 officer has been taken up under minor penalty DAR action and the remaining 03 officers have been issued recorded warning.
22.	Rail Wheel Factory	NIL
23.	Central Organisation for Railway Electrification	Out of the 03 cases, major penalty charge-sheet has been issued in 01 case, and 01 case has been sent to the DA recommending major penalty proceeding against 02 officers and the remaining 01 case is under disciplinary proceedings.
24.	Metro Rail	NIL
25.	Research Development and Standards Organisation	All the 10 cases are under various stages of disciplinary proceedings.

Safety of rail tracks in coal belt areas

262. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to raging of underground fire for the last 100 years in the coal belt areas of Dhanbad, Jharia, Asansol, Raniganj, etc. leading to instability of the ground, Railways have taken adequate safeguards for the rail tracks for running of train services in these areas;

(b) whether regular monitoring is being done so that sudden eventuality of unforeseen caving of land and thereby accidents could be eliminated; and

(c) whether the technology being adopted for the monitoring is in accordance with advancement in such techniques being developed globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Regular monitoring is done by the colliery authorities (under Ministry of Coal). Railways have liaison with colliery authorities for regular monitoring of spread of underground fire and taking measures for safeguarding railway tracks, as required.

(c) Monitoring is done by the colliery authorities. Railways have adequate liaison with them for the safety of railway tracks. As such monitoring technology is not used by the Railways directly for the purpose.

Tatkal scheme

263. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for issuing waitlisted tickets under tatkal scheme;
- (b) whether such a situation adversely affects the normal waitlisted ticketholders;
- (c) the percentage of berths reserved for tatkal scheme in trains, class-wise;
- (d) the measures taken to ensure that more than 10 per cent of total tickets in a train would not be kept under tatkal scheme; and
- (e) the reasons for not discontinuing the tatkal waitlisted tickets when there is no question of a revenue loss as tatkal tickets are non refundable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The matter is under examination.

Quality of food in trains and at stations

264. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quality of food served in trains and railway stations has been deteriorating day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years, zone-wise;
- (c) the action taken by Government on such complaints and the measures being taken to check the quality of food served in trains/stations;
- (d) whether any surprise checks are being conducted by a monitoring authority to check the quality of food items; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the quality of food served in trains/stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) In view of the complaints received regarding quality of food served in trains and Railway Stations, the Catering Policy is under review.

Passenger amenities at stations in Orissa

265. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of upgraded railway stations of Orissa;
- (b) whether it is a fact that required passenger amenities and other facilities have not been given in all these stations; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Upgradation of railway stations is a continuous process. Out of 258 railway stations situated in the State of Orissa, there are 40 upgraded stations.

(b) Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have already been provided at all railway stations in the State of Orissa.

(c) Does not arise.

Meeting of Advisory Committees

266. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Railways Advisory Committees, Divisional Railway Advisory Committees and Railways Users Committees at railway station level are not meeting regularly; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) All efforts are made to hold the meetings of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and Station Consultative Committees (SCCs) as per schedule. Due to various reasons such as delay in receipt of nomination from various organizations, administrative constraints and exigencies, sometimes, meetings are not held as per schedule.

Network of touts in Railways

267. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after computerisation there is a large network of touts operating in various major cities of the country;

(b) whether any such activities have come to the notice of her Ministry;

(c) what are the steps taken or are being taken to crack down on these touts;

(d) whether any arrest has been made in the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the course of internal checks, some cases have come to notice.

(c) Regular checks are conducted in and around the railway reservation offices to curb the activities of touts and other anti-social elements. Surveillance at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. Travelling public is educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized people. A number of steps as introduction of new/special trains, augmentation of carrying capacity/extension of existing trains have also been undertaken to increase availability

of berths in trains; and provide reservation at the door step of the passengers by proliferation of e-ticketing facility.

(d) and (e) During the last year *i.e.* 2008-09 and during the current year 2009-10 (upto May, 09), 2521 and 298 touts were apprehended and prosecuted.

Stoppages of trains

268. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobs set ablaze bogies of two trains near Patna on 1st June, 2009 in protest against withdrawal of stoppage of several trains;

(b) if so, whether several express and superfast trains are making their stoppage at railway stations which have been found to be commercially unviable;

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

(d) whether Government proposes to review its decision to have halts at various stations and to ensure the safety of trains and passengers?

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

(b) to (d) Commercial viability is not the only factor for provision of stoppages. Sanction of stoppage also depends on other factors like availability of alternate services, geography of the area, operational requirements, significance of the place etc. Review of stoppages is an ongoing process and action as found feasible and justified is taken. As regard safety of trains and passengers, RPF staff are deployed to escort important mail/express/passenger trains and also deployed at important Railway stations in coordination with the Government Railway Police.

Licences for in-train catering

269. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for giving license for in-train catering and vending;

(b) whether the Railway Board or Zonal Railways or the IRCTC do the tendering;

(c) how is the area of operation for a licensee determined;

(d) the number of such licensee in-trains caterers;

(e) whether it is a fact that competition at the tendering stage creates monopoly in the service; and

(f) what steps have been taken to enhance competition in in-train catering and vending for the benefit of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (f) Catering Policy of Indian Railways is under review.

Selling of inferior quality cold drink and water at stations

†270. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some vendors have been caught selling cold drinks and water of inferior quality by railway administration at New Delhi railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the sale of adulterated cold drinks and non-branded water of inferior quality is going on in full swing with the collusion of railway staff and officers at various railway stations and the trains in the country; and

(d) if so, the effective steps to be taken by Government to protect the life of common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No such incident has come to notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Random checks are conducted by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to ensure the sale of unapproved and non branded and adulterated cold drinks and packaged drinking water does not take place in Railway Stations and trains. The Food and Health Inspectors of Zonal Railways regularly take samples for verification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA).

Availability of iron ore for steel plants

271. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has established steel plants both in public and private sectors having capability of producing world class steel;

(b) whether sufficient quantity of iron ore is available on long term basis to meet the requirement of indigenous steel plants even after exports;

(c) if so, whether Government has reviewed its policy to export iron ores to put restriction on it for the sake of domestic demand of indigenous steel plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Major integrated steel units in the country, both in public and private sector, have the capability to produce steel, which is consistent with the international quality standards.

(b) The production, export and domestic consumption of iron ore in the country is given below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Production (MT)	Export (MT)	Domestic Consumption (MT)
2004-05	146	78.14	55.348
2005-06	165	89.27	60.892
2006-07	187.7	93.79	68.504
2007-08	206.45	104.27	85
2008-09	227.64	103.95*	Not available

(Source: IBM, MMTC)* Estimated

The present quantity of iron ore availability in the country, after export, is catering to the needs of the domestic steel industry. A study report of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in the year 2006, has found that the useful life of high and medium grade iron ore at average consumption level (average of current and projected consumption levels) is only 19 years.

(c) and (d) While consideration National Mineral Policy, 2008, the Group of Ministers had decided that conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, however, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. Accordingly, export duty at different rates was imposed on iron ore from time to time. At present, the rates of duty on iron ore export is following:-

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| (i) Iron ore fines (all sorts) | — | NIL |
| (ii) Iron ore other than fines (including lumps and pellets) | — | 5% ad-valorem |

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2007 to Starred Question 228 regarding “GDP spending on Health”.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Draft Notification

12.00 Noon

publishing various sections of the Companies Act, 1956, which shall apply to a limited liability partnership, except where the context otherwise requires, with certain modifications.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 15/15/09]

- I. **Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)**
- II. **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India [Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)] and Central Warehousing Corporation**
- III. **Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report for Food Corporation of India.**
- IV. **Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).**
- V. **Reports and Accounts (2007-08, 2003-04 and 2004-05) of various Corporation and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 365 (E) dated the 28th May, 2009, publishing the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 53/15/09]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution) and the Central Warehousing Corporation for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 52/15/09]

- III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2006-2007, within stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 54/15/09]

- IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

- (1) S.O. 1380 (E), dated the 29th May, 2009, notifying new grade of NPK complex of the grade 24:24:0 as provisional fertilizer under clause 20 A of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.

- (2) S.O. 1214 (E), dated the 14th May, 2009, publishing the Fertiliser Control (Second Amendment) Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 15/15/09]

- V. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited (MAIDC), Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 48/15/09]

- (b) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2003-2004, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 49/15/09]

- (c) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited (OAIC), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2004-2005, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (d) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Corporations.

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 47/15/09]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I beg to present the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Petitions on the petition praying for benefits of pay revision and pension to the VRS optees and retirees of IFCI.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on the 2nd July, 2009 allocated time for the Government Business as follows:-

BUSINESS	TIME ALLOTTED
1. General discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2009-10.	— (12 Hours — to be discussed together)
2. Consideration and adoption of the Resolution seeking to constitute a new Railway Convention Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) for determination of 'Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues and other ancillary matters.	
3. General Discussion on the Budget (General) for 2009-10	— (12 Hours — to be discussed together)
4. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills to the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2006-07, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	
5. General Discussion on Jharkhand Budget for 2009-10	— (12 Hours — to be discussed together)
6. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the Demands for Grants (Jharkhand) for 2009-10, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	

**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL OILSEEDS AND
VEGETABLE OILS DEVELOPMENT (NOVOD) BOARD**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I move the following Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983(29 of 1983) read with clause (i) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Rules, 1984, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to be a member of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 6th July, 2009 will consist of:-

General Discussion on Budget (Railways) for 2009-10.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Darjeeling

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Planning Commission, sometime back, had sanctioned a scheme for lifting water from the Balasan River to meet the long-time drinking water requirement of the hill district of Darjeeling. The project commenced in July 2007, but it has not seen the light of the day and is causing huge distress to the large hill population. Water scarcity is having adverse impact on the health and social well being of the people there. Water scarcity in the hill district of Darjeeling is very acute and deserves an early intervention by the Union Government. This speaks loud on the development which has taken place in North Bengal so much so that this has resulted in implications of raising a separate State for which the people of Gorkha Land have been struggling. They have been agitating for more than three decades now. The aspirations of the people which basically stem from development issues for the plains; the neglect of the Queen of Hills with poor infrastructure, lack of education facilities and neglect of tea gardens coupled with growing discontent in the Doars region and the plains of the hill district is a matter of concern. Recently, when there was Cyclone Aila, 32 people got killed in the landslides, and there was absolutely no infrastructural plan or disaster management plan. As a result, the state of affairs in the region is such that the large hill destination is growing into a slum area. There has been a consistent neglect of the entire region of North Bengal which has created this situation, and this is creating great unrest in that part of the country. Sir, it is a matter which deserves the attention of the House because as we are saying, there is chicken-hack kind of a situation in the State. The State borders three nations; it is a gateway to Bhutan. Being an international border, there are a lot of ramifications and a lot of implications on what is happening in that particular region of North Bengal. And the unrest in that region, which takes place again and again, has created a situation where it is becoming dangerous for the country. Moreover, with a large influx of Bangladeshis in that region, the situation has changed the demographic profile of that area. So, we will request the Union Government to look into the aspects as far as the issue of Ghorkhaland and the issue of the Nepali-lineage Indian citizens are concerned. These are issues which need to be addressed by the Government.

Need to open a Sub Centre of the New mechanism to check

Naxlite violence in Chhattisgarh

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): धन्यवाद उपसभापति जी। मैं छत्तीसगढ़ में नक्सली समस्या के संबंध में कुछ बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। 25 फरवरी को माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने यह बात कही थी कि छत्तीसगढ़ में

उसके आस-पास के राज्यों से बहुत बड़ी संख्या में नक्सली प्रवेश करते हैं और एक प्रकार से छत्तीसगढ़ has virtually become a breeding ground for the Naxalite movement. हमने यह मांग की थी कि आप अनेक स्थानों पर खुफिया तंत्र के केन्द्र खोलने जा रहे हैं और माननीय गृह मंत्री जी देश में वह कर भी रहे हैं। मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि छत्तीसगढ़ में खुफिया तंत्र का एक केन्द्र कब तक स्थापित होगा?

महोदय, दूसरी बात यह है कि यहाँ आस-पास के सारे प्रांतों से नक्सली हार्ड कोर आते हैं, उन्होंने भी यह माना है। मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ और यह गुजारिश करता हूँ कि आस-पास के सारे राज्यों से जो नक्सली छत्तीसगढ़ में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, उन पर रोक लगाई जानी चाहिए। केन्द्र सरकार उन सारे राज्यों से बात करे। आस-पास के जंगलों में से वे सब वहाँ प्रवेश करते हैं। इस प्रकार छत्तीसगढ़ में एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या निर्मित हो गई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से, विशेषकर गृह मंत्रालय से यह मांग करता हूँ कि छत्तीसगढ़ में जिस केन्द्र को खोलने की घोषणा उन्होंने की है, वह शीघ्रातिशीघ्र करें और वहाँ खुफिया तंत्र का विकास करें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि वहाँ अन्य राज्यों से बहुत बड़ी संख्या में नक्सली प्रवेश कर रहे हैं। मीडिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार हार्ड कोर लोग वहाँ प्रवेश कर रहे हैं। उस पर सरकार अविलम्ब रोक लगाये ताकि वहाँ पर शांति स्थापित हो और विकास कार्य आसानी से किया जा सके। धन्यवाद।

Judgement of the Delhi High Court on Section 377 of the IPC

प्रो० राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमान्, एक ऐसे मुद्दे को उठाने की आपने अनुमति दी है, जिसको उठाने में भी मैं लज्जा महसूस कर रहा हूँ। कल दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने जो फैसला दिया है-आई.पी.सी. और सी.आर.पी.सी. की धारा 377 के खिलाफ, इस धारा को अवैध घोषित करते हुए कि यह अनुच्छेद 14, 15 और 21 के खिलाफ है। यह फैसला भारतीय संस्कृति, सभ्यता और शिष्टाचार के खिलाफ है। हमारी जो स्थापित परम्पराएँ हैं, वे सब छिन्न-भिन्न हो जाएँगी। इसके अलावा भी जो बहुत सारे कानून हैं- यहाँ पर बहुत सारे विद्वान बैठे हुए हैं। श्री कपिल सिब्बल साहब हैं, हमारे लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन भी हैं, सब जानते हैं कि कई कानून हैं, उत्तराधिकार के नियम हैं, मैरिज एक्ट है और जाने क्या-क्या हैं, वे सब प्रभावित होंगे। इन तमाम कानूनी पेचीदगियों के अलावा हम सब जानते हैं कि भगवान कृष्ण ने गीता में जिन वर्ण संकरों की बात की थी, वे वर्ण संकर भी इसी तरीके से पैदा होंगे जो सारे सिस्टम को नष्ट कर देंगे। इसमें एक और संकट है और वह यह है कि हमारे यहां जो वृद्ध लोग हैं, मां-बाप हैं, उनमें से 95 प्रतिशत केसेज में बच्चे अपने मां-बाप की सेवा करते हैं, उनकी देखभाल करते हैं। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से उनके लिए कोई संरक्षण नहीं है, उनकी वृद्धावस्था के लिए किसी तरह की कोई गारंटी नहीं है। इस निर्णय के बाद, यदि आपने इसके खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील नहीं की, इस निर्णय को नहीं बदलवाया तो ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो जाएगी कि इस देश के वृद्ध लोगों का जीवन काटना मुश्किल हो जाएगा। कल से मैं पढ़ रहा हूँ कि इसके कारण कई तरह की बीमारियां पैदा होनी शुरू हो जाएंगी जिनका इलाज तक संभव नहीं हो सकेगा। अभी हमारे मित्र श्री अहलुवालिया जी बता रहे थे कि टी.वी. पर आ रहा था कि “Jai Ho” में “Jai” की जगह “Gay” कर दिया गया है। आखिर ये देश को कहां ले जाने वाले हैं? लोगों ने टेलीविजन चैनल देखना बंद कर दिया है। जिस तरह के लोग इस जजमेंट के पक्ष में विचार दे रहे हैं, उनकी चाल-ढाल, उनके हाव-भाव, उनके चेहरे-मोहरे देखकर लोगों ने टी.वी. देखना बंद कर दिया है। ये कौन लोग हैं, हम किस आधुनिकता में रह रहे हैं? वैसे तो यह कोर्ट का फैसला है, इस फैसले पर मैं नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन सिब्बल साहब, मैं इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप यह जरूर देख

लिया कीजिए कि अति आधुनिक किस्म के लोग अगर हमारी सारी संस्कृति और सभ्यता को तोड़ने के लिए फैसले देने लगेंगे तो हमारी संस्कृति का क्या होगा? इसलिए इनके बैकग्राउंड को देखकर ही इनका appointment किया कीजिए। मेरी आपसे अपील है कि गवर्नमेंट इस फैसले के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील करे, वहां जाए और इस जजमेंट को रिपील कराने की कोशिश करे। धन्यवाद।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, all men are animals in biology but now it is worse than animals; even animals won't do it.

Flood situation in Assam

KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House and the Government to the sufferings of more than two lakhs of people of Dhakuakhana as well as of Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur due to floods. Sir, this flood has occurred due to a breach in the Matmora Dyke which has been under construction. A Malaysian company, FASKAMORE, engaged in the construction of Matmora Dyke, which is the lifeline of the people of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji, has not been executing the project properly. The half-done dyke was washed away by the mighty Brahmaputra river on 30th June, 2009. It is learnt that the D.C., Lakhimpur is going to file an F.I.R. against the company for this type of criminal negligence towards a very important project.

This is a project of about Rs.142 crores for only 6 km. of embankment. The per kilometre cost of the dyke or embankment is Rs.24 crores approximately. The materials used, for the first time in India, is the geo-textile tube. The efficiency of the material *i.e.* the geotextile tube, used in this project is yet to be established in the Brahmaputra river system. It is felt that the Government of India and the Government of Assam, with the help of some technical persons, are playing with the lives of the poor people of the two districts where hundreds of villagers are now on their rooftops due to large scale inundation from the Brahmaputra river due to the failure of the dyke.

My submission before the hon. House is that the Government of India should immediately constitute an expert committee to visit the site and establish the fact of such large scale devastation and it should also establish the efficiency of the material used in such a project. It should be done immediately as the flood season is on. It is a matter of great concern that more than two lakh people of Dhakuakhana as well as of Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur district have

been affected by this devastating flood which has occurred due to a breach in the Matmora dyke. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to come forward with a special package of assistance to the people of the State of Assam and to provide all possible help to the flood-hit people for their rehabilitation and for the protection of their properties as well as the livestock. The Government should also institute a high level inquiry into the process of sanction and the approval of the construction of the Matmora dyke with the geo-textile tube.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

**Derogatory remarks made against Mahatma Gandhi by Chief Minister of
Uttar Pradesh**

श्री वृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश की मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी के विरुद्ध अभद्र एवं अपमानजनक टिप्पणी की गई है, जो देश भर के समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है और सभी समाचार चैनलों पर भी दिखाया गया है। जिसके कारण देश के करोड़ों लोगों की भावना आहत हुई है। महात्मा गांधी को राष्ट्रपिता माना गया है और वे राष्ट्रीय एकता, सत्य, अहिंसा, सार्वजनिक जीवन में शुचिता और अपरिग्रह के प्रतीक रहे हैं। उनका अपमान राष्ट्र का अपमान है। यह अति दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि सभी सांप्रदायिक, जातिवादी, विघटनकारी तथा भ्रष्टाचारी शक्तियां लगातार गांधी को छोटा और अपमानित करने में लगी हैं। यह वृत्ति बहुत ही घातक है और इसे रोकना जरूरी है। इसलिए मैं सदन से यह अपील करूंगा कि उनकी निंदा करे और इस प्रकार की प्रवृत्ति को रोकने की तरफ कदम उठाए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

High sugar prices and shortage of sugar in the country

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problem of heavy shortage of sugar and high prices of sugar prevailing in the country. Sir, as far as sugar production is concerned, it is a matter of great concern to the people of India as the production of sugar is going down sharply. It is a known fact that sugar is a very important commodity for everyone. It is important for us to know as to how the production of sugar is going down year after year. In the year 2007-08, the total production of sugar was about 28 million tonnes. In the year 2008-09, the production of sugar had fallen down to 16 million tonnes. It shows that in one year the production of sugar had gone down almost by 50

per cent. In the current year *i.e.* 2009-10, with weak monsoon and other related factors, the production of sugar is expected to go down sharply. So, we are very much concerned about the rising prices of sugar and shortage of sugar in the country. Of course, we have seen the newspaper reports that in order to tide over shortage of sugar and curb the rising prices of sugar, the Government is planning to import sugar. The Union Cabinet has already taken a decision to import two million tonnes of sugar. The world prices of sugar are also very high. Even after importing sugar, the prices of sugar are not going to come down. Then, what is the alternative before the Government? We must know as to why this problem has arisen. The main reason for shortage of sugar is this. In the last one-and-a-half years, the farmers who were producing sugarcane have diverted to various other crops like wheat in Uttar Pradesh. In the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, the sugarcane farmers have diverted to paddy and other crops. The other reasons for shortage of sugar are like shortage of labour, shortage of fertilizer and lack of coordination between sugar factory owners and sugarcane growers. Then, how can this problem be solved? The first and the foremost step in this direction would be that we must increase production of sugarcane in States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. How should we do it? The Government should take such steps which would encourage farmers to produce more sugarcane. No doubt, recently, the Cabinet has increased the prices of sugarcane to some extent. But, this mere increase in the prices of sugarcane is not sufficient. First of all, we must solve the problems of sugarcane farmers and try to find out as to why they have diverted to other crops and why not they again come back to sugarcane production. We must know about the problems being faced by them. They are facing the problem of shortage of fertilisers. The Government should import these things without any duty. We should introduce harvesting mechanism and also import harvesting equipment which will assure the farmers that in case of shortage of labour they would be able to produce sugarcane with the new harvesting equipment. So, various new methods should be introduced in this area. Sir, a lot of sugar factories have been closed down in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra because there is not enough production of sugarcane in these States. As a result, there is shortage of sugar in the country. We should ensure that these factories are not closed down at any cost. If the sugar factories are closed down due to lack of sugarcane production, then, we will have shortage of sugar in the country and the prices of sugar will be very high.

Therefore, the Government should concentrate and come out with...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The mike went off, please sit down.

Poor condition of government hospitals in Uttar Pradesh

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, उत्तर प्रदेश में सरकारी अस्पतालों में जिस तरीके से मरीजों की हालत पैदा हो गई है, या तो दवा और चिकित्सक के अभाव में वे दम तोड़ रहे हैं या वे अस्पताल से भागकर बाहर जा रहे हैं। वहां जूनियर डॉक्टर्स की तरफ से हड़ताल की गई है और हड़ताल इसलिए की गई है

कि छठे वेतन आयोग की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर जो वेतन उनको प्राप्त होना चाहिए था, वह उनको नहीं प्राप्त हो रहा है। एक तरफ तो लखनऊ चिकित्सा विश्वविद्यालय में वहां के डॉक्टर्स को वह वेतन दिया जा रहा है, लेकिन बाकी के मेडिकल कॉलेज चाहे गोरखपुर मेडिकल कॉलेज हो, चाहे आगरा मेडिकल कॉलेज हो, चाहे कानपुर मेडिकल कॉलेज हो, वहां के डॉक्टर्स को नया वेतन नहीं दिया जा रहा है, जिसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि वहां के सभी डॉक्टर्स ने हड़ताल पर जाने का फैसला किया और हड़ताल पर चले गए हैं। मरीज़ भाग रहे हैं, कुछ मरीज़ मर गए हैं। इमरजेंसी में गए, दवा नहीं हुई। चाहे कानपुर के मेडिकल कॉलेज में गए, उनकी मृत्यु हो गई, गोरखपुर मेडिकल कॉलेज में तीन लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। इमरजेंसी में गए, उनको कोई देखने वाला नहीं रहा, संत कबीरनगर अस्पताल में गए, कोई देखने वाला नहीं रहा, वहां उनकी मृत्यु हो गई। इसी प्रकार आगरा में ...तो एक-एक अस्पताल के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करने पर यह पता चला है कि वहां जो मरीज़ जा रहा है, कोई उसको देखने वाला नहीं है। हालत बद से बदतर होती जा रही है और वहां के शासन के कान पर कोई जूं नहीं रेंग रही है। संवेदनशून्यता इतनी अधिक बढ़ गई है कि आम मरीज़ यह अनुभव करने लगा है कि हम कहां जाएं? गरीब मरीज़ चिकित्सा न प्राप्त होने के कारण त्रस्त हो रहा है और जब बाहर आ रहा है, घर पर भी, तो ठीक से दवा न मिल पाने के कारण उसकी दुर्दशा हो रही है। तो ऐसी हालत में जबकि हालत बद से बदतर होती जा रही है, केंद्र सरकार को इस ओर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है, हस्तक्षेप करने की आवश्यकता है और राज्य सरकार के द्वारा जो विभेदकारी व्यवहार डॉक्टर्स के प्रति अपनाया जा रहा है, उसको भी समाप्त करने की जरूरत है। लखनऊ चिकित्सा विश्वविद्यालय के जूनियर डॉक्टर्स को जो वेतन प्राप्त हो रहा है, बाकी के लोगों को भी वह प्राप्त हो, यह व्यवस्था करने की भी जरूरत है और अगर पैसे की कमी है, तो मैं तो आग्रह करूंगा कि अभी यहां के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं कहा कि मोबाइल वैन वगैरह को अभी राज्य सरकार मांग नहीं रही है, इसलिए हम नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। मैं तो कहता हूं कि इसमें बढ़कर हस्तक्षेप करते हुए जो भी कमी हो, उसको पूरा करने का यहां के लोग प्रयत्न करें, तो वह ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। वहां तत्काल जूनियर डॉक्टर्स की हड़ताल समाप्त होनी ही चाहिए, किसी भी तरीके से हस्तक्षेप करके करें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

श्री बलवीर पुंज (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं इससे स्वयं को एसोसिएट करता हूं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं भी अपने आप को इससे एसोसिएट करता हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, सभी एसोसिएट करते हैं।

Plight of Sikh refugees in Pakistan

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा) : चेयरमैन साहब, पिछले सेशन में मैंने यह मसला उठाया था, जो आज मैं दोबारा उठा रहा हूं। श्री अहलुवालिया और श्री करीमपुरी, दोनों ने मेरे साथ खड़े होकर आवाज़ उठाई थी, मगर आज बड़े दुख के साथ मैं दोबारा यह कह रहा हूं कि कल मैंने पार्लियामेंट में इसी issue पर एक unstarred question पूछा था और जो जवाब मुझे Ministry of External Affairs से मिला है, उसको पढ़कर ऐसा लगता है कि हमारी जो Ministry of External Affairs है, उसका attitude towards Sikh refugees क्या है ! पाकिस्तान में पहले जज़िया उन सिख लोगों से लिया गया और जब जज़िए की खबर आई, तो करीब दो-तीन हजार लोगों को दो करोड़ रुपए जज़िया देना पड़ा और उसके बाद उनके घर जला दिए गए और वे जाकर पंजा साहब गुरुद्वारे में रहे। जब Ministry of External Affairs से मैंने यह सवाल पूछा, तो जवाब यह मिला है कि हमने अखबारों में पढ़ा है कि दो हजार सिख वहां से निकाले गए और गुरुद्वारे में रह रहे हैं। मैंने पूछा कि क्या भारत सरकार का खुद कोई अफसर या MEA का कोई कर्मचारी वहां गया? तो जवाब मिला -

नहीं, it means कि भारत सरकार रिफ्यूजियों के लिए, जिनके घर जलाए गए, जिनसे जज़िया लिया गया, यह मिनिस्ट्री उनके पास जाने के लिए भी तैयार नहीं है। फिर मेरा क्वेश्चन था - Whether any aid has been sent by the Government of India? जवाब मिला - No. आज अभी इस हाउस में मंत्री जी बैठे हैं, माननीय लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन बैठे हैं, तो मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ....हम मानते हैं कि पाकिस्तान में independent government है, sovereign government, तो क्या ऐसे मसले जो कि humanitarian हों..... जज़िया एक ऐसी गंदी बात है कि अगर कोई गैर मुस्लिम वहां रहे तो वह टैक्स पे करे। यह आज से दो-तीन सौ साल पहले भारत में था। क्या आज यह जज़िया allowed है? मैं आपके माध्यम से विनती करना चाहता हूँ कि या तो सरकार पार्लियामेंट के मुस्लिम मੈम्बर्स वहां भेजे जो वहां जाकर इस मसले को देखें। कम से कम वहां गरीबों से जज़िया वापस कराया जाए, उनकी rehabilitation करायी जाए। ये लोग गुरुद्वारे में रह रहे हैं। दो हजार लोग पंजा साहब में और एक हजार लोग पेशावर में गुरुद्वारे में रह रहे हैं। क्या एम.ई.ए. की इस संबंध में कोई ड्यूटी है? अभी तक कोई ऑफिशियल दिल्ली से वहां पर नहीं गया। मैं मानता हूँ कि श्रीलंका में बहुत कुछ हुआ, बहुत से मिनिस्टर्स वहां पर गए। क्या वहां पर कोई वोट बैंक की पॉलिसी थी? वह भी genuine था। लेकिन पाकिस्तान में सिखों के साथ कुछ अन्याय होता है तो हम उसे भूल जाते हैं। आज मैं आपके माध्यम से सारे हाउस के सामने कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह बहुत pathetic केस है, हमारे लोग तीन महीने से गुरुद्वारे में बैठे हैं, दो करोड़ रुपये जज़िया दे चुके हैं, उन्हें घरों में वापस नहीं भेजा जा रहा है और गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया उनको सुनने के लिए, कोई sympathy का word देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है, यही मेरी आपसे अर्ज है।

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Orissa): Sir, it is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government of India has not done anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): In the matter of Jajia the Government has not done anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...The Government owes an explanation to the country, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Chair should give a direction to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot ask the Government to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*... Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Santosh Bagrodia. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : केवल असोसिएट करिए।..*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Government should respond....*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : सरकार सुन रही है, आप बोल रहे हैं। यह ज़ीरो ऑवर है, मैंने कल बता दिया था।। cannot ask the Government to respond.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : यह बहुत ही गंभीर विषय है, गवर्नमेंट का रिस्पांस आना चाहिए।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : सर, हम माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करते हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Special Mentions. Shrimati Brinda Karat. Not present. Shri Santosh Bagrodiaji. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just lay it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Why should it be laid only, Sir? It is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want to read it, you can do so at five o' clock. If you want to lay it, you can do it right now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): What you say is right but I request you that this practice should be as much as possible be used only...*(Interruptions)*... It has become a rule. So, let us not make it a rule. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a rule.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I am talking only about future; today it is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I lay my Special Mention on the Table of the House.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, subject matter of my Special Mention is very important, so I must speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You just lay it. Otherwise, you can do so after five o' clock. I do not mind it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over racism against Indians abroad

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to commend the attention of this House to recent incidents of racist violence against Indian students and professionals in different countries. Even as the Government has taken up the issue with the Australian Government, and despite the concerns shared by them, the attacks have continued. The Australian authorities continue to live in denial, unable to see a definite racist pattern, they consider such attacks as part of urban life. The advisories that have appeared in media in the wake of racist incidents suggest that Indians attracted such attacks due to their inability to assimilate in local community. One wonders if suggestions are being made for forced assimilation by subsuming cultural identities. Some have suggested recession in local economy as the cause behind racial attacks. Therefore, these incidents must also warn us of the limitations of current free trade regime that champions only the free movement of goods and capital without addressing the issue of free movement of professionals and students who carry their ideas, skills and cultures along. Any dislocation in economy exposes the violent divisions among the communities. Essentially, our Government has the responsibility to safeguard the interests of our citizens. Lack of career prospects has compelled our students to move abroad. The pending proposal to allow foreign universities to open their campuses in India will give our students an access to quality higher education at comparatively affordable price without exposing them to racial hostility. I support this policy and ask the Government to expedite the action.

Demand to settle grievances of contract labourers in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation which was established in 1954 and which is one of the profitable PSUs, having three mines, three thermal

power stations under its control, generates 2490 MW power. Out of 31,000 employees, 13,000 are contract labourers. The ban on new recruitment and appointments on compassionate grounds have been in force from 1997 and 1999. At present, there are 7,000 vacancies. The contract labourers working from 1972 should have been regularised in a phased manner. The administration did not act accordingly. On 15.06.2008, the then hon. Minister of Coal convened a meeting comprising the administration and the labour unions. An agreement was reached that, firstly, 13,000 contract labourers should be made members in the Industrial Cooperative Society and their services should be regularised within a time span of five years; secondly, until the regularisation process started, equal work-equal wage policy should be adopted on par with regular employees; thirdly, all the Industrial Cooperative Society workers should be regularised; fourthly, the dependents of labourers would be given Rs. 5 lakhs as compensation in the event of sudden death on duty. Even after one year, no action has been initiated for the implementation of these things. On the directive of the General Secretary of the AIADMK and the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the affected labourers affiliated to the Anna Trade Union along with the other trade unions protested against the lethargic attitude of the administration in the form of fasting on 12.06.2009. I appeal to the Government through this House to impress upon the Management to take immediate measures to address the genuine grievances of the contract labourers of NLC.

**Concern over practising Doctors who have not registered with the
Medical Council of India**

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान आम आदमी के जीवन से जुड़े एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अभी हाल में दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने एक डॉक्टर की अग्रिम जमानत को नामंजूर किया है, जो बिना MCI के रजिस्ट्रेशन के दिल्ली के एक निजी अस्पताल में काम कर रहा था। इस डॉक्टर ने यूक्रेन से MBBS की शिक्षा हासिल की थी तथा नियम के अनुसार यूक्रेन से डिग्री प्राप्त करने वाले डॉक्टरों को Medical Council of India की स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा पास करनी पड़ती है। यह डॉक्टर पांच बार MCI की परीक्षा में फेल हुआ था परन्तु फिर भी प्रैक्टिस कर रहा था। इस तरह के बहुत से डाक्टरों के पास MCI के Certificate नहीं हैं और ये निजी अस्पतालों में कार्यरत हैं। परन्तु इसके फलस्वरूप लाखों मरीजों की जान जोखिम में डालते हैं।

यहां पर जितना अपराध इन डॉक्टरों का है उससे अधिक उन अस्पतालों का है, जो इन डॉक्टरों को बिना कागजातों के जांचे अपने यहां रखते हैं और लोगों की जान खतरे में डालते हैं। अतः यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार इस विषय में कोई निगरानी व्यवस्था बनाए, जिससे MCI में अपंजीकृत डॉक्टर प्रैक्टिस न कर सके तथा अगर कोई अस्पताल या Nursing Home बिना MCI Certificate के उन डॉक्टरों को रखता है तो उस पर कड़ी कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

Demand to accord 'Telugu' the status of classical language

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to accord Telugu coveted 'Classical Language' status similar to Sanskrit and Tamil. Andhra Government has pointed out that the most sensitive issue causing

heart-burning to over ten crores Telugus today is agonising delay in officially recognising Telugu a classical language. It has been pointed out that Telugu is the largest spoken language in the country, next only to Hindi. In addition, Telugu ranks among the oldest Dravidian languages. Telugu fully meets criteria mentioned in the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification dated 24.11.2005.

The State Government has pointed out that Telugu language is one of the oldest Dravidian languages. It has more than 1500 year long history. Renowned King Krishna Devaraya who ruled the South in the 15th century characterised Telugu as the best among Indian languages.

Sir, a unanimous Resolution adopted by Andhra Pradesh State Assembly seeking 'classical Language' status to Telugu was submitted to the Government of India.

Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on 9th April, 1981, declared that Telugu is one of the oldest languages and is spoken by a very large number of people.

So, all available records suggest that Telugu antiquity dates back to more than 200 years. Even going by the criteria given in official notification mentioned according Telugu the status of classical language is long over due. The Andhra Pradesh Government has requested several times to expedite the process of granting Telugu the status of classical language earlier. I, therefore, once again request the Government of India to take an early decision in this regard.

**Demand for investigation by a central agency into the alleged bogus
procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh**

श्री मोती लाल वोरा (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ में पिछले वर्ष धान की अच्छी उपज हुई थी और तब मात्र 30 लाख टन की खरीद हुई थी। इस वर्ष जबकि कई जिले सूखे की चपेट में हैं, सरकार द्वारा लगभग 37 लाख टन धान की खरीद किया जाना स्वयं ही संदेह पैदा करता है।

छत्तीसगढ़ में इस बार धान की खरीद में बहुत बड़े स्तर पर अनियमितताएं हैं। फर्जी खरीद का यह आंकड़ा 10 लाख टन से भी अधिक का है। सरकार ने एक एकड़ में औसत 15 क्विंटल धान का उत्पादन तय किया है। धान बेचने वाले किसानों के पास जितनी खेती की जमीन है, उसमें होने वाले उत्पादन से कई गुना अधिक धान उससे खरीदा गया।

प्रदेश में लगभग 1500 सोसायटियों के माध्यम से धान की खरीद हुई है, जिनमें से अधिकांश ने फर्जी खरीद की है। जिन किसानों के पास जमीन नहीं है, उनसे इन सोसायटीज ने सौ क्विंटल और उससे अधिक धान खरीदा है और ऐसी सोसायटीज की संख्या दस हजार से भी ज्यादा होने का अनुमान है। एक किसान से धान खरीदा गया जिसका नाम है - बाजार, पिता का नाम शुक्रवार और किसान नं० एमसी 4500430101008, जो फर्जी है। यह एक उदाहरण है। अनुमान है कि धान की फर्जी खरीद में अरबों रुपये की अनियमितता हुई है।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि पूरे प्रकरण की जांच किसी केन्द्रीय जांच एजेंसी से कराई जाए, ताकि दोषियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की जा सके।

Demand to take effective measures to prevent crimes against children in the country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): The Supreme Court decision to uphold the death sentence for two women, convicted of kidnapping 13 children and murdering nine of them, serves to focus on the enormity of the mafia-led business of begging. Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit operated a juvenile crime racket out of Kolhapur in Maharashtra between 1990 and 1996 using children who had been abducted and pushed into begging and burglary. The two, along with their late mother, murdered the children once they became a little older, out of fear of being reported to the police.

The National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) report on crimes against children also brings out that the severity and extent of crimes against children is not yet in the public eye and that the conviction rate for such crimes must be far higher for the law to be a deterrent. Alarmingly, the NCRB's 2000 data points to Delhi having the dubious record of having the highest number of crimes against children. This is not surprising, given the lawless character of the city that also tops in crimes against the elders and women. Intriguingly, the NCRB's report states at the outset that there exists no official classification of crimes against children. When no comprehensive framework exists to measure the extent of crimes against children, it is not surprising that criminals get away with crimes against helpless and hapless children who are far more vulnerable than adults to violence. Hence, I would urge the Government to take preventive and punitive steps to stem the tide of crimes against children.

Demand to take action against malpractices adopted by China in textile exports by labelling its products as 'Made in India'

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, fake Chinese 'Made in India' textiles exports to Africa, particularly Nigeria through Niger, is fallen on Indian textile exports, which are already reeling under global recession and stiff competition, like bolt from the blue. Fake textiles labelled 'Made in India' are manufactured in China and flooding African markets, particularly Nigeria. It is not only textiles but also fake drugs manufactured in China and branded as 'Made in India' are exported to Africa. This has been unearthed after confiscation of some consignments. This has resulted in drastic reduction in textile exports from India to Africa, particularly Nigeria. Export of readymade garments, cotton, natural silk, woollen, and manmade yarn to Nigeria virtually halved from Rs.224.7 crores in 2006-07 to Rs.119.2 crores in 2007-08 and it has further lowered last year according to unofficial figures. This is nothing but China's nefarious design to spoil India's goodwill in Africa and also to create a negative image of India in Africa. There is no doubt that China has a 25 per cent market share when compared to India's 4 per cent. But, still, people in many African countries like Indian goods because of their quality. China has gained reputation for poor quality goods in Africa. So, to come out this 'reputation', China is resorting to using other manufacturers' tags. Hence, I request the Government of India

to register complaint before the competent authority in Africa and also take up the issue with Chinese counterparts at the Ministerial level and see that fake 'Made in India' textile exports are stopped. Thank you.

Demand to grant a special package for Sikh pilgrims going to Pakistan

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): The Government of India has been very liberal for providing not only facilities but also financial packages for the Muslim pilgrims going for Haj to Saudi Arabia. The Government has also constituted the Haj Board and special Section in the MEA for this purpose. I propose that the Government of India should announce a special package programme for the Sikh Pilgrims for going to Nankana Saheb-Pakistan which is the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Every Sikh makes a prayer that he may get a chance to have *Darshan* of this historic religious place. This special package can be given in the first instance to those pilgrims who are below the poverty line. The Government of India should open a section in the MEA which should invite applications from the pilgrims and make arrangements for issue of Passports, Visas and transport arrangements for them at State cost. The pilgrims, unlike Haj pilgrims will get free boarding and lodging in Sikh Shrines in Pakistan, therefore, the expenses of this scheme will not be much. The visit should include Lahore, Gurudwara Dera Saheb, Gurudwara Panja Saheb and Nankana Saheb. This will be a good gesture by the secular country for the poor people of the Sikh Minority Community. The birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji falls in the month of November. I request that the Government may accept this proposal and start working on this so that large number of aspiring pilgrims could get the benefit from this year.

Concern over unsolicited mobile calls and S.M.S.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, constant mobile phone messages and SMS from certain companies to the mobile subscribers has crossed all the limits of tolerance and that it is time that the Parliament takes serious note of these neo crimes committed almost round-the-clock.

Subscribers take these calls or open these SMS messages lest they should miss any important message relating to their families, business or any untoward incident.

These unscrupulous elements do not even verify whom they are approaching through their mobile calls. In fact, business norms and also sense of decorum, protocol and decency would require that these companies find out as to who is on the other side when they venture into unsolicited communications.

If the President of India or the Prime Minister were to receive mobile phones directly, these companies would have also targeted the VVIPs without any sense of responsibility.

In this situation, it is necessary that police authorities should take *suo motu* cognizance of this menace and book the companies and their directors. The most appropriate punishment that can be meted out to these directors is to provide them with mobiles with only incoming facility and torture them with telephone calls and SMS throughout the night.

It is high time that police should appeal to the public to file FIRs against such companies and that these companies and their directors should be prosecuted under the existing laws.

If need be, at a later date, the Parliament can amend the Indian Penal Code or any other legislation dealing with communications to make such offences punishable more severely.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Need to strengthen the measures to prevent ragging in the institutions of higher learning

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all the Members of the House who have participated in this discussion on a topic which concerns all of us the menace of which troubles us as a nation. I know that several hon. Members have not just given their thoughtful views on the subject but have also suggested some ways of dealing with the menace. I am grateful to all the hon. Members who not only participated but also gave their thoughtful suggestions.

Ragging is not something new; Sir, it is something that has been going on for a long time. In fact, ragging goes back to the 7th Century and 8th Century AD. It started in sports because people used this as a measure of building confidence within the system for collective action. From sports it moved to the Military and when Army people started joining educational institutions, it came into educational institutions. The first death from ragging occurred way back in 1873 when a young student from Cornell University was ragged and he jumped into a gorge and died. It has now become a fashion it has assumed very serious proportions. It is abusive, it is violent, it is degrading, it is demeaning, it has very negative psychological impact and it can destroy not just the career but the life of a young person. Way back in 1999, there was a report pursuant to a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission. Through that Public Interest Litigation a Committee was set up, chaired by Prof. Unni of the Jawahar Lal University. That 1999 Report suggested several measures that ought to be taken to deal with this menace. Then, of course, came the judgment of the Supreme Court which not only defined ragging but suggested that guidelines should be issued in terms of the report submitted by the Committee, chaired by Prof. K.P.S. Unni. Now, also, several States like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka have legislations on the subject. So, we have had several States actually enacting on the subject to deal with the menace. But, Sir, I must compliment the Supreme Court for having taken a very serious view of the matter and setting up the Raghavan Committee on 5th December, 2006 which gave certain suggestions. The matter has been going on ever since. However two things have changed since

the matter was initially taken up in 1999. One, and that is the view of the Government of India that there shall be zero tolerance towards this anti-social activity. The second thing that has changed is that previously what happened within educational institutions was regarded as something that happens in the precincts of institutions, which should not be taken to be criminal activity. In other words, we had a protective attitude towards institutions. Let us persuade, let us make sure that these things do not happen again as if the precincts of a university were outside the law. So, the second thing that has changed is the following: that a university campus, a residential campus, a residential campus outside the university, the playing field, the canteen, residential complexes where young boys and girls live, are now regarded not as precincts which should be protected but as ordinary public places where if an offence under the penal code is committed, it should be prosecuted. These are two things that have changed over the years and the Government of India is totally committed to deal with this menace and to ensure that the lives of young people are not destroyed by this scourge. Sir, several hon. Members had raised several issues I do not want to go into statistics because Bagrodia Saheb mentioned that the incidents of ragging have gone up. Figures from 2003 to 2007 and the figures in 2008 suggest, that, in fact, the numbers have jumped rather drastically. The Raghavan Committee Report itself says that you can't rely on statistics. Maybe the numbers were there even earlier but were not reported, as there was no official mechanism to actually collect those statistics on the basis of which we can act. But several hon. Members talked about having a Central legislation. Some didn't agree. Several Members talked about coercive measures that should be taken against the student community who are perpetrators of ragging, those suggestions were made. Sir, I wish to inform the House that on the 17th of June, 2009 the University Grants Commission issued regulations which have the force of law and in terms of these regulations there are stipulations that have to be followed, not only by students, but, also by parents when they seek admission into an institution. Affidavits have to be filed that they are aware that ragging is a prohibited activity and that, in the event, ragging does take place action can be taken against them. Affidavits have to be filed by students as well as parents. That is now incumbent on all institutions which are controlled by the UGC that those application forms which seek admission will contain forms of affidavits in which this all has to be stated. Not only that, Sir, we have also stipulated in the regulations that, in the event, there is a violation by any perpetrator of ragging, then he will have to be prosecuted like any other ordinary citizen. Apart from that, the institution itself can take very stringent action. Some hon. Members have mentioned that institutions should have the power to rusticate. Sir, every thing is now provided in the regulations itself. Not only that, action can be taken against an institution which does not ensure protection to students who become the objects of ragging. Therefore, we have now tried to take care of everything through the law. As you know regulations under

the UGC have the force of law. But, of course, there are several institutions outside the UGC which will have to be brought within the ambit of law as well. So, we have written to the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Indian Nursing Council, All India Council of Technical Education that they must adopt the regulations that have been formulated by the UGC. I am sure, these regulations will be adopted and all these entities and bodies will formulate similar regulations so that in institutions which are under their control the same kind of regulatory and legal framework will be in existence.

Sir, I just want to mention, for the sake of clarity, the kind of administrative action that is now contemplated and that can be taken by institutions against students or a student who perpetrates ragging. It is: suspension from attending classes and academic privileges, withholding or withdrawing of scholarships, debarring from appearing in any test or examination or evaluation process, withholding results, debarring from representing the institution in any regional or national or international meet, suspension, expulsion from hostel, cancellation of admission, rustication from the institute for a period ranging from one to four semesters, expulsion from institution and consequent debarring from admission. So, these are very strong and stringent measures consistent with the Government's policy of zero tolerance. Again, for the sake of clarity, if an institution, which is affiliated to a university or is recognized by a university, fails to comply with any of the provisions of the regulations, which I have talked about, the concerned university is entitled to take certain actions. I would just stipulate some of those actions. These are: Withdraw affiliation or recognition or other privileges that may have been conferred upon that institution; prohibiting such an institution from presenting any student or students for undergoing any programme of study for the award of any degree or diploma, withhold grants allocated to the institution by the university; withhold any grants channelised through the university to the institution. These are, again, some of the very strong measures that can be taken against an institution that is affiliated to the university and which is subject to the regulatory framework that I have placed before the hon. Members of this House. Not only that, Sir, the University Grants Commission can do other acts as well, for example, withhold the grants that have been allocated to the institution; declare the institution ineligible for consideration of any assistance under the general or a special assistance programme of the Commission. The point that I am trying to make is that this is consistent with our zero-tolerance policy with regard to ragging. We have done also another very special thing, which is again consistent with the directions issued by the hon. Supreme Court from time to time; after 5th December, 2006, there was yet another order of the Supreme Court on 16th May, 2007, and, then, the latest order of 8th May, 2009. So, several directions have been issued and the regulations encapsulate the essence of each of the directions issued by the Supreme Court. So,

now, the regulations are, in fact, in conformity with the directions and the orders of the Supreme Court issued from time to time. We are extremely grateful to the court for having taken upon itself to deal with ragging in such a circumspect manner and to give direction to the country, at large, as to which way the law should move and, therefore, I would like to place on record my appreciation of the Supreme Court for having taken up this matter.

The special thing, which, of course, the Supreme Court has also alluded to, was the fact that we should have a ragging help line. That help line was inaugurated by me on 20th June, 2009. And, what that does is — and this is what we, ultimately, want — that within 15 minutes of any complaint, the institution should be informed so that immediate action must start with respect to investigation of the complaint by the ordinary prosecuting agencies and investigating agencies. In other words, the local police station will be informed about it. And, within the institution, when a student is going to seek admission, then, in that institution, he will have to fill up a form, along with an affidavit, which I mentioned and which will all be on the website. We are creating a separate portal so that all that information from each college to each student will be on that portal. So, all the students will have access to all information admitted anywhere in India. And, within the institution itself we will have an Anti-ragging Squad, which is, now, a part of the regulations. This is not something that is discretionary. This is something that the college must comply with. Each college, each institution will have an Anti-ragging Squad, each institution will have an Anti-ragging Committee, the head of which will be the Principal of that particular institution. And, the constitution of that Committee is also stated in the regulations. I don't want to take the time of this House by talking about that. But that, again, is consistent with the directions issued by the Raghavan Committee, which have, now, been translated into the regulations that I have mentioned. So, you will have anti-ragging squads and anti-ragging committees. There will be anti-ragging committees at the level of the DC; there will be anti-ragging committees at the level of the State Government and also at the level of the University Grants Commission, so that we could monitor all these. For example, suppose a child or a young man or a young girl is subjected to ragging and they file a First Information Report. That does not absolve the institution, under the regulations, from itself filing a First Information Report. If the institution does not do it expeditiously, then action can be taken against the institution for negligence, for not doing which they are obligated to do under the law, pursuant to the regulations. This means that institutions themselves are expected to respond expeditiously to any act of ragging that takes place within that institution by starting the process of law, so that in the event there is a serious complaint which has merit, the person concerned is not only dealt with administratively, as I have mentioned, but can also be dealt with through the Criminal Procedure Code. This is the comprehensive nature of the kind of regulations that we

have set in place. So, ragging helplines that I have talked about would be a helpline which will be responded to — we have done this through the BSNL — in English, Hindi and also in the regional languages, at any point in time. There is a dedicated number. If a young man or woman reports about ragging, helplines will respond to those within 15 minutes. Of course, we have not been able to succeed in this, because we have set it up only on 20th of June. The time lag is a little more at the moment, but we hope to bring that time lag back to 15 minutes. So, when that happens, the institutions are informed, the committees are informed, the committee within the institution is informed, the executive Government is informed. Through the committees outside the institution and parents are also informed. Then, the progress of the investigation of the complaint will be continually informed to the parents concerned. We will inform the parents concerned so that they could know what the status of that complaint is. And till it reaches closure, this information process will continue. I want to just indicate that ever since this helpline has been installed by us — I think, hon. Members of this house will like to hear this — over 15,226 queries have come through these helplines between 16th June and 27th June. I must just indicate to you that most of them were to test the system. Nowadays, with the kind of scepticism for any Government initiative, people like to test the system. So, most of them wanted to test the system whether the helplines work or not. Obviously, it works. The fact of the matter is that of these total complaints, 77 are real complaints, of which 63 have been forwarded to the institutes and the universities. Only three have been closed and the rest are under investigation. So, the point that I am trying to make is that we, in the Government, have acted with speed, with commitment and with the sense prevailing in the House that we need to take action together in this. I am extremely grateful, once again, to hon. Members of this House because they expressed unanimity that this is something that needs to be dealt with expeditiously. I must say that an hon. Member suggested that the Central Government should have a national law, but I dare say, Sir, all the State Governments have these laws but nothing substantial was done and there is no abatement in the incidents of ragging despite the State laws.

The reason for that was that there were no punitive elements in those laws of the kinds that we have already put in place, and, not only that, these laws will remain there on the statute book unless at the level of the institution, a mechanism is put in place to deal with this scourge. It will only happen when the institution deals with it and the obligations then have to be foisted on those institutions. Otherwise, the law will not be effective and efficacious. The problem with the State laws was that the obligations were not *qua* the institutions and there were no mechanisms *qua* the institution. Now, we have filled that gap and each institution will be dealt with in this manner so that no act of ragging goes unnoticed and no act of ragging goes without being dealt with.

Some hon. Members also talked about the fact that this is also happening in schools. Some schools don't report it perhaps; but this scourge is also there in schools. I have already taken steps that the kind of regulations that are in place now, pursuant to the UGC regulations that I have placed, a reference of which I have made before this House, similar kinds of regulations should be enacted within the school system and we will be proceeding in that direction. And as and when those are fully enacted, we shall place them in the public domain so that the hon. Members are satisfied that this Government is not just concerned but extremely proactive about the issue that has been brought to its notice.

Sir, one or two other things and I have done. I just want to mention that when we talk about ragging and we talk about laws and punitive measures, I think that there is an enormous role to be played by parents themselves, by civil society, by NGOs because this is a menace, a societal menace and the society and all stakeholders in society must participate. That is why even under the regulations, we have asked the institutions to here psychiatrists and psychologists. So, when a child enters college, psychiatrists and psychologists must hold meetings with the help of wardens of institutions. So, when they hold meetings, they must explain to our young men and women the impact of ragging so that they are sensitised to the consequences, to the adverse consequences of an act of this nature this will also enable us to know as to what our children's feelings are. So, we would request the NGOs throughout the country to participate in this movement and we would request parents to sensitise their own children who go to senior classes and who may be the perpetrators of ragging to impress upon them the importance and the adverse impact of such an activity on their brothers and sisters. So, they have an extremely important role to play and, I am sure, Sir, that with the kind of enlightened debate that has taken place in this House and the kind of suggestions that have been made, consistent with our taking very strong measures with zero tolerance *qua* ragging, we will be able to deal with this menace in times to come effectively. In the end, I would also like to state that previously our mindset was gloss over this.

It is something that we need to persuade children not to do. I think, that mindset has changed. And ragging, lazing, fagging, — these are all words that have been used over centuries — have been a menace to society and will be put an end to. The other day, I was reading a book by Roald Dahl called 'Boy'. It is only about ragging. There are many interesting stories about ragging, but most of the stories have a very sad end. We wish that education for children is a joy and going to college is an enterprise that is attractive to young men and women, and the fear of being ragged is put an end to. I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I wish to seek just one clarification.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, when will we have any reprieve from the long speeches from Ministers which rag the House at times?!

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Minister, I want to compliment you for..
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The hon. Deputy Chairman gave me half an hour. I completed my speech in 25 minutes!

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I was just asking the hon. Deputy Chairman what the situation would be if the House was ragged by long speeches of Ministers.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: What is the situation if the House is ragged by hon. Members of this House?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall deal with it when it comes to that. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I compliment the hon. Minister...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: We should keep this in mind for future.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Now, he is ragging me! He is not allowing me to speak. ...(Interruptions)... I wish to compliment the hon. Minister for his talk about zero per cent tolerance. This was what was required long before; and now he has said that five or six times. I am sure the intentions are good and it will happen. I just want to have one clarification. We said we wanted a national law. Now, he says that UGC has some regulations. I would like to know whether, based on these regulations, somebody can go to the court. And, has any action whatsoever been taken against any institution after these laws have been made? Then, Sir, the stringent measures that he has mentioned are very flexible. They should be looked into once more because due to that flexibility, the institutes don't take any action. They take simple action. And that is the worst action. Sir, he has talked about schools and I compliment him for that also. The talk of 15,000 employees itself shows how serious the country is about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not clarification.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, he said, 'interesting stories'. I hope, no more stories are created in the country.

SHRI TIRUCHI SHIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not speaking from your place. Okay, I permit you to speak.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, yesterday, while initiating the debate, Shri Bagrodia said that he enjoyed ragging. Now, the hon. Minister talks about 'interesting stories' in the ragging book. Ragging is not interesting and ragging cannot be enjoyed. That should be the essence of the discussion.

1.00 p.m.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: No. His ragging is not enjoyable! ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shiva, you wished to seek a clarification.

SHRI TIRUCHI SHIVA: Sir, just one point. At a time when it is realised that corporal punishment is of no more use at the school level itself, these stringent laws and punitive measures, I think, will not put an end to such heinous crimes arising out of perverted minds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry would contemplate taking initiatives to teach at the primary and secondary school levels itself the moral, cultural and social values of life, for only a vacuum is filled with polluted air, and if those minds are rightly set at the school level itself, they won't be disturbed in future.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman for giving me this opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I would like to respond to Bagrodiaji's queries. First of all, this is delegated legislation and these regulations have the force of law. So, if an institution does not follow the regulations, it can be taken into court. This, of course, would also come before the Parliamentary Committee. Secondly, flexibility in awarding punishment is at the core of democracy and, therefore, the punishment accorded should be in direct proportion to the gravity of the offence. I, therefore, think that flexibility should remain in the regulations. That is my second response. My third response to another hon. Member is that way back there was a Special Rapporteur in the Human Rights, Commission, the Economic and Social Council, which dealt with the issue of ragging and indicated that it is a human rights issue. It is not just an issue which requires punitive action, but it requires education and we have already initiated with our school system through the curriculum framework that this should be part of the teaching on human rights. I compliment the hon. Member for having asked out this question because this is on the lines in which we are thinking and we have already partly acted. We shall take this forward in a big way because it should be part of the curriculum of the school. Last of all, Sir, the stories may be interesting but the ends are very sad. The facts of the stories are interesting, but it does not mean that we support any of those stories. We want to put an end to the sad consequences of such a scourge in this country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki, you can lay your special mention.

SPECIAL MENTIONS — *(Contd)*

Demand to declare work of Safai Karamcharis as technical and provide them the facility of life insurance

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान) : महोदय, भारतीय संविधान निर्माता डॉ० अम्बेडकर द्वारा देश में छुआछात समाप्त करने एवं जातीय समानता के द्वारा सभी जातियों को मुख्य धारा में लाने के लिए अनेक

प्रयास किए गए थे, लेकिन आज आजादी के 62 वर्ष बाद भी देश में स्वच्छकार समाज एक ऐसा समाज है, जो भेदभाव का शिकार है और समाज की सबसे निचली श्रेणी में गिना जाता है। सरकारी नौकरियों में कर्मचारियों के कल्याण हेतु अनेक योजनाएं क्रियान्वित की गई हैं, लेकिन सफाई कर्मचारियों की स्थिति बहुत ही खराब है। सफाई के कार्य को सबसे घृणित कार्य माना जाता है और पूरे देश में बाल्मीकि समुदाय (स्वच्छकार) के लोग ही इस पेशे में लगे हुए हैं। अतः इस कार्य को तकनीकी वर्ग की श्रेणी में रखा जाना चाहिए। इस कार्य को करने के लिए इन लोगों को समुचित सुविधाएं जैसे वर्दी, दस्ताने, मास्क, लम्बे बूट और दवाइयां आदि नहीं दी जाती हैं, जिसके कारण ये लोग अस्थमा, तपेदिक एवं त्वचा की भयंकर बीमारियों की चपेट में आकर अकाल मृत्यु को प्राप्त हो जाते हैं। विशेष रूप से सीवर एवं नालों की सफाई करते समय जहरीली गैस के कारण अक्सर इन कर्मचारियों की मृत्यु हो जाती है, जिसके लिए नगरपालिकाओं, निगमों, ठेकेदारों के द्वारा उनके आश्रितों को उचित मुआवजा नहीं दिया जाता है और न ही उनके लिए जीवन बीमा की कोई अतिरिक्त योजना है। इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा सफाई कर्मचारियों हेतु जीवन बीमा संबंधी विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया था, जो कई वर्षों से संसद में लम्बित पड़ा हुआ है।

अतः सरकार से मेरा अनुरोध है कि सफाई कार्य को तकनीकी श्रेणी में रखने, सेवा के दौरान मरने वाले कर्मचारी के परिवार को कम से कम दस लाख रुपए का मुआवजा देने एवं इनके कल्याण हेतु लम्बित बीमा योजना विधेयक को आगामी संसद सत्र में पारित कराने संबंधी आवश्यक कार्यवाही की जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m. for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at two minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 2009-2010

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 2009-10 in respect of Railways.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3315/09]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Children Social Security Bill, 2008

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for social security to the families living below poverty line in the country whose children upto the age of fourteen years have been prohibited under the law to undertake any kind of employment by extending financial assistance and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Amendment of Article 148)

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 54)

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (insertion of new article 21B)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Employment Bill, 2008

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family and matters connected therewith.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 130)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Hindu Minority and Guardianship (Amendment) Bill, 2008

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Declaration of Assets and Liabilities by Supreme Court, High Court and Subordinate Courts Judges Bill, 2009

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि उच्चतम न्यायालय, उच्च न्यायालय और अधीनस्थ न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों द्वारा एक अभिहित प्राधिकारी के समक्ष आस्तियों और देयताओं की घोषणा करने, आस्तियों और देयताओं की घोषणा की सूचना मांगने का अधिकार केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्रदान करने; और आस्तियों तथा देयताओं की घोषणा नहीं करने अथवा जाली घोषणा करने के लिए शास्ति

लगाने और तत्संसक्त अथवा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Prevention of Regionalism Bill, 2009

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि क्षेत्रवाद को फैलने से रोकने और देश में राष्ट्रवाद को बढ़ावा देने और क्षेत्रवाद के पीड़ितों को राहत और पुनर्वास प्रदान करने और तत्संसक्त अथवा आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2009

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारतीय दंड संहिता, 1860 का और संशोधन करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (to amend article 371-I)

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend article 217 and 233)

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI (Rajasthan): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Voluntary Organisations Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up further discussion on the motion moved by Shri Kalraj Mishra on the 13th February, 2009. Now, Shri V. Narayanasamy to continue the reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, I will have to continue with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have a different role now.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Voluntary Organizations Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006 was introduced by the senior Member, Shri Kalraj Mishra *ji*.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, before he starts, I would like to know whether the discussion on the concerned Bill was over.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. The discussion was over and he had started giving reply in the previous session.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, on 13th February, 2009, the discussion was over, after which I started giving reply. But by the time, it was 5.00 p.m. and I had to stop. Now, I am continuing my reply.

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak further on the Voluntary Organizations Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006 moved by Shri Kalraj Mishra. Various other Members of this House participated in the discussion on the Bill.

Sir, Clause 9 says that the Central Government shall administer the funds in such a manner as may be prescribed. Sir, it will come in the rules. Secondly, it says that the Central Government shall make grant to each voluntary organization every year or at such intervals as it may determine. Sir, I have submitted with regard to clause 9.

Sir, the hon. Member wants that the headquarters of the Regulatory Authority should be at Lucknow. Sir, I do not know the reason for making Lucknow as its headquarters. The Regulatory Authority has to function as a watchdog. That is what the hon. Member wanted.

There are various Government machineries working for voluntary organizations and the funds are provided by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Urban Development, and, Ministry of Agriculture. "At the time of sanctioning the money, all these Ministries have to submit to this authority. Under the supervision of this Authority, works are to be carried out. Whenever any complaint comes, this Authority will look into that complaint." This is the crux of the Bill that has been brought by the hon. Member. Sir, in the Government of India, there are about nine Ministries which are giving fund to various NGOs and voluntary organisations. There is a set procedure in the Government of India for this. When the NGOs are registered at the State level, they have to submit their application mentioning various schemes which they want to implement whether it is in the field of education or health or running an orphanage or for calamity relief. If the State Government is satisfied, then it will recommend its papers to the concerned Ministries of the Government of India. After the various Ministries of the Government of India are satisfied, then money will be sanctioned to it.

According to the hon. Member, there is corruption, mismanagement and, moreover, some of the NGOs are bogus. He is very particular about the money that is being received by various NGOs from abroad. The Home Ministry is monitoring such NGOs which are not executing the task for which the money has come. This is the complaint of the hon. Member.

Sir, I do not know how only one regulatory authority, which will be controlling all such organisations, will be able to do this job. Sir, why I am telling this is because the hon. Member in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill has mentioned that there are ten lakh voluntary organisations registered in India. I want to correct him. It is not ten lakh organisations. It is 3.5 million organisation; more than 35 lakh organisations are there. The number of NGOs or voluntary organisations is not ten lakh.

Secondly, there are some organisations which are getting fund from abroad. They are registered with the Home Ministry. There is a wing in the Home Ministry which is taking care of such organisations. He said that the number of such organisations is 17,145. There are more than 35,000 NGOs which have been receiving fund from abroad. I would like to correct the hon. Member. I want to update him on this aspect.

Sir, we should not treat the NGOs as culprits. We have to treat them as our partners, because NGOs are doing the job which the machinery of the Government of India is supposed to do. They are supplementing the efforts of the Government of India. Whenever they err, we take action against them. There is an inbuilt provision in various Ministries for taking action against them. When there are about 35 lakh voluntary organisations and NGOs, this regulatory authority cannot take any action against them. It will be burdened with the job and it will not be able to perform. When a complaint comes, the nodal Ministry, which sanctions the money, takes action against it. They have an inbuilt mechanism. Officers are there in the Department. Suppose the fund has been given to the NGOs by the Ministry of Rural Development for development work in forests or in tribal areas, or in areas where people belonging to the Scheduled Castes live, or in backward region and they are not doing it. Then that Ministry will take action whenever there is any complaint. The complaint may be in any form. The complaint can be made by an individual or by village council or by district authorities or by the State Government.

Sir, while replying the other day, I already told the hon. Member that the foolproof mechanism is already there. In several cases, action was taken against erring NGOs and voluntary organisations. Even if the organisations, which have been receiving fund from abroad, are not spending it properly, or if they are mismanaging it, then action has been taken against them and their registration has been cancelled. It was done by the Government of India.

Sir, Clause 10 of the Bill says that every voluntary organisation which is in receipt of grant from the Central Government shall send an annual report to the authority about its activities during the year and the statement of accounts. He wants a statement of accounts. He demands that the audited accounts should be submitted by them. The audited accounts of such organisations are already sent to the nodal Ministry, the Ministry which sanctions money to

them. Then it should be scrutinised by the authority concerned. Sir, the hon. Member wanted the regulatory authority to do the job of 9-10 Ministries to control them. It will be difficult because you need large machinery and officers for the purpose of doing that job. It is humanly impossible for that authority. If the authority receives ten thousand complaints, how will it dispose them of? They will have to go to the field and enquire. They cannot sit in Lucknow and enquire. Where are the officers? Officers are available in the Rural Development Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Health Ministry, etc. And, those officers will go and enquire as to whether the NGOs which have been sanctioned certain schemes are implementing them properly or not. If not, they will cancel the licence. The authority lies with the nodal Ministry concerned. There is a machinery for that. But, this authority has no machinery for that purpose.

Sir, another thing is regarding the complaint. It is the same thing which I told you. The complaint has to be forwarded to them and then they will enquire; otherwise, it will be difficult for them to enquire. They said that the authority may also *suo motu* order enquiry. How can an authority order *suo motu* enquiry unless and until they have got some authentic information? The drafting of the Bill itself needs change. Apart from that, Sir, the authority which he wanted and the powers to be vested with the authority are not going to serve any purpose. Already, there is a system existing. The major worry is that these organisations have to be monitored, controlled, regulated and, if they err, then, action should be taken. As on date, Sir, there are several organisations against whom action has been taken.

Sir, you will be glad to know that the hon. the President of India, in her Address, while fixing the 100 days' mandate, mentioned it. The Planning Commission has been given the mandate as far as voluntary organisations are concerned. It is in para 32 of the hon. President's Address. It says, "Enabling non-Government organisations in the area of development action seeking Government support through a web-based transaction on a Government portal in which the status of the application will be transparently monitorable." The hon. President wanted, which is also the intention of the Government, the entire details of the voluntary organisations — who are the persons constituting the voluntary organisations, what is the status, what is their background, what was their previous experience, what are the schemes sanctioned by the Government of India or various Government machineries, especially the various Departments of the Central Government, what are the schemes implemented by them, how much money is received by them, etc. All this will be on the website and anybody can have access to it. If they have got any complaint, they can approach the Government because the Planning Commission is the monitoring agency. They are also doing the job of monitoring it.

Sir, you will be glad to know that the same Bill was brought forward by hon. Member, Dr. Saroja, in the Lok Sabha and also, another Member, Shri Kashi Ram Rana, in the Lok Sabha. As I have already told you, the Planning Commission has been made to coordinate and monitor. And it has also been given the assignment to see that there should be partnership between the voluntary organisations and the Government so that the voluntary organisations will feel at home and they will feel that they have been executing the work and it is being properly monitored. Sir, there is the national policy on voluntary sector. The policy has been evolved by the Government of India and while implementing that policy, the Planning Commission plays a pivotal role as the nodal agency for the purpose of disseminating the information about the various voluntary organisations and NGOs. That is also taken care of by the present system which is available. Sir, you will be glad to know that several expert groups have been appointed by the Government. There is dissemination of the policy on NGOs and voluntary organisations. Sir, it is sent to all the CMs by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to get their views on it. Sir, an expert group has been appointed for decentralised funding mechanism. For that, an expert Group has been constituted. "Encourage evolution and subsequent recognition of an independent, national level self-regulatory mechanism for voluntary organisations. The voluntary organisations should have a self-regulatory mechanism." For that, an expert Group has been appointed. Therefore, Sir, if you go through that Bill, it is a truncated Bill; it is not fulfilling the objective for which the hon. Member has brought it, 'that there should be a Central Agency for supervising and monitoring the functioning of NGOs and voluntary organisations'. The hon. Member has also mentioned about the monitoring of foreign funds that are coming. Here, the Home Ministry is very particular. Now, the Bill has been passed by the Parliament also. The Home Ministry sent it for an inquiry through the Government agency. They also sent it through the State Government agency. They verified the veracity of the Organisation and, thereafter, they had taken a decision. Sir, through this Bill, the hon. senior Member wants that there should be a Central Agency for regulating the functioning of NGOs. It is highly impracticable because already, the system is available and various Ministries, perhaps nine Ministries, have been coordinating in that process. The system has been functioning very well. And the State Government is also taken into confidence at the time of redressal of complaints made to the Government of India, especially by the various nodal Ministries. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to withdraw the Bill. The subject is all right. It is being properly done by the Government of India; the Planning Commission is also playing a role in that and the expert Groups have already been appointed for helping the Planning Commission and various Ministries, which are giving funds, to monitor them. Since the existing system is already perfect, since it is working well, there is no need to have a regulatory authority, that too at Lucknow. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill. The Government will take into consideration the suggestions given by the hon.

Member and other Members for strengthening the monitoring mechanism; that we will do. I tell the hon. Member that whatever possible ways and means have been suggested in this Bill will be taken into consideration while monitoring the functioning of those organisations because your intention and my intention is very clear, that is, when the funds are sanctioned, when the schemes are implemented by the NGOs, they should reach the people concerned, they should benefit the people concerned. That is what you want and that is what I also want. Sir, I request the senior Member to withdraw the Bill. We will follow the suggestions, whatever they are, that he has given.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैंने स्वैच्छिक संगठन विनियामक प्राधिकरण विधेयक, 2006 प्रस्तुत किया था। इस पर विचार हुआ और मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि इस पर हुई बहस में 7 सम्मानित सदस्यों ने भाग लिया और अपने विचारों को व्यक्त किया। लोगों ने अपने उद्गारों में जो बातें कहीं, उनसे यह बात साफ हुई कि ये जो स्वैच्छिक संगठन हैं, इनकी आज देश को बड़ी आवश्यकता है और विभिन्न सरकारी योजनाओं और कार्यक्रमों को इनके माध्यम से पूरा करने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है। जो स्वैच्छिक संगठन प्रामाणिकता और ईमानदारी के साथ इस काम को करते हैं, वे निश्चित रूप से उन योजनाओं को सफलीभूत करने में सफल होते हैं और लोगों को उसका लाभ भी प्राप्त होता है, लेकिन यह बात भी उभरकर सामने आई कि बहुत सारे स्वैच्छिक संगठन ऐसे हैं, जो कागज़ पर तो हैं, लेकिन उनके अस्तित्व का पता नहीं लगता।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : लगभग 90 प्रतिशत संगठन ऐसे हैं।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : राजनीति प्रसाद जी कह रहे हैं कि लगभग 90 प्रतिशत संगठन ऐसे हैं और अपने उद्गार में भी उन्होंने यह बात कही थी। मैंने अपने वक्तव्य की भूमिका में कुछ बातें सदन के सामने रखी थीं। मैंने इस बात को माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने और पूरे सदन के सामने यह प्रस्तुत किया था कि धरातल पर जाने के बाद पता लगता है कि जो स्वैच्छिक संगठन काम कर रहे हैं, वे सही मायने में केवल कागज़ पर हैं और सरकार के द्वारा चलाई गई योजनाओं से संबंधित जो धन है, वह ज्यादातर उनके जेब में चला जाता है और जिस संबंध में उसका उपयोग होना चाहिए, वह उस संबंध में उपयोग नहीं हो पाता है। लगभग अधिकांश सम्माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त करने के क्रम में ये बातें कहीं। उन्होंने नंबर वन पर NGOs के महत्व को जरूर जताया है, लेकिन NGOs समुचित तौर पर काम रही हैं, उनकी जिस ढंग से मॉनिटरिंग होनी चाहिए, उनका जो अनुश्रवण होना चाहिए, वह नहीं हो पा रहा है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप पैसे खाये जा रहे हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में कई उद्धरण देते हुए और NGOs को कैसे नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है, इस संबंध में कई कानूनों का उद्धरण देते हुए यह जरूर बताया है कि इसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके लिए जितने कानून बनाए गए हैं, वे पर्याप्त हैं और वे इसको नियंत्रित करने में सक्षम हैं, लेकिन धरातल पर यह चीज नहीं है। अभी आपने आंकड़ा बताया, मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगा। आपने मुझे correct कर दिया। लेकिन मैंने जो आंकड़ा दिया था, वह विभिन्न समयों पर सम्मानित सदस्यों द्वारा सदन में, इस सदन में और उस सदन में भी, पूछे गए प्रश्नों के जवाब में जो संख्या आई थी, उसी संख्या का मैंने उल्लेख किया था। मैंने जो दस लाख NGOs का उल्लेख किया था, वह एक प्रश्न के जवाब में आया था, उसी का मैंने उल्लेख किया था कि इतने हैं। आपने अभी बताया कि यह संख्या 35 लाख है। अब मैं अपने को सुधार लेता हूँ।

ये सारी बातें आई हैं, जिसमें आपने कहा जरूर है कि इसको नियंत्रित किया जा रहा है। हम भी अनुभव करते थे कि NGOs के क्रियाकलाप में जो पारदर्शिता नहीं है, उसको नियंत्रित करने के लिए सरकार की

3.00 p.m.

तरफ से अनेक कानून बनाए गए हैं, उनके माध्यम से काम करने की दृष्टि से उनको सुनिश्चित दिशा भी प्रदान की जाती है और अगर कोई गड़बड़ काम करते हैं, तो उनको दंडित भी किया जाता होगा। लेकिन समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से जो ये सारी चीजें उभरकर आई हैं और प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जाकर देखने के बाद भी उसमें लगा कि उसमें सत्यांश नहीं है। जो नियंत्रित करने वाला कानून है, उससे वे कैसे बच जाते हैं, यह पता नहीं है।

जब 90 फीसदी से ज्यादा इस प्रकार का स्वरूप दिखाई पड़ा, तब अनुभव हुआ कि कोई न कोई ऐसा नियामक प्राधिकरण बनना चाहिए, जिसके आधार पर हम NGOs को समुचित रूप से चला सकें। अभी सदन में इस संबंध में जो जवाब दिए गए हैं, इस संबंध में कई सवाल पूछे गए थे, जिनमें मैंने यह भी सवाल पूछा था कि ऐसे कितने NGOs को dismiss किया गया, जिन्होंने ठीक से काम नहीं किया है? लेकिन इसमें यह नहीं दिखाया गया है। यह तो दिखाया गया है कि उनको black listed कर दिया गया है, लेकिन उनका अस्तित्व बना हुआ है। उनको समाप्त नहीं किया गया है। वे NGOs बरकरार हैं। आज black listed हैं, कल फिर हो सकते हैं। वह चाहे foreign fund का उपयोग करने की दृष्टि से हो। एक Foreign Regulatory Fund है, वह अपने ढंग से देखता है, लेकिन उसमें भी काफी गलत तरीके से काम करने वाले NGOs काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन इसका असर उनके ऊपर कुछ नहीं पड़ रहा है।

अभी आपने कहा कि मैंने लखनऊ में केन्द्र बनाने के लिए कहा। हां, मैंने कहा है, क्योंकि दिल्ली में इतने सारे Headquarters हैं कि उनमें पता ही नहीं चलता है कि कहां-कहां कौन विलीन हो जाते हैं, इसका पता ही नहीं लगता है। मैंने कहा कि जरा इसको decentralise कीजिए, हिन्दुस्तान बहुत बड़ा है और यहां कुछ और केन्द्र बनाइए। मैंने ऐसा नहीं कहा कि लखनऊ केन्द्र है और लखनऊ के माध्यम से ही सब नियंत्रित हो रहा है। आपने जिसको पढ़कर सुनाया है, उसमें मैंने यह भी कहा है कि प्रत्येक राज्य और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र की राजधानी में प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय स्थापित होंगे। मैंने यह भी कहा है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार प्राधिकरण को उतने अधिकारी और कर्मचारी प्रदान करेगी, जितने कि उसके कार्य निष्पादन के लिए आवश्यक है। ऐसा नहीं है कि इसका कोई सीमित दायरा है। यह सीमित दायरा नहीं है। यह एक सुनिश्चित और स्वतंत्र एजेंसी के रूप में किस तरीके से ऐसे NGOs को जो गलत काम कर रहे हैं, उनको नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है... ..इसके लिए व्यापक तौर पर इस नियामक का कार्य चल सके, इस हिसाब से यह विधेयक बनाया गया है। विधेयक को संकुचित नहीं किया गया है, इसका संकुचन नहीं है और इसलिए इसको बहुत underestimate करके जिस तरीके से आपने विधेयक के बारे में बताने की कोशिश की है, मैं समझता हूं कि आपने जरूर इसको पढ़ा है, लेकिन पढ़ने के बाद भी आपको लगा कि इसको कहना ठीक नहीं होगा। अपने काम की जो चीज रही, उसको आपने बताया और इस बात का उल्लेख आपने नहीं किया, जिसके माध्यम से, इस नियामक के माध्यम से पूरे देश को नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है, जिसके द्वारा जो भी एन.जी.ओ. इस प्रकार का पारदर्शी कार्य नहीं कर रहे होंगे, उनको दंडित कर सकने में वह सक्षम हो सकेगा। इसलिए मान्यवर, मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि इसमें एन.जी.ओ. के इस क्रियाकलाप को देखने के बाद ही इस प्राधिकरण को लाने की आवश्यकता पड़ी। जो विधेयक पेश किया था, उससे जो नकली एन.जी.ओ. हैं, हमने अपने प्रारंभिक भाषण के दौरान उसका उल्लेख किया था। कई एन.जी.ओ.ज का हमने नाम भी लिया था और कई ब्लैक लिस्टेड एन.जी.ओ.ज के नाम भी हमने लिए थे। हमने कहा था कि उसके साथ कैसा व्यवहार किया गया है, वह ऐसा नहीं है कि जिससे हम अनुभव कर सकें कि उनको दंडित किया गया है और इसलिए लगा कि इसको इस तरीके से सामने लाया जाए, ताकि इस नियामक के माध्यम से उनको दंडित किया जा सके। जो सही काम कर रहे हैं, उनको पुरस्कृत करना और जो गलत काम कर रहे हैं, जिनका अस्तित्व केवल कागज़ पर है, धरातल पर नहीं है, उनको दंडित कैसे किया जा सकता है, यही इस नियामक को, इस प्राधिकरण को लाने का मूल उद्देश्य था।

मान्यवर, विदेशों से मिलने वाले अनुदानों के बारे में काफी चर्चा की गई और उसके बारे में भी एन.जी.ओ. ने इस पर बहुत अनियमितताएं की हैं, इसका भी उल्लेख मैंने किया है और उसमें बाकायदा मैंने उद्धरण दिए हैं कि किस-किस समय जो विदेशी सहयोग प्राप्त हुए हैं, उनका दुरुपयोग किस ढंग से किया गया है। हमने अपने प्रारंभिक भाषण के दौरान इसको भी कहा था। मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में विदेशों से मिलने वाले अनुदानों के विषय में कुछ दिक्कतें बताई थीं और इन एन.जी.ओ. को बैंक अकाउंट्स में रखना, यह परेशानी का कारण होता है। अलग-अलग अकाउंट्स में पैसे रखने से monitoring ठीक से नहीं हो पाती है। यह भी बात आई थी कि अनियमितताएं होती हैं। इस विषय में Foreign Contribution Regulation Act के रिव्यू की बात चल रही है, यह बात आई थी। आपने पिछली बार अपने भाषण में इस बात का उल्लेख किया था।

महोदय, मैंने इस विधेयक के अंतर्गत बनने वाले प्राधिकरण के मुख्यालय के लिए लखनऊ की चर्चा की है। लखनऊ की चर्चा इसलिए की, जैसा कि हमने अभी आपको बताया कि डीसेंट्रलाइज़ करने की आवश्यकता है और अगर आपको लगता है कि लखनऊ आपके लिए काफी दिक्कत करने जा रहा है और आप इस विधेयक को स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हों, तो अगर दिल्ली में भी उसका हेडक्वार्टर बन जाए, तो उसमें हम एतराज़ नहीं करेंगे। अगर आप उसको स्वीकार कर लेते हैं तो इसमें हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी।

महोदय, एन.जी.ओ. के पंजीकरण के संबंध में भी हमने कई चीज़ों का उल्लेख किया था। हमने इतना ज़रूर कहा था कि उस एन.जी.ओ. का पंजीकरण, जो Indian Societies Registration Act/Indian Trust Act/Companies Act के तहत होता है, राज्यों में भी इनका पंजीकरण होता है और केंद्र में भी इनको विभिन्न मंत्रालय देखते हैं, अतः इन संस्थाओं के क्रियाकलापों पर नज़र रखना दिक्कत वाली बात हो जाती है। मेरा सुझाव है कि स्वैच्छिक संस्थाओं का क्रियाकलाप केंद्रित हो और सेंट्रलाइज़्ड हो, जिससे monitoring ठीक से हो सके। हमने इस विधेयक के अंतर्गत भी इस बात को रखा है।

महोदय, यह बात भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि सरकारी मदद के चलते संस्थाओं में भाई-भतीजावाद भी बहुत अधिक बढ़ रहा है। इस पर भी किसी तरह रोक लगनी चाहिए। यह भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और जब विनियामक प्राधिकरण के मार्फत अनुदान मिलेगा, तो अपने आप ही इस पर रोक लग सकती है, इसलिए यह सुझाव विधेयक में हमने दिया है और इसको भी आपने पढ़ा होगा। आज के कानून नकली स्वैच्छिक संस्थाओं और उनके द्वारा किए जा रहे क्रियाकलापों पर नज़र रखने के लिए व्यापक नहीं हैं। वर्णन आपने ज़रूर किया, सुनने में अच्छा भी लगा कि छः-सात मंत्रालय ऐसे हैं, जिन मंत्रालयों के माध्यम से हम स्वैच्छिक संगठनों का उपयोग करते हैं और उसको monitor करने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं। प्लानिंग कमीशन उसको monitor भी करता है। ये सारी बातें आपने ज़रूर रखी हैं लेकिन इनको मॉनिटर करने के बाद भी नहीं हो रहा है। जब नहीं हो रहा है तो उसका हल क्या निकलना चाहिए? जब यह प्रश्न उठता है कि हल क्या होगा तब यह आवश्यकता प्रतीत होती है कि इसमें निश्चित रूप से कोई न कोई विनियामक प्राधिकरण बनना चाहिए ताकि उसके एक विस्तृत स्वरूप का निर्माण हो सके, उस हिसाब से यह प्राधिकरण बनाने की कोशिश की गयी है क्योंकि जितनी भी बातें आपने इसके नियंत्रण के लिए बतायी हैं, वे पर्याप्त नहीं हैं, वे उसको ठीक से मॉनिटर नहीं कर पा रही हैं। इसलिए इस बात पर ज्यादा जोर दिया गया है। इनमें किसी को criminal liability और सजा का प्रावधान भी नहीं है। हमने प्रारम्भ में ही कहा कि अगर सजा का प्रावधान रहा होता तो उस organisation का termination भी हो सकता था, लेकिन नहीं हुआ है और न ही संस्थाओं द्वारा diversion of funds को रोकने में सक्षम है। हमारे बृजभूषण तिवारी जी और कुछ अन्य मित्रों ने इस बात की तरफ भी ध्यान आकृष्ट किया था कि इस एनजीओ के माध्यम से आतंकवाद को भी प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त हुआ है, उनको भी फंड प्राप्त हो रहे हैं और अपने भाषण के दौरान कई चीज़ों का उन्होंने उल्लेख किया था। यह निश्चित रूप से बड़ा गंभीर और खतरनाक है।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० पी.जे.कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

इसके बारे में निश्चित रूप से सरकार को गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिए। जब तक इसके लिए कोई स्वतंत्र प्राधिकरण नहीं होगा तब तक कोई इसको ढंग से नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकता है, उसकी monitoring नहीं कर सकता है, उसका अनुसरण नहीं कर सकता है। इसलिए इस बात को गंभीरतापूर्वक लेते हुए, आज के माहौल में, आज के वातावरण में जिस तरीके से आतंकवाद, नक्सलवाद और अनेक प्रकार की देशद्रोही और राष्ट्रविरोधी ताकतें उभरकर सामने आ रही हैं, जो इस माध्यम से फंड का दुरुपयोग करती हैं, निश्चित रूप से इसके लिए हमें बहुत गंभीरता से विचार करते हुए एक स्वतंत्र एजेंसी कायम करनी पड़ेगी और उस दृष्टि से यह प्राधिकरण समुचित स्वरूप निर्माण कर सकने में सक्षम हो सकता है। इसलिए भी यह बहुत आवश्यक है। स्वैच्छिक संस्थान निश्चित रूप से देश को आगे बढ़ाने में सहयोगी हैं। इनका अगर ढंग से उपयोग किया जाए तो बहुत लाभ हो सकता है। जिन्होंने ढंग से काम किया है, निश्चित रूप से उसका लाभ मिला है। इसलिए सरकार बड़े विश्वासपूर्वक कई ऐसे जो लक्ष्य प्रतिष्ठित शैक्षिक संगठन हैं, उनको कार्य देने में संकोच नहीं करती है। उनके द्वारा कार्य होता भी है और उसको सराहा भी जाता है। इसलिए इनके महत्व को समझते हुए, ये संगठन और भी ढंग से, व्यवस्थित तौर पर काम कर सकें, उस प्रकार की व्यवस्था बनानी आवश्यक है। साथ ही साथ उन संगठनों को यह भी मालूम हो कि अगर हमने किसी भी प्रकार की पारदर्शिता में कमी की, प्रमाणिकता में कमी की तो निश्चित रूप से हमारे ऊपर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने के लिए विशेष रूप से विनियामक प्राधिकरण बना हुआ है। यह भय और यह डर उनके अंदर स्थापित करने के लिए कोई न कोई व्यवस्था बनानी पड़ेगी। महोदय, उनका ऑडिट नहीं होता है, उनको ढंग से देखा नहीं जाता है। उनको लगता है कि हमारा कोई क्या बिगाड़ सकता है। इस प्रकार एक विचित्र प्रकार की स्थिति बनी हुई है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि एनजीओ के महत्व को आपने स्वयं बताया है। एनजीओ के माध्यम से विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के काम हो रहे हैं, यह भी आपने बताया है। आपने यह भी बताया है कि विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के द्वारा उनको नियंत्रित भी किया जाता है। आपने यह भी बताया है कि प्लानिंग कमीशन उनको पूरा monitor करता है, लेकिन धरती पर जिस तरीके से उतरना चाहिए, उस प्रकार से उतर नहीं रहा है। उसको ठीक से दिशा प्रदान करने के लिए यह विनियामक प्राधिकरण स्थापित हो, यह कानून बने, इसीलिए आपके सहयोग के लिए, सरकार के द्वारा विभिन्न विभागों के माध्यम से जो विकास के लिए फंड दिए जाते हैं, उसके लिए भी मैंने यह विधेयक आपके बीच में प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयत्न किया है। आपने मुझे कहा है कि हम उस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं। आप कह रहे हैं कि हम आपको आश्वस्त कर रहे हैं, आप इसको वापस लीजिए। अब हम यह कैसे समझें कि इस दिशा में प्रभावी कदम उठेगा? अगर कुछ सुनिश्चित बिन्दु इस प्रकार के आप प्रस्तुत करें कि हम इस संबंध में विचार कर रहे हैं ताकि जो एनजीओ बहुत खराब काम कर रहा है, उसके dismissal का काम हो कि वह अस्तित्व में ही नहीं रहेगा। केवल blacklisted करने से ही पूरा काम नहीं चलता है। ऑडिट का मामला है। मैंने यह भी नहीं देखा कि एन0जी0ओ0 की आडिट होती कहां है। कहीं नहीं होती है। हमने कई लोगों से पूछा, कई लोगों से बात की कि तुम्हारे यहां कोई आडिट है? कोई नहीं है। तो ये कुछ चीजें हैं जो विश्वास दिला सकें कि यह करने के लिए हम सोच रहे हैं। तब तो पता चलेगा कि सही मायने में प्रबल राजनीतिक इच्छा शक्ति के आधार पर एन0जी0ओ0 को सही दिशा प्रदान करने के लिए और उसके पारदर्शी स्वरूप को निर्माण करने के लिए आप काम करने के लिए आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, तभी कुछ दिखाई पड़ेगा। नहीं तो इससे केवल आपने कुछ ऐक्ट, कानून का उल्लेख कर दिया और धरती पर उतर नहीं रहा है, तो इससे तो काम नहीं चलेगा। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि आपकी तरफ से कुछ इस प्रकार का आश्वासन मिले। विभाजन कराने के लिए यहां हमने विधेयक नहीं रखा

है। हम आपसे आश्वासन चाहते हैं कि आप इस विधेयक के माध्यम से देश की जनता को विश्वास दिलाएं कि जो बहुत सारे एन0जी0ओज0 गड़बड़ कर रहे हैं, तो उनको दंडित किया जाएगा। इस ढंग से

उनको दंडित किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि भविष्य में कोई इस प्रकार का एन0जी0ओ0 बनाने का साहस ही नहीं कर सके। अगर ऐसा कुछ आश्वासन प्राप्त होता है, तब तो बात समझ में आती है। इस संबंध में मान्यवर मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the honourable and senior Member reiterated the points which he had made about mismanagement by NGOs, lack of proper audit of their functioning, etc. He also mentioned that there is no proper accounting of the foreign contributions that many of the NGOs receive. He also mentioned that while majority of these NGOs have been doing a good job, some of them have been blacklisted but no penal action has been taken against them. I feel that basically the intention of the Government and the hon. Member is the same. The concept of these NGOs came into play because everybody felt that it was not possible for the Government to do everything on its own and it was also felt that there should be some agency to support the Government effort, for which the Government should provide them with logistical, financial and other assistance. You also know very well that in the tribal areas, especially people living in far-flung areas and the North-East, these voluntary organisations are doing a good job. The kind of work they are doing by providing medical facilities and education to people residing in far-flung areas, the way they provide assistance during natural calamities, is even more than that done by Government agencies. They are doing laudable service. We cannot under-estimate the job done by voluntary organisations. As far as taking strict action against the erring voluntary organisations, such as those involved in corruption and malpractices is concerned, I am one with you on that. We too feel that the laws need to be strengthened to punish those organisations. Nobody wants Government money or money allotted to voluntary organisations to help people, for whom it is meant, to be eaten up by these organisations. They are doing a very good job in helping run orphanages, old-age homes, juvenile homes, which even Government finds difficult to do. We shall consider taking stringent action against erring organisations, as mentioned by the hon. Member. We share your concern. We shall definitely try to strengthen monitoring through the Planning Commission. The hon. Prime Minister has given us the mandate to monitor that; we will do it through the Planning Commission and evolve a foolproof system, so that the voluntary organisations function efficiently and the purpose for which money has been sanctioned, that is, helping people, is served. With these words, I would request the hon. senior Member to withdraw his Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Shri Kalraj Mishraji, are you withdrawing the Bill, or, should I put the motion to vote?

श्री कलराज मिश्र : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, जिस प्रकार से माननीय मंत्री जी ने बात रखी है और हमारी मूल भावना के साथ अपनी सहमति व्यक्त की है, जो भी इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत चीजें रखी गई थीं, उनका व्यवस्थित तौर पर अनुसरण किया जाएगा, मानिट्रिंग की जाएगी और जहां भी गड़बड़ होगी, उसको ठीक किया जाएगा, उसको पेनल्टी दी जाएगी, यह उन्होंने जो आश्वासन दिया है, मैं समझता हूं कि उसको निश्चित रूप से वह पूरा करेंगे। यह विश्वास करते हुए, मैं इस विधेयक को वापस लेता हूं।

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we will take up the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 to amend articles 85 and 174. Shri Mahendra Mohan to move the motion.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (to amend articles 85 and 174)

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I move that the Bill to amend articles 85 and 174 of the Constitution of India to be taken into consideration.

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पिछले तीन साल से राज्य सभा में रहते हुए, जो हालात देख रहा हूँ, उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए, यह विधेयक लाया हूँ। मैं इस विधेयक के माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण विषय की तरफ आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। विधेयक में प्रस्तुत संशोधन मामूली प्रतीत होते हैं, लेकिन इससे संबंधित पहलू बहुत ही गंभीर हैं। मैंने प्रस्ताव किया है कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 85 एवं 174 में संशोधन करके लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के लिए बैठकों की अवधि कम से कम 120 दिन तथा विधान सभाओं की अवधि एक साल में कम से कम 60 दिन की जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले साल लोक सभा की 46 और राज्य सभा की 46 बैठकें हुईं। यह समय 1952 से लेकर अब तक का सबसे कम समय बैठकों का रहा है। बैठकों की अवधि लगातार कम हो रही है, जिसका सीधा असर हमारे संसदीय कार्य पर पड़ा रहा है। कार्यपालिका की सीधी जिम्मेदारी विधायिका के प्रति है जो इसकी तमाम गतिविधियों की समीक्षा करती है तथा संसदीय तंत्र में उपलब्ध प्रावधानों जैसे प्रश्न-प्रहर, विशेष उल्लेख, अल्पकालिक चर्चा, ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव पर बहस के माध्यम से देश में उत्पन्न स्थिति, आर्थिक विषयों तथा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर देश की जनता की भावनाओं की अभिव्यक्ति करती है। अगर सत्र कम समय चलता है तो विभिन्न विषयों पर चर्चा नहीं हो पाती है। उसमें भी अधिकतर समय शोरगुल तथा व्यवधान में व्यतीत हो जाता है।

1949 में जब संविधान स्वीकार हुआ उस समय डॉ० भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी ने कहा था, “अगर हमें प्रजातंत्र चलाना है तो हमें क्या करना चाहिए ? मेरी समझ से हमें संविधान के द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों और अधिकारों का इस्तेमाल अपने सामाजिक और आर्थिक लक्ष्यों की पूर्ति के लिए करना चाहिए। जब हमारे पास संविधान और संवैधानिक अधिकार नहीं थे, तो उस समय असंवैधानिक तरीकों का प्रयोग जायज था।” डॉ० अम्बेडकर ने आगे फिर कहा है, “संविधान का कार्यकरण संविधान की प्रकृति पर पूर्णतः निर्भर नहीं है। संविधान केवल राज्य के अंगों, जैसे विधायिका, कार्यपालिका तथा न्यायपालिका की व्यवस्था ही कर सकता है। राज्य के इन अंगों का कार्यकरण वस्तुतः जिन कारकों पर निर्भर करता है, वे हैं जनता तथा उसकी इच्छाओं और राजनीति को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए, उनके द्वारा गठित राजनैतिक दल, कौन बता सकता है कि भारत की जनता और उनके दलों का व्यवहार कैसा होगा?”

डॉ० अम्बेडकर के इन दोनों वक्तव्यों को अगर हम आज की विधायिका के कार्यकरण, उसके द्वारा सांसदों को प्रदत्त अधिकार, उनका इस्तेमाल, संसद की महत्ता तथा आम आदमी की उससे अपेक्षा के संदर्भ में देखें, तो हमें पतन की स्थिति साफ दिखाई देती है। स्वतंत्रता के पहले जब हमारे पास संवैधानिक अधिकार नहीं थे, विधायिका में भारतीयों का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं था, उस समय हमारे पूर्वजों ने पूर्ण स्वराज अधिकार और संविधान के लिए संघर्ष किया।

भारत के प्रथम प्रधान मंत्री ने संसद के केन्द्रीय कक्ष से भारत की आजादी का उद्घोष किया। पंडित जी का मध्य रात्रि का उद्घोष भारतीय जन मानस में संसद की प्रतिष्ठा और महत्ता को केन्द्रित करने के लिए था।

आज जब संसद है, संसद में प्राप्त अधिकारों से आम आदमी की अपेक्षाओं को हम प्रतिध्वनित कर सकते हैं, देश का हर नागरिक हमें आशा भरी नजरों से देख रहा है। उस समय हम अपने कर्तव्यों का सही पालन नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसके लिए सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों समान रूप से जिम्मेदार हैं।

आज संसद का महत्व वह नहीं रहा है जो पंडित नेहरू के समय में हुआ करता था। पंडित नेहरू जी ने हर महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर चर्चा के दौरान उपस्थित रहते थे। यहां तक कि जब वह बीमार होते थे, तब भी डाक्टरों की आराम करने की सलाह को न मानकर भी यदि आवश्यक विषय होता था, महत्वपूर्ण चर्चा होती थी, तो वह उस दौरान संसद में आकर अपना योगदान देते थे और संसद की बहस को सुनते थे।

पंडित नेहरू और उनके समकालीन राजनीतिज्ञों ने संसदीय संस्थाओं का केवल निर्माण ही नहीं किया, बल्कि उसे गरिमा भी प्रदान की और हमेशा उन्हें अपने व्यक्तित्व से ऊपर रखा। एक बार विधेयक पर चर्चा के दौरान पंडित नेहरू ने राजा जी के संशोधन को मानने से इनकार करते हुए कहा, 'राजा जी, बहुमत हमारे साथ है।' राजा जी ने उसका जवाब दिया, 'पंडित जी, तर्क हमारे साथ है।' पंडित जी ने तुरंत संशोधन स्वीकार कर लिया। आज जो स्थितियां हैं, अगर सही तर्क भी होता है, सही संशोधन भी होते हैं, तो यहां पर उन्हें स्वीकार करने में लोगों को बड़ा कष्ट होता है। एक बार पंडित जी बैठक से उठकर जाने लगे, तो किसी सांसद ने टोक कर कहा कि प्रधान मंत्री आसन को पीठ दिखा रहे हैं। उन्होंने तुरन्त इसके लिए क्षमा मांगी। यह उस वक्त महत्व था, ये उस वक्त की सीमाएं थीं और इस प्रकार अनुशासन के साथ संसदीय परंपराएं चल रही थीं। ऐसे महानुभावों के साये में पल्लवित भारतीय संसदीय परंपरा आज पतन की स्थिति में है। सरकार सत्रों का समय लगातार कम करती जा रही है, बहस से कतराती जा रही है, महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक बिना चर्चा के पास हो जाते हैं और केवल जीरो ऑवर का ही महत्व बढ़ रहा है, क्योंकि उसमें हल्ला-गुल्ला मचाया जा सकता है। प्रश्नों के पूरे उत्तर नहीं आते हैं, महत्व के विषयों पर बहस नहीं हो पाती है। यह स्थिति बहुत ही चिंताजनक है। इससे भी अधिक चिंता का विषय है, संसद का बार-बार हंगामों के बीच स्थगित होना। कई बार यह पहले ही निश्चित हो जाता है कि आज संसद को चलने दिया जाएगा या नहीं चलने दिया जाएगा। हर पार्टी में इस तरह के निर्देश दे दिए जाते हैं कि आज संसद को चलने दिया जाएगा अथवा नहीं चलने दिया जाएगा, जो कि बहुत ही गलत है। ऐसी स्थिति में संसद की एक ऐसी संस्था के होने की छवि पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है, जिसे लोकतंत्र में एक जवाबदेही वाली संस्था के रूप में जाना जाता है। इसका लोकतंत्र पर गंभीर प्रभाव पड़ता है। महोदय, अभी हमारे सभापति महोदय, ने भी मुम्बई में 4 फरवरी, 2008 को चौदहवें अखिल भारतीय सचेतक सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर कहा था - 'पतन का संकेत साफ झलक रहा है। हमारे विधान मंडलों को उपलब्ध कराए गए साधन या तो निष्प्रभावी कर दिए गए हैं या वे सही ढंग से कार्य करने के योग्य नहीं रह गए हैं। आज एक सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण चिंता की बात सार्वजनिक कल्याण का उपाय करने और प्रभावकारी कानून तथा सार्वजनिक नीति तैयार करने में योगदान करने में समर्थ प्रभावी संस्था के रूप में हमारे विधान मंडलों की घटती विश्वसनीयता है। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि विधान मंडलों में अधिक से अधिक कार्य निष्पादन के लिए उनके दिन प्रतिदिन के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा की जाए।'

इसके लिए सरकार की सबसे बड़ी जिम्मेदारी बनती है कि वह संसद की गरिमा को बनाए रखने में सभी दलों को साथ में लेकर चले। हमारे सभापति महोदय ने अपने भाषण में यह भी कहा - विधायिका के विचार-विमर्श करने संबंधी कार्यों में निश्चित रूप से गिरावट आई है। इसके लिए सदन के सभी पक्ष जिम्मेदार हैं। सत्ता पक्ष जन-सरोकार के मुद्दों पर ठोस चर्चा करने से बचता है। विपक्ष इन मुद्दों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर उल्लेख करने के लिए ही तथाकथित शून्य काल का इस्तेमाल करने को प्राथमिकता देता है।...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Mohan, while moving, you need not give a long speech because you will have the right to speak when you reply to the debate.

श्री मोहन सिंह : I am only quoting what is said already. इस प्रकार विचार-विमर्श व्यर्थ का खेल बनकर रह जाता है। नीतियां जनता को उत्पाद की तरह परोस दी जाती हैं। निर्वाचकगण को इस प्रक्रिया के बारे में पता नहीं चल पाता।

महोदय, हमें जनता के बीच में संसद और संसदीय कार्य के बारे में विश्वसनीयता बनाए रखने के लिए सत्र के दिनों की बढ़ोतरी करनी चाहिए, ताकि लोक महत्व के विषयों पर अर्थवान बहस हो सके। पिछले साल का मानसून सत्र समाप्त हो गया। यह संसदीय इतिहास में पहली बार हुआ है। यह हमारी संसदीय परंपरा का सबसे बड़ा अपमान था। तकनीकी तौर पर बजट सत्र फरवरी से मई के बीच, मानसून सत्र जुलाई से सितम्बर के बीच में तथा शरदकालीन सत्र नवम्बर से दिसम्बर के मध्य होता है। 22 अप्रैल, 1955 को लोक सभा की GPC (General Purpose Committee) ने तीनों सत्रों के लिए तारीखें निश्चित की थी और उसकी सिफारिश की थी, जिसे कैबिनेट ने स्वीकार भी किया था, लेकिन पिछले मानसून सत्र का कैलेंडर से गायब हो जाना, एक आश्चर्यजनक बात थी। विश्वास मत के लिए 21 और 22 जुलाई को दो दिन का सत्र हुआ और यह बात सामने आई कि शायद 11 अगस्त से सत्र हो, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ। सन् 2008 में राज्य सभा की केवल 46 बैठकें हुईं और 2007 में 65 बैठकें हुई थीं। यदि हम पुराने इतिहास पर जाएं, तो उस वक्त हमारी जनसंख्या कम थी, कार्य भी कम होते थे, तब हमारी समस्याएं ज्यादा होती थी। अगर हम 1952 से लेकर आज तक एक तुलनात्मक अध्ययन करें, तो पाएंगे कि संसद की बैठकों में सतत् गिरावट आई है। पहली लोक सभा में (1952-57) 677 बैठकें हुई थीं।

...3784 घंटे कामकाज हुआ। इस दौरान राज्य सभा में (1952-57) के बीच 565 बैठकें हुईं। 1952-57 में बैठकों का औसत 135 प्रतिवर्ष था, जो अब घटकर 46 रह गया है। 1956 में लोकसभा की 151 बैठकें हुईं तथा राज्यसभा की 113 बैठकें हुईं, यही एक रिकार्ड है।

राज्यसभा में 1952-61 के पहले दशक में बैठकों का वार्षिक औसत 90.5 प्रतिशत था जो 1992-2001 के दौरान 20 प्रतिशत गिरकर 71.3 प्रतिशत रह गया। लोक सभा के मामले में 34 प्रतिशत की गिरावट रही।

1952-61 के दशक में संसद द्वारा पारित विधेयकों की संख्या वार्षिक औसत 68 था, जो कि 1992-01 के दौरान घटकर 49.9 प्रतिशत रह गया। ग्यारहवीं लोकसभा में लगभग 5.28 प्रतिशत कार्य समय व्यवधान के कारण नष्ट हुआ। 12 वीं लोकसभा में यह बढ़कर 10.66 प्रतिशत, 13वीं में 19 प्रतिशत और 14 वीं लोकसभा में 21 प्रतिशत समय बरबाद हुआ।

2007 में लोकसभा ने 41 प्रतिशत विधेयक, जिसमें वित्त विधेयक भी शामिल है, बिना किसी या थोड़ी सी बहस के बाद पारित कर दिए।

तीन सालों में बिना बहस के पारित विधेयकों का प्रतिशत 17 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 41 प्रतिशत हो गया। इस दौरान जिन विधेयकों पर चर्चा हुई, उनका प्रतिशत 39 से घटकर 24 रह गया।

2007 में ही 32 प्रतिशत विधेयक, जिसमें वित्त विधेयक भी शामिल है, बिना किसी बहस के पारित हो गए। 2005 से बिना बहस के विधेयकों के पास कराने की प्रवृत्ति 26 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 32 प्रतिशत हो गई।

इन मामलों में राज्य विधान सभाओं की स्थिति बहुत ही खराब है। जहां पूरे साल में 20 से लेकर 50 दिनों की बैठकों होती हैं। कर्नाटक में जहां एक बार 1974 में 97 दिनों की बैठकें हुईं, वहीं पिछले साल सिर्फ 20 दिनों के आसपास बैठकें हुईं। पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों की स्थिति और भी खराब है। वहां पर तो अक्सर दो या तीन दिनों का ही सत्र चलता है।

अब हम एक दृष्टि कुछ विदेशी संसदों पर डालते हैं। जहां पर हमसे कम समस्याएं हैं, कम जनसंख्या है, कम कार्य है, लेकिन वहां पर हमसे अधिक बैठकें की जाती हैं। युनाइटेड किंगडम, जो कि भारत की तुलना में

काफी छोटा देश है, वहां पर कई बार 200 से ज्यादा एक साल में बैठकें हुईं। 1966-67 में वहां 246, 1979-80 में 244, 1983-84 में 213, 1987-88 में 218, 1992-93 में 240, 1997-98 में 241, 2001-02 में 201 और 2005-06 में 208 बैठकें हुईं।

कनाडा की बात कही है। मैंने कनाडा की संसद का 2009 का कैलेण्डर देखा। जिसमें 2009 में लिए 155 दिनों की बैठकों का प्रावधान है, न्यूजीलैण्ड में 2009 के कैलेण्डर के लिए लगभग 92 दिनों की बैठकों का प्रावधान है, जबकि उस देश से बड़े हमारे यहां के प्रदेश हैं। दक्षिण अफ्रीका में प्रतिवर्ष बैठकों का औसत 104 है, केन्या में 88 तथा अमेरिकी कांग्रेस में 150।

सभापति महोदय, मैं ये बातें आपके सामने केवल इसलिए ला रहा हूँ, क्योंकि अगर बैठकें नहीं होती हैं, तो यही बात होती है कि चर्चा नहीं होती है, विचार-विमर्श नहीं होते हैं और बहुत ही जल्दबाजी में हम लोग अपने कानून बनाकर चर्चाओं को समाप्त कर देते हैं। इस संदर्भ में देश की विधायिकाओं के पीठासीन अधिकारियों की बैठकों में कई बार चर्चा हुई। 1996 में दिल्ली में हुई एक बैठक में प्रस्ताव भी पारित किया गया। जिसमें कहा गया कि तमाम विधायिकाओं में होने वाली बैठकों की संख्या बहुत ही कम है, जिससे सदस्यों को अपने क्षेत्रों तथा लोक महत्व के विषयों पर चर्चा का समय नहीं मिलता है। अतएव सभी विधायिकाओं को इस विषय पर कानून या परंपरा बनानी चाहिए, जिसमें कम से कम अवधि का प्रावधान हो तथा विशेष रूप से उन्हें संसद को Model के रूप में लेना चाहिए।

पुनः शिमला में 1997 में पीठासीन अधिकारियों की बैठक में प्रस्ताव पारित किया गया। जिसमें कहा गया कि निश्चित तौर पर कार्यपालिका की विधायिका के प्रति जवाबदेही तय करने के लिए, सरकार के कार्यों की समीक्षा जरूरी है, जिसके लिए आवश्यक है कि राज्यों की विधायिकाओं की बैठकें छोटे राज्यों के मामलों में 60 दिन और बड़े राज्यों की विधायिकाओं के लिए बैठकें कम से कम 100 दिन हों। सत्र का आमंत्रण संविधान के अनुच्छेद 174(1) की मात्र औपाचारिकता नहीं होनी चाहिए।

चंडीगढ़ में सन् 2001 में पुनः एक रिपोर्ट एडोप्ट की गई, जिसका नाम था Procedural uniformity and Better Management of the time of the House, जिसमें फिर से छोटे राज्यों के लिए सत्र के लिए 60 दिन तथा बड़े राज्यों के लिए 100 बैठकों का प्रावधान किया गया।

जस्टिस वेंकटचैल्लैया की अध्यक्षता में गठित 'National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution' ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कहा था कि संसद और राज्यों को कम से कम बैठकों का प्रावधान करना चाहिए। जिन राज्यों के 70 से कम सदस्य हैं, वहां कम से कम 50 बैठकें होनी चाहिए और जहां इससे अधिक सदस्य हैं, वहां पर 90 दिनों की बैठकें होनी चाहिए। यह अवधि राज्य सभा और लोक सभा के लिए 100 और 120 दिनों की होनी चाहिए।

महोदय, संसद पंडित नेहरू के समय तक एक जीवंत संस्था रही। इसके बाद सरकारों ने समीक्षा और बहस से बचने के लिए तथा मनमाने ढंग से नीतियों को लागू करने के लिए सत्र को छोटा करना शुरू कर दिया, जिसकी वजह से आज संसद सदस्यों को विधायी, नीतिगत, लोक महत्व और अपने-अपने क्षेत्रों के मुद्दों पर बोलने के लिए समय ही नहीं मिल पाता है। संसद धीरे-धीरे कार्यपालिका का अंग बनती जा रही है। संसद प्रजातंत्र का सबसे बड़ा मंच है, जहाँ सौ करोड़ से ज्यादा जनता को अभिव्यक्ति मिलती है। देश की जनता की भावनाओं को प्रतिध्वनित करने के लिए नियमों में तमाम तरीकों के instruments हैं, जैसे Question Hour, Zero Hour, Special Mention, Motions, Calling Attention Motion, Short Duration Discussion और Half-an-hour Discussion, आदि। लेकिन समयाभाव के चलते हम मुद्दों को नहीं उठा पाते हैं और उन पर चर्चा नहीं कर पाते हैं, क्योंकि जब बैठकें ही नहीं होंगी, तो हम चर्चा कहाँ करेंगे! कहाँ हम उन इश्यूज को उठा पाएंगे! यही हो पाता है। अब एक नई परम्परा की शुरुआत हुई है कि स्पेशल मेंशंस को भी, जो पहले पढ़ कर कहे जाते थे, जिससे उसका एक भाव बनता था और लोगों के ऊपर उसका एक असर आता था, अब उसे भी

‘ले’ करा दिया जाता है। प्रश्नों के बारे में पाबंदी, एक लिस्ट में 155 से ज्यादा प्रश्न नहीं, एक सदस्य के हिस्से में एक से भी कम प्रश्न आता है। ये सारी पाबंदियाँ सरकार को मदद करती हैं, ब्यूरोक्रेसी को मदद करती हैं। संसद का जो असली कार्य है कि हम ब्यूरोक्रेसी को कंट्रोल करें, सरकार के कार्यकलापों पर अंकुश लगाएँ, हम उसको नहीं कर पाते हैं, क्योंकि हमारी बैठकें ही नहीं होती हैं।

हम लोग प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल्स लाते हैं और उसके आधार पर पॉलिसीज़ बनती हैं। लेकिन जब पॉलिसीज़ बनती हैं, तो उसमें उसका कोई ज़िक्र भी नहीं होता है।

महोदय, आज के दौर में decision making में संसद की भूमिका नगण्य होती जा रही है। शक्तिशाली नेता और पार्टियाँ अक्सर प्रजातंत्र की संस्थाओं को कमजोर करने का काम करते हैं। विधेयकों को 20-20 क्रिकेट मैच की तरह लिया जा रहा है। 23 दिसम्बर 2008 को 8 विधेयक सिर्फ 17 मिनट में पास कर दिए गए। क्या यह संसदीय परम्परा का सही निर्वह था कि 8 विधेयक 17 मिनट में पास किए गए? इनमें से 3 विधेयक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण थे। Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) 2008 भी इनमें से एक विधेयक था, जिसको लेकर 3 फरवरी, 2009 को बीस लाख से ज्यादा वकीलों ने पूरे देश में हड़ताल कर दी। यह जो जल्दबाजी में कार्य किए जा रहे हैं, संसद की बैठकें नहीं कराई जाती हैं, इससे हम सरकार को निरंकुश करते हैं, ब्यूरोक्रेसी को निरंकुश करते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

महोदय, इस संदर्भ में राज्य सभा की भूमिका बहुत ही अहम है। हम लोग राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। हमें राज्य सभा की भूमिका को पुनर्परिभाषित करना पड़ेगा। राज्यों से सम्बन्धित तमाम ऐसे विषय हैं, जिन पर राज्य सभा में बहस अगर ठीक ढंग से हो, तो लोक सभा का भी समय बच सकता है। ऐसे विषय, जो कि राज्यों से सीधे तौर पर जुड़े हैं तथा जहाँ राज्यों को केन्द्र की मदद की अपेक्षा है, हम उनको प्राथमिकता के साथ ले सकते हैं। इससे राज्यों को बड़ी मदद होगी। इन विषयों में Climate Change, Agricultural crisis, Water crisis, River disputes, Environment protection, Rural development, Food crisis, Higher education, SEZ, Land acquisition, Terrorism, Naxal problem, Power आदि राज्यों की तमाम समस्याएँ हैं, जिनमें केन्द्र को मदद करनी चाहिए। यह तभी हो सकता है, जब हम जनता की आकांक्षाओं के अनुरूप अधिक-से-अधिक समय संसद में दें। हमारी समितियाँ मिनी-पार्लियामेंट हैं। इनकी बैठकों को सरकार गम्भीरता से नहीं लेती है। समितियों की सिफारिशों को दरकिनार कर दिया जाता है। समितियाँ बहुत ही शक्तिशाली संसदीय व्यवस्था है। इसके जरिए हम सीधे जनता से जुड़ते हैं। हमें चाहिए कि हम समस्याओं को समितियों के माध्यम से लें। समितियों की जो recommendations आती हैं, उन पर सरकार सही रूप से विचार करके उन्हें स्वीकार करने में भी न हिचके। हमारे यहाँ कुछ इस तरीके की स्थिति होती चली गई है कि हम नहीं चाहते हैं कि संसद अधिक दिन मिले, क्योंकि जितने अधिक सत्र होंगे, उतनी अधिक समस्याएँ होंगी, उतना अधिक ब्यूरोक्रेसी के ऊपर, सरकार के ऊपर अंकुश होगा। इसका सबसे अच्छा उपाय होता है कि संसद के सत्र कम-से-कम बुलाए जाएँ, जो कि गलत है। इसीलिए मेरा यह विचार है और मैंने इस बिल को पेश किया है कि कृपया आप इस पर विचार करें कि पार्लियामेंट को कम-से-कम 120 दिन meet करना चाहिए और राज्यों में उन्हें कम-से-कम 60 दिन मिलना चाहिए। मेरा यह सुझाव है और मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल पर चर्चा करके इसको पास किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri Mahendra Mohan seeks to amend two Articles — 85 and 174 — of the Constitution. Article 85 broadly reads, “The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.” That means, the period of intervening session has been fixed. But, number of

days has not been fixed. Therefore, Shri Mahendra Mohanji seeks to amend this Article and also Article 174 pertaining to State Legislatures to fix a certain number of sittings. Sir, my initial reaction, after reading the Bill, was this. Why a statutory compulsion? Why not leave it to convention as it happens today. But, there are demerits in the convention. In the sense, the Government of the day may choose to have a lesser number of days of a session. It happens in many State Legislatures. Therefore, my considered view is to support the concept. Let us put it in the Constitution, so that no Government can dilute the relevance of a Legislature, whether at the State level or at the national level. Therefore, in principle, I welcome this Bill.

Sir, Legislatures are the pillars of democracy. Nation runs through Legislatures. Sometimes people say, "*Quaide zyada ho gaye.*" Why so much legislation? But, ultimately, the first infrastructure is legislation. Sometimes, you may keep aside legislation and do some good action. But, if legislation is not at its place, nobody is going to listen. Therefore, legislation is very important. There are three Lists in the Constitution. The first one is the Union List, the second one is State List and the third one is the Concurrent List. Legislation enacted or amended as per the subjects mentioned under these three Lists. There are executive orders passed by the Government from time to time. And, there are also schemes of the Government. Schemes are, broadly, executive orders only. They are not legislation. But, they have got the force of law. If we required to discuss and deliberate legislation which is brought before Legislature from time to time, then, a fixed time is required. Whether the time given at present is sufficient or not is to be examined. Therefore, the number of days has to be more and more so that more and more legislation are discussed. Basically, we have sufficient legislation in the country. All the areas have been covered, except the modern ones like electronic things, etc. They required to be covered with new legislation. Or, if we would like to give some benefits in a larger scale like the Employment Guarantee Act, it requires new legislation. Broadly speaking, areas are covered. We do not require much new legislation. At the same time, implementation aspect is also important. But, amendments of even one line or one word to several hundreds of Acts are going to create a big effect on the society at large, because there are many Acts where simple amendment would do miracles. Therefore, the Government has to identify Acts which are faulty. The Government should also identify the Acts which are archaic that required revision. Identify such legislation. If identification is done, then we will see that we require many, many days of Parliament to discuss such legislation. It is because we are not identifying legislation which requires amendment. We feel okay some 7-8 Bills are coming for amendment or enactment, some subjects come for general discussion, some Calling Attention, Short Duration and that finishes our job. But, if we dig into these aspects, then we will find that the time is not sufficient.

Secondly, what we legislate? When we enact some legislation, it is only 30 per cent of law. Sir, 70 per cent contain in rules. So, we have to adopt some practice where by rules are also discussed either along with the bill or at a later stage. If we do not discuss the rules, it means, 70 per cent of a statute is not discussed! ...only thirty per cent is discussed because the Act or the Bill contains only 30 per cent legislation and most of the things are laid down in the rules. So, some practice has to be developed and we will have to take a new initiative whereby rules are also discussed. For this, again, number of Session days has to be more. Then, it has been noticed that whenever we pass any legislation, after the discussion is over, many Members give their amendments, particularly the Members of the Opposition because from the ruling side we normally do not give amendments, but we sometimes do not allow the hon. Members to explain their amendments because debate is over and everybody is tired. But the real content of a view is contained in amendments. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that whenever an amendment is moved by anybody that amendment should be moved and the concerned Member should be given 2 to 3 minutes to explain that amendment. Then, the House may agree or disagree with that. Though the speeches are broad, yet they do not contain the exact things. The exact things are contained in the amendments. But that exact part is not being recognized by us. Therefore, taking this opportunity, I would like to request the Government to give a thought to this.

Then, there is a feeling that if you have more number of Session days, the work of the Government will suffer. It is not so because the Ministers do not remain present all the time, and they need not. Whenever they have got business, they may remain present and rest of the time they are in their offices. Therefore, if the number of Session days is increased the work of the Government will not suffer. It is only psychological because sometimes the bureaucrats may also say, "No; no, you come after one month, first let the Session be over". This is some kind of pretext. So, let the Session and the Government functioning go together. Earlier, I remember, when I was the Member of the other House in 1984, the Budget Session was continuously for two months and three weeks. Now, that system has gone because Standing Committees have come in between. The work is done by the Standing Committees. It's okay, but there is no recognition for the work that is done during that one month in the Standing Committees because there is no coverage and nobody knows what we say there. So, it is not known to anybody that we are also working in the Standing Committees because all the proceedings are indoors. On the contrary, there is ban that until the report is submitted to the Committee one cannot divulge anything outside. Though it is a parliamentary job that we are doing, but our mouth is shut. So, what is the advantage of this exercise? It is better that we resort to the old system where the Budget Session used to be over 2-3 months. I am not saying that the Standing Committees have no utility, but I am just trying to point out that though during that one month also the

parliamentary work is going on but the outside world does not know about it. Therefore, some thought has to be given to this aspect also.

Then, we have got Rules of Business. According to these rules, any matter pending in a court of law cannot be raised in the House. Is it possible? I think, most of the matters that we discuss today are, in some form or the other, in the court of law. It is practically not possible. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and others concerned that this rule should be done away with because it creates unnecessary hurdles. You cannot implement it also, if you implement you will not be able to do justice to the people because there may be big issues of public relevance and anybody may go and file a writ petition in the court of law and block the Parliament. If we say that pending matters cannot be discussed in the House, it is very easy to block the discussion. Therefore, such rules which are not practicable should not be allowed to remain in statute books. Then, Sir, I would like to make a minor suggestion regarding Unstarred Questions. We get the replies of Unstarred Questions at 12 o'clock in the office. There is a problem. If the Unstarred Questions are put simultaneously on the Internet — suppose you are not in Parliament, you are somewhere outside — because they are supplied in electronic forms, then it would be quite advantageous. A request was made by me quite some time back but the Ministries supply the electronic data to the concerned Department very, very late, after three, four days. Therefore, forget about the replies by 12 o'clock, even next day or third day they are not available on the Parliament website. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister to do something in this matter.

Then, Sir, Rajya Sabha sits up to five o'clock. I do not know when this convention developed. But Lok Sabha sits up to six o'clock. Similar issues are discussed in both the Houses. Country is one. There are only two Houses. Why do not we sit up to six o'clock?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Rajya Sabha is elders' House.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: I would suggest that that one hour be used for Private Members. We have got several Bills and Resolutions. Hardly, one Bill is discussed. I have given notices for 70 Bills. In six years time, I do not know whether, forget about two Bills, even one Bill or one Resolution came up for discussion. If this is the case, that means there is some flaw in the days allotted to Private Members' Bill. So, allot this one hour for Private Members. We will all be sitting here and we will be doing our job.

Then, Sir, actually, I was surprised that on the first day itself, a Calling Attention Motion was taken up for discussion. You can look into the records of the past, and you will find that Calling Attention Motion are extinct speeches now. They are gone. So, I would suggest that after every two, three days, one Calling Attention Motion should be admitted. These days, whole Session

goes without any Calling Attention Notices being admitted, maybe, because of several compulsions. Therefore, Calling Attention Notices should also be appropriately considered. Lastly, since Ahluwaliaji, somehow, is finding objections to my statements or getting disturbed, I would like to end my speech. I hope the suggestions which I have made will be considered. Thank you.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, उसके लिए धन्यवाद। हमारे विद्वान साथी महेन्द्र मोहन जी इस संविधान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2008 के द्वारा भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 85 और अनुच्छेद 174 में संशोधन चाहते हैं। उन्होंने यह जो मंशा रखी है, शायद वह सभी सांसदों की मंशा है, सभी सांसदों की इच्छा है। उन्होंने मुंबई में जिस मुख्य सचिवों की कांफ्रेंस का उल्लेख किया है और जिस रिपोर्ट का उल्लेख किया है, उस समिति का मैं अध्यक्ष था और वह रिपोर्ट मेरी बनाई हुई है।

महोदय, आप आर्टिकल 85 और आर्टिकल 174 की बात करते हैं, परन्तु मैं एक मूल सवाल पर बोल रहा हूँ कि हमें पार्लियामेंट क्यों चाहिए? Why do we need Parliament? This is a big question. And, today, the young generation, the present generation is asking why we need Parliament. The answer is, “to legislate — basically, we are law-makers — and to make the Minister and through the Minister, officers and Government servants accountable to Parliament... (*Interruptions*)... and then, monitor the monitoring agencies and regulatory agencies.

Otherwise, there is no monitor for monitoring agencies and regulatory agencies. It is only the Parliament which can monitor. Through the Question Hour, the system started long ago. During the Question Hour, when we ask questions, the Ministry, the Department gives answers. Now, the Right to Information Act came only in 2005. But the provision of the Right to Information Act was already available to us, more or less, not in similar shape but in some other shape. It was available to the Members of Parliament. That right was with us and we were using it. Whenever anybody wants any information from some Department, they approach us; social organisation, any other organisation approach a Member of Parliament and request us to ask a particular question. So, this was about the Question Hour.

Then there is another platform or another forum to draw the attention of the Government. Sir, both the previous speakers, my learned friend, the Mover of the Bill and another learned friend, Shri Shantaram, have enlightened us on it, giving certain information about how many sittings took place earlier and how many sittings are now taking place. My learned friend, Mahendra Mohanji, has given some information about foreign countries also. But why did it decline here? Compare it, Sir. I will just give you a very simple example. I have got the figures published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat during the Golden Jubilee Year. The number of Bills passed and assented to on Administrative Matters was about 322 from 1952 to 2002. Then, on Judicial and Legal matters, this number was 156; and on Constitutional matters, it was 86. But on Constitutional matters, we have, I think, reached about 107 or 108. Then, the number of other

legislations was 112; on financial and economics, it was 1854; on social, this figure was 89; and on others, this figure was 394. So, we have passed Bills in four-five categories. But, Sir, if you see the statistics of our population, at the time when we achieved freedom, the population was 35 crores. Today, it is more than a billion and it is said that every year we produce one Australia, and, in Australia, we are facing a new problem now. So, we can understand that we are not only producing one Australia every year but we are producing so many problems also every year. If you narrate the problems, the comparison between 35 crore and one billion, we should compare whether we have increased our system, our number of seats. It is not only the number of sittings, but it is also the number of representatives. Then, there is literacy percentage. Maybe, the literacy percentage has gone high. Illiterates are less. At the time of freedom, less people were there. But the quality of lives of the people was better. Our people were involved in the Freedom struggle. They had sacrificed their lives for the country. They were real patriots. Today, we are divided in our thinking; we are divided in our language; we are divided in religions; we are divided on caste lines; we are divided on everything. Sir, with literacy, another problem that has arisen is that of unemployment. Now, what has it brought? Unemployment! Atrocities on weaker sections! Human rights violations! Then, we talk of liberalisation and consumerism. These have brought in a lot of competitiveness.

There are some statistics that I came across, Sir. In 1953, the cognizable offences/incidents were about 6,01,964. Today, they are 19,89,673. The percentage of increase is of the order of 230.5 per cent. I am quoting the 1953 to 2007 figures. Take murder, Sir. The last figure was collected in 1971 and it was 9,802; and till 2007, it came to 32,318 murders per year. Take rape. In 1953, the number of rape incidents was 2487. Today, it is 20737. So, one can compare the figures and find out that every minute or every hour, somebody is being raped. Then, take kidnapping and abduction. This is a new industry, Sir. The number of kidnapping and abduction incidents was 5261 and, in 2007, it was 27561. It is only in the case of two things that the figures had declined, so far as the statistics collected in 1953 and 2007, were concerned. One was dacoity and the other was house-breaking, burglary, सैध मारकर चोरी करना। At that time the figure was 5579 and in 2007 it was 4579, that is, a difference of -17.9 per cent. In house breaking, the figure at that time was 1,37,379 and in 2007, it was 91,218. This is -38.1 per cent less. Now, why am I quoting these figures? I am quoting these figures to show that the problems have increased, their volume has increased and people's grievances have increased. Ultimately, people approach their representatives seeking justice. I don't have with me figures for cases pending in the lower courts, High courts and the Supreme Court, but in the lower courts, it runs into crores, it runs into lakhs in the high courts and it runs into thousands in the Supreme Court. People who fought for Freedom had dreamt that when they attain freedom, when they attain

4.00 p.m.

Swaraj, they would have access to speedy justice, they would have a society free from all sorts of problems and tension. But no, the society is full of problems and tensions. It is not only our problem, Sir, but there are some other problems which are emanating from outside and falling on us. There are some natural problems also. When we talk about the UN Resolutions, global warming is a new threat. In India, somewhere we are facing drought. The other day, Manipur declared drought; the whole State declared drought. Some other States are also facing the similar situation. But half of Assam is facing floods and half of Assam is facing drought. Similar situation is in Bihar. Full of North Bihar is facing floods and the Central Bihar is facing drought. So, where will they discuss these problems? When we don't increase the time; when we don't legislate; when we don't raise the issues of urgent public importance in the House and when there will be no sittings, where will we raise these issues? That is why we need Parliament. Under Article 74, the Minister is accountable to the Parliament and through the Minister the bureaucracy is also accountable to the Parliament and through that system we monitor the developmental projects. Sir, we are living in an era of new generation. They want new legislations; they want new system to work. But we are still carrying those systems or those laws which were once called by our founding fathers, freedom fighters and those who fought against the British imperialism as draconian laws. These draconian laws still exist. The essence of the draconian law is to delay the justice and to delay the redressal. So, there should be a system where grievances should be heard and something should be done in a positive manner for the redressal of that grievance. But where is that system? Where is that cell working today? It is only when the Parliament discuss that matter. Now what do we say in Parliament? We have limited opportunities like Half-an-Hour discussion, Short Duration discussion, Calling Attention, discussion on motion, Zero Hour and Special Mentions. In the Lok Sabha, there are additional two, that is, No Confidence Motion and Adjournment Motion, and nothing more. Yes, out of this Parliament Chamber we have created about 24 Department-related Standing Committees. What happens? Sir, I was going through the Practice and Procedure of Parliament. There I found although an officer cannot appear in this Chamber, but he can appear to brief the Committee in the committee room. He comes and gives his views. Under the doctrine of ministerial responsibility, an officer is accountable to the Minister and through the Minister he is accountable to the Parliament. But, Sir, you cannot punish a civil servant. Parliament cannot punish a civil servant. You can punish the Government through the No Confidence Motion. You can remove the Government. But, you cannot punish a civil servant. His accountability is governed by another Act. Act is passed by Parliament, but then Chief Vigilance Commissioner is there; the Cabinet Secretary is there; and, disciplinary action committees are there. They will take action. But, you can raise the point here. But, if there is no Parliament, then what? How will

you raise issues? My learned friend, while moving the Bill, said that sometimes, the party gives instructions to their Members to make *hungama*. No party gives this mandate to any Member to make *hungama*. It is the grievances. It is the urgency of that matter which he wanted to raise on the floor of the House and when he does not get an opportunity, he gets agitated. If you allow him to ventilate his views or discuss that matter on the floor of the House and Government comes out with a solution, you will never see an adjournment in the House. You will never see that a Member is jumping into the Well. Nobody feels happy when he goes to the Well, or when he is agitated. No Member feels happy. When Members come from their constituencies and when they give audience to the people and they hear their problems and grievances, they think that they must do something for those underprivileged people who cannot afford to even sit here in the visitors' gallery. So, at least, we should do something for them. But, it is very unfortunate because I was going through this record that since when it has deteriorated. Sir, 1975 was the first time when Emergency was declared. In 1975, sittings came down from 119 to 63. Then, in the next year, it was 98. Then, it was 86. Again, in 1978, it was 115 days. It again came down in 1979 to 66 days. Then, 1988 onwards, it is taking the downward trend. The question is: why? Population is increasing; problems are increasing; unemployment is increasing; crisis situations are more. But, the number of sittings is decreasing. So, if you ask a journalist friend there, he says, "No, these are the Members." They write big articles in the newspapers that they have not allowed the House to function. The Treasury Benches, anybody sitting there, will blame the Opposition... (*Interruptions*). No, those Benches are also protected, and anybody sitting there always think that they are right and others are wrong. It should not be so. I was thinking that since when we have stopped doing the work of nation building. Now, with every Budget, we bring some new formulae, some new *Yojanas*, some new schemes. But, overall, where are nation building schemes? I am not against NREGA. But, when they said, "Through NREGA, no permanent structure will be constructed". Why? If no permanent structure will be constructed, then, why are you spoiling the man hours of the country, the energy of the country? Is it just to give money? You create permanent structure. You pay money for that. Then only, one can understand that with the money spent from the national exchequer, you have created national asset. But that is not there. That is why, I am saying that whenever we formulate certain schemes or announce certain schemes, it is not discussed threadbare.

Every political party brings an emotional agenda, sometimes in the name of ... (*Interruptions*)...I said, every party. If you want to know the names, I can quote 146 parties. There is no problem. When I am speaking, it means that it includes me also. Sir, all political parties bring emotional agenda. But did anybody try to draw a national priority. What are the national priorities? Every year, we go to the United Nations General Assembly. Whenever any

new covenant, law or treaty is passed, India is the first signatory. We are signatory to 'Health for All'. By 'Health for All', we mean that we will provide medical facilities to the entire population. Have we done that? We are signatory to 'Shelter for All', which means that we will provide houses to everybody. Have we done that? 'Justice for All', have we done that? 'Food for All', have we done that? 'Job for All', have we done that? 'Education for All', have we done that? The answer to all these is in the negative. How will you do it if you do not discuss it in the Parliament? If these national priorities are not drawn and brought on the floor of the House for discussion, how will you do it? You have to do this if you want to build the nation.

Today is an important day. Railway Budget has been announced by the new Railway Minister. The Railway Minister might have announced some important and attractive trains, reduction of train fare and all those things. Just compare what Britishers left and what we have today. How many kilometres of railway line did Britishers left, and, in the last sixty years, how many inches of railway line have we added to that. Just calculate this. Then, you will come to know that you have just converted from meter gauge to broad gauge; from broad gauge to second line; from one line to second line or third line, and, nothing else.

Britishers came here to rule this country and commercially exploit us. They exploited us. They identified the places from where they would take the iron ore. They identified the port from where the ship would go outside India after loading. They identified the places. Take for example, Darjeeling train. Who started this? Britishers started this. Why did they start it? At that time, because the air-conditioners were not there, during summer period, they wanted to shift their capital from one place to second place. Take for example, Shimla train. Who started it? Britishers started this. Kalka Mail was known as a super mail. There is a guideline that when Kalka Mail crosses any subdivision, the Sub-Divisional Manager should be present in the control room because all the *Sahebs* travel in the train.

We must discuss these matters, whether it is the railways, steel, coal, nation development, roads, rivers. Now, there are no waterways although we are called country of rivers. Here rivers are worshipped. In the entire world, except India, no river is worshipped. If you live in the North, the Ganga is worshipped. If you live in the South, the Krishna and the Cauvery are worshipped. If you live in the West, the Godavari is worshipped. And if you live in the area near Gujarat or Rajasthan, the Saraswati is worshipped. It is a country of rivers. But we never thought of interconnecting rivers. We never discussed the matter in the House. Is it not important? The concept of 'Garland Canal' has come several times. But we never discussed it, because we did not have the time to do it.

My humble submission is that this is an important Bill. The Government should assure the House or assure the hon. Member that it will bring the amendment.

Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik read the Article 85, Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution. It says that the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next Session.

But what is President? Article 74 says that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

What does this mean? That means the wish of the Government will be the wish of the President. So, if the Government does not desire to summon the House, or, to provide time to the House for discussion, you cannot summon the House.

Similarly, it is the State Council of Ministers which aid and advice the Governor. And what is that? The hon. Member was quoting the case of Karnataka. I think that Mahendra Mohanji forgot about his own State, Uttar Pradesh. It sat for less than 30 days. The Assembly of the largest State of the country has less than 30 days of sitting.

Under Article 213 of the Constitution, the Governor can promulgate an Ordinance. You ask any Sugarcane Growers' Cooperative Society, when there is no session, they will issue an ordinance. The House will meet for one day or two or three days, and they will not convert that Ordinance into Bill, and that will lapse. After the conclusion of the session, again, they will issue the same Ordinance with a change in 'a' and 'b.'

The same thing is happening in other States also. States are being run by Ordinances. There is no legislation, because there is no time to pass the legislation. There is no consensus to pass the legislation.

My point is, everybody sitting in this House, whether in this corner or that corner, is interested in nation building. And for nation building, our founding fathers have given us the best forum — Parliament. Parliament is to make laws. Parliament is to discuss, debate and deliberate. Parliament is to control and contain corruption. Ministers are made accountable to Parliament, and, through them, the officers are accountable to Parliament. Parliament is to monitor through the monitoring agency and the regulating agency. But, are we doing that? We are failing in that. We are failing in that. And the most important duty in this is of the ruling party. The ruling party must come forward with a Constitution Amendment where it should say that we are amending article 85 and fixing up the sittings as 120 days minimum in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and in Assemblies, 90 days minimum. That should be fixed. And, that is the recommendation not only of the Chief Whips' Conference, but also, I think, of the Presiding Officers' Conference. There also, they have discussed and deliberated on it.

With these words, Sir, I once again thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on a very important Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Rajniti Prasad. Not here. Shri Matilal Sarkar.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, thank you very much. Sir, first of all, I would like to commend Mahendra Mohanji for bringing forward a very important matter in the House and to rouse us to see that we all stand by in one voice so that the Parliament session may be made meaningful.

Sir, we have numerous problems. We come from States. This is the Council of States. Every State is particular about its own problems. The problems of the North-East may not coincide with the problems of Punjab or Tamil Nadu. When we come here, we want to ventilate the views of the people, their sufferings and their day-to-day life references. We like to bring forth them here. But, what happens is, when we rise to speak, from the Chair, very often, we are cautioned that we must conclude within five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will not say that today. Today, I will not say it.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: So, Sir, very often, we face this. Sir, I have observed the sittings in the other House. They are very large in number and while watching their speeches on television, I have seen that they have to conclude in 2-3 minutes. I think, they are more knowledgeable than us in that matter. In this way, actually, we cannot properly ventilate what we want to speak.

Sir, the House has various forms or practices for deliberations by the Members. These are Calling Attention, putting supplementaries, Short Duration Discussion, Special Mentions and, of course, in the other House, the scope of bringing No Confidence Motion and all these things. Sir, I have seen that while supplementary questions are being put to the Ministers, we always raise our hands. Sir, I am on the Food and Public Distribution Committee. So, whenever I have seen that the particular question is very pertinent for me, because I deal with the same there in the House, I find that several Members have raised hands, but the hon. Chairman or the Vice-Chairman or the Deputy Chairman are not supposed to know who belongs to which Committee, and, thereby, the chances of some of us are lost. And it is lost for ever, Sir. It is lost for ever, and I have seen that everybody has raised questions but my point remains unexposed. So, by this way, we miss, and we let others also miss!

Sir, there are incidents in the country, by which the whole country is shaken. There are so many — earthquakes, cyclones, storms, violences, ugly riots, racism, economic issues and sufferings of the people. But we have seen that this Session is not near at hand. And there is no possibility that Session will run. By this way, all these matters or many of these matters go

undiscussed. And when the Session comes, situation changes; new things come in the front and those very important matters become the matters of the past. Situation has changed, and when the Session runs, then, the current affairs only come to the fore. That is why many of the matters by which the whole nation is shaken and which affects the lives of the people also, but the Parliament is not allowed to discuss, we do not get the scope to discuss. Sir, what we have seen in the few months ahead is, in the House, there was a sort of, what should I say, Sir, restlessness in this House, and also in the other House, due to some political chaos. But what I have seen is that by taking advantage of the situation, the Government has taken the opportunity to get the Bills passed without discussion! I do not blame the Government because every Government may take the opportunity like this. But, this is, actually, what we have seen in the papers that here, in the House, and in the other House also, just in 17 minutes, eight Bills have been passed! The news has come like this; I do not know how far it is correct. And, amongst the Bills, there have been important Bills. They are important Bills, but the Bills have been passed! So, we could not give our views; Members could not give their views, their own views or the views of their party; nothing could be given. And by voice votes, the Bills are getting passed! And after three years it may happen that some amendment comes. But, at that time, we shall not be there; some new Members will come and will give their own views, their own thinking!

Sir, see what happens to the Special Mentions! We, the Members, bring very important matters in the House through our Special Mentions. and if one is allowed to read out his or her Special Mention, everybody in the House can understand the meaning or the significance of that Special Mention. But, Sir, what we are allowed to do is “you just lay it!” “You just lay it!” And we rise, and when we rise, the Chair knows that so and so Member is present; so this should be accepted!

Others could not understand what is stated in the Special Mention. I could not know what my colleagues have stated in their Special Mentions. That is why the true meaning of the legislation....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Matilalji, on this issue the leaders of the parties can sit together and bring about a consensus. If you are ready to sit after 5.00 P.M., the Special Mentions can be read also. I think, you can take the initiative for doing that. You can take the initiative for doing that.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: If we meet more often, we will automatically get more time.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: They come in the papers. They come in the parliamentary papers. But my point is not this. If I read it out in the House, others can understand it and they would take interest in it, and thereby the subject-matter can get enriched. That scope is lost.

Sir, the session of the House is not getting the importance it deserves and it is not bearing the fruits in the right way. I should say that its importance is sometimes ignored and very often the Parliament is bypassed. Take, for example, the promulgation of ordinances. This is the best instance where the Parliament is bypassed. Sometimes the Government takes decisions overnight when the Parliament is scheduled to meet on the next day. We have seen that at midnight the prices of petrol and diesel have been increased. In the morning the Parliament was going to sit and at midnight this price hike had taken place. By these acts actually the Parliament is getting bypassed. This should not be there. We should not belittle the importance of the House. What is the lacuna? There is a lacuna.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Matilalji, your party's time is eight minutes. You have taken twelve minutes.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I am concluding. Lacuna is there. We don't get time for discussion. The Parliament sits for 20 days or 25 days. It is like that. Sometimes the Parliament gets adjourned before the schedule. As a result of this, the things that we want to bring here or the opinions, the sufferings and the views of the public which we would like to ventilate here, we can't do in the right way. That is why the session should be in its normal form. Actually, a session should be, at least, for 30 days. This is customary. That should be maintained at any cost. By bringing forward this Bill hon. Member, Shri Mahendra Mohan, has given us an opportunity to bring it again to the knowledge of the Government. While preparing for the Budget Session, they should consider all these points.

With these words, I thank you and conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Thank you very much, Matilalji. Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्री महेन्द्र मोहन के इस विधेयक का पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हूँ, क्योंकि माननीय सदस्यों को इस विधेयक के जरिए, बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर अपनी राय प्रकट करने का मौका मिला है।

आज हम देख रहे हैं कि दिनों-दिन लोकतंत्र में लोक सभा, राज्य सभा या राज्य की विधानसभाओं का महत्व घटता जा रहा है। अभी हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही कहा कि एक तरफ देश की आबादी बढ़ रही है, हमारी समस्याएं दिनों-दिन बढ़ रही हैं, उसी के साथ ही साथ यह बड़ी ही विचित्र और आश्चर्यजनक स्थिति है कि हमें अपनी समस्याओं को लेकर बहस करने का मौका नहीं मिलता है। मान्यवर, यह लोकतंत्र बुनियादी तौर पर बहस मुबाहिसे की ही एक व्यवस्था है। यह तर्क-वितर्क है और तर्क-वितर्क के जरिए ही हम सच्चाई तक पहुंचने का प्रयास करते हैं। सत्य क्या है, सच्चाई क्या है, उसे जानने की तरफ हम बढ़ते हैं। यह जो संसद है, इस संसद के पीछे मूल भावना यही है कि इस संसद में जनता द्वारा चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि आते हैं, इसीलिए संसद के बारे में कहा गया है कि संसद देश की जनता के अरमानों और उसकी इच्छाओं का आईना है कि जनता के अंदर क्या अरमान हैं, जनता की क्या समस्याएं हैं, जनता की क्या परेशानी है। जनता के द्वारा निर्वाचित सदस्य संसद में पहुंचता है, संसद में आता है तो यह उसका दायित्व होता है कि वह जनता की

समस्याओं को सदन में उठाए, उसकी चर्चा उठाए, क्योंकि सदन के जितने भी नियम हैं, उन सारे नियमों का एकमात्र उद्देश्य है कि विभिन्न तरीकों से इन नियमों के अंतर्गत, जो लोक महत्व के विषय होते हैं, हम उन विषयों को उठाते हैं। क्वेश्चन ऑवर से सदन शुरू होता है। क्वेश्चन ऑवर में एक घंटे का समय है और उस क्वेश्चन ऑवर में विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से संबंधित सवाल पूछे जाते हैं। मंत्री की बाध्यता होती है कि वह उसका जवाब दे। यदि सदस्य जवाब से संतुष्ट नहीं होते हैं तो उसके भी नियम हैं। उस पर बहस या अल्पकालिक चर्चा उठाई जा सकती है। इसके जरिए सरकार के क्रियाकलापों का पर्दाफाश हो जाता है, उसके क्रियाकलाप उजागर हो जाते हैं, जनता के सामने आते हैं। यही लोकतंत्र की बुनियादी बात है कि सरकार अंधेरे में काम नहीं करे, सूरज की रोशनी में काम करे। देश के हर नागरिक का यह अधिकार बनता है कि वह सरकार की सारी कार्यवाहियों की पूरी जानकारी उसे हो और वह जानकारी हासिल करने का एकमात्र जरिया या एकमात्र संस्था संसद है। इसलिए यह कहा जाता है कि संसद के सत्र बढ़ने चाहिए, ज्यादा से ज्यादा होने चाहिए। परंतु अभी माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा और अभी जो आंकड़े हमारे पास हैं, 1952 से लेकर 2008 तक के, आप यह समझिए की शुरु में 103, 137 और 139 सिटिंग्स हुईं। 1955 में 139 लोकसभा की सिटिंग्स हुईं और 111 राज्य सभा की सिटिंग्स हुईं, परंतु जैसे-जैसे समय बीतता गया, स्थिति इतनी दयनीय हो गई कि राज्य सभा की सिटिंग्स 60 या 65 पर आ गई और लोक सभा की सिटिंग्स 46 तक पहुंच गईं। अब आप कल्पना कर सकते हैं कि 46 दिन में क्या होगा। पहले तो कमेटी व्यवस्था नहीं थी तो बहुत से विभागों की जो अनुदान मांगें होती थीं, वह गिलोटिन हो जाती थीं, पास ही नहीं होती थीं। पहले बहुत से कॉलिंग अटेंशन लाने के लिए बहुत जद्दोजहद करनी पड़ती थी। वे एडमिट ही नहीं होते थे। बड़ी मुश्किल से कहीं, एक, दो या तीन और वह भी अगर मंत्री जी चाहें, मंत्री जी की राय होगी तभी आपका कॉलिंग अटेंशन स्वीकृत किया जाएगा।

क्योंकि सरकार और सरकार की नौकरशाही, ये दोनों बहस से भागते हैं। कोई अपनी जिम्मेदारी नहीं लेना चाहता। इस संसदीय लोकतंत्र में जो accountability और transparency है, पारदर्शिता और उसका दायित्व, इन दोनों से यह सरकार और सरकार की नौकरशाही भागने की कोशिश करती है। इसलिए इनकी कोशिश होती है कि सदन कम-से-कम समय का हो।

मान्यवर, सबसे बड़ी बात यह भी है कि जो भी सत्र होते हैं, उनमें ज्यादा समय सरकारी कार्य होते हैं। गैर-सरकारी काम के लिए मुश्किल से शुक्रवार को आधा दिन मिलता है। सदस्यों के जो अधिकार होते हैं, उन अधिकारों में कटौती होती है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमें सचमुच लोकतंत्र को जीवंत बनाना है, क्योंकि लोकतंत्र में ही जितनी भी सारी राजकाज चलाने की व्यवस्थाएँ हैं, उन व्यवस्थाओं में आज भी लाख खामियों के बावजूद लोकतंत्र ही सबसे अच्छी और सबसे सुविधाजनक व्यवस्था मानी गई है। दुनिया में इसका आज भी कई तरीके से विरोध हो रहा है, इसमें तमाम प्रकार की विकृतियाँ आ रही हैं, पर इन सबके बावजूद आज भी यही सबसे ज्यादा स्वीकार्य है। इस लोकतंत्र में अगर संसद बिल्कुल पंगु बन जाए, संसद बिल्कुल कमजोर बन जाए, संसद का जो प्रभाव होना चाहिए, वह प्रभाव बनने की बजाय घट जाए, तो इस लोकतंत्र का मतलब क्या है! लोकतंत्र का मतलब तंत्र भर रहेगा, लोक गायब हो जाएगा। जनता की कोई हिस्सेदारी, जनता की कोई साझेदारी होनी चाहिए। अगर जनता की हिस्सेदारी या जनता की साझेदारी नहीं रहेगी, तो सरकार की भी कोई जवाबदेही नहीं रहेगी। संसद से ज्यादा खराब स्थिति विधान सभाओं की है। चूँकि यह हमारी सबसे आदर्श संस्था है, अगर लोक सभा के दिन घटेंगे, अगर राज्य सभा के दिन घटेंगे, तो आप समझ जाइए कि यह बिल्कुल छुआछूत की बीमारी है और इस छुआछूत की बीमारी का असर विधान सभाओं पर भी पड़ता है। राज्यों के अन्दर जो तमाम ऐसे लोक महत्व के विषय होते हैं किसानों से सम्बन्धित, व्यापारियों से सम्बन्धित छात्रों से सम्बन्धित, कर्मचारियों से सम्बन्धित, ये तमाम सवाल जनता की नजर से ओझल हो जाते हैं, सरकार कोई जवाब नहीं देती है।

मान्यवर, हम देख रहे हैं कि जो सवाल किए जाते हैं, जो प्रश्न उठाए जाते हैं, उन सवालों का कितना evasive reply यानी सत्य से अलग हटने की और उसको गोल-मटोल तरीके से, ठीक या ठोस जवाब देने से सरकार और सरकार की नौकरशाही कतराती है। समयाभाव के कारण हम उस पर बहस नहीं चला सकते। इसलिए मैं यह मानता हूँ कि इस पर बहुत ही गम्भीरता से विचार होना चाहिए। देश में विचार हो रहा है। तमाम समाचार-पत्रों में बहुत अच्छे-अच्छे articles आ रहे हैं। लोग अपनी राय व्यक्त कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि यह केवल संस्था का ही अपमान नहीं है, संस्था के अपमान के साथ-ही-साथ पूरी राजनीति का अपमान है। आज जिस तरीके से चुनाव हो रहे हैं, आज जिस तरीके से हमारे प्रतिनिधि चुने जा रहे हैं, जिस तरीके से हमें सुविधाएँ प्राप्त हो रही हैं और उसका नतीजा कुछ नहीं निकल रहा है। अगर आज की राजनीति के जरिए हम जन समस्याओं का निदान या समाधान नहीं ढूँढ़ पाएंगे और लोगों का विश्वास राजनीति से या लोकतंत्र से उठ जाएगा, तो उसके कितने भयावह परिणाम होंगे, हम इसकी कल्पना नहीं कर सकते। आज हमारे देश के अन्दर चाहे वह पूर्वांचल का इलाका हो, चाहे उत्तरांचल का इलाका हो, चाहे आदिवासी इलाके हों, आज उन इलाकों में जिस तरीके से वहाँ के लोग हथियार उठा रहे हैं, वहाँ के लोग हिंसा पर उतारू हैं, अगर आप केवल बल के जरिए, केवल ताकत के जरिए, केवल पुलिस के जरिए उस असंतोष को, उस आवाज़ को दबाने की कोशिश करेंगे, तो उसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकलेगा। लेकिन अगर हम वहाँ के लोगों की समस्याओं को उठाने की कोशिश करें, तो हमारे पास समय ही नहीं है।

सरकार के पास भी समय नहीं है कि उनकी समस्याओं पर कोई विचार करे अथवा उनको जानने की कोशिश करे। धीरे-धीरे आम लोगों में यह विश्वास पैदा हो रहा है कि संसद का माने कुछ नहीं। यहां केवल कोरी, निर्गुण बहस होती है। न तो इस बहस से अधिकारी डरता है, न भ्रष्टाचारी डरता है और न ही इस बहस से जनता के अंदर हम कोई विश्वास पैदा कर सकते हैं कि इस सदन में मामला उठाने से कुछ नतीजे निकलेंगे। पहले सदन से लोग डरते थे। पहले सदन का बड़ा असर होता था। एमपी का या विधायक का बड़ा असर होता था। अब आप देखिए, आज की अखबारों में एक घटना के तहत आया है कि एक एमपी को माफ़ी मांगनी पड़ी, क्योंकि एमपी साहब के ऊपर इल्जाम था कि उन्होंने एक बैंक के मैनेजर को झापड़ मार दिया। किन परिस्थितियों में वह सब हुआ, उस पर मैं चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, मगर मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि बैंकों में किस तरीके से भ्रष्टाचार है। जो भ्रष्ट कर्मचारी या अधिकारी हैं, उनका जबरदस्त संगठन है और वे आपस में संगठित हो जाते हैं। आज हमसे कोई नहीं डरता है। मिनिस्टर से, विधायक से, एमपी से कोई नहीं डरता है, परन्तु अगर हम जन समस्याओं को लेकर किसी अधिकारी के पास जाएं तो कहने को प्रोटोकॉल में हमारी स्थिति सेक्रेटरी के बराबर है। लेकिन अगर आप असलियत में देखना चाहें, तो जो कलेक्टर है, वह भी अपने को एमपी से सुपीरियर मानता है ... (व्यवधान)

एक माननीय सदस्य: दारोगा भी बड़ा मानता है।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी: माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक कहा कि दारोगा भी अपने को बड़ा मानता है। अब आप बताएं कि हमारे सामने क्या विकल्प है? सदन में हम जा नहीं सकते, विधान सभाओं में ये मसले उठ नहीं सकते और अगर उठते भी हैं तो सरकार उन पर कोई कार्यवाही करने को तैयार नहीं है। सरकार कोई कार्यवाही नहीं कर सकती, सदन में मुझे मामला उठाने का कोई अवसर नहीं है, कहीं पर कानून इतने पेचीदा हैं कि उन कानूनों से कोई नतीजा निकलने वाला नहीं है। अगर अपने मतदाताओं का अथवा जिस जनता का हम प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, उनकी परेशानियों का निदान नहीं ढूँढ़ पाते, उनको न्याय नहीं दिलवा पाते, उनको उनका हक नहीं दिलवा पाते तो आखिर हमारे पद पर रहने का या सदन में सदस्य बने रहने का क्या औचित्य है? इसका नतीजा यह निकलता है कि इसकी चर्चा तो कभी नहीं होती कि सदन की बैठकें कम हो रही हैं, परन्तु सबसे ज्यादा चर्चा यह होती है कि संसद सदस्यों को सुविधाएं कितनी हैं, उनका भत्ता कितना है, टेलीफोन की कितनी सुविधा दी गई, बिजली की कितनी सुविधा दी गई और फिर उसका मुकाबला दुनिया के

दूसरे देशों से अथवा जो गरीब लोग हैं, उनके स्तर से किया जाता है। यानी, चारों तरफ से एक सोची-समझी साजिश के तहत यह विचित्र प्रवृत्ति पूरे देश में पनप रही है कि जो राजनीतिकर्मी हैं अथवा जो राजनैतिक दलों के नेता हैं अथवा राजनैतिक दल हैं, उनका चरित्र हनन करो। उनके प्रभाव को, उनकी प्रतिष्ठा को घटाने की कोशिश करो। इन सबसे आज पूरे देश के अंदर एक प्रकार से डीपॉलिटिकल, अराजनैतिक वातावरण पैदा हो रहा है। जब से देश में इस उपभोक्ता संस्कृति ने जन्म लिया है, तब से लोगों में, विशेषकर जो नई उम्र के लोग हैं, उनमें कोई वैल्यूज नहीं रह गई हैं, कोई मूल्य नहीं रह गए हैं।

आज ही मैंने सदन में एक मामला उठाया था कि गांधी जी के बारे में भी ऊट-पटांग या अभद्र टिप्पणी की जाती है। क्यों की जाती है? गांधी का क्या मतलब है? गांधी का मतलब है - अहिंसा, गांधी का मतलब है - सत्य, गांधी का मतलब है - अपरिग्रह, गांधी का मतलब है - किस प्रकार से सार्वजनिक जीवन की शुचिता बनी रहे। जब देश आजाद हुआ तो एक अमरीकी पत्रकार ने गांधी जी से पूछा कि जब देश आजाद होगा तो देश का प्रधान कौन होगा? गांधी जी ने कहा कि अगर मेरा बस चले तो मैं चाहूंगा कि मेरे आश्रम में जो झाड़ू लगाती है, उसकी लड़की देश की प्रधान बने। उस विदेशी पत्रकार ने कहा कि आप गज़ब के आदमी हैं। आपके पास पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू हैं, आपके पास डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद हैं, आपके पास सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल हैं और एक से एक पढ़े-लिखे विद्वान लोग हैं और आप कहते हैं कि आपके आश्रम में झाड़ू लगाने वाली की लड़की को आप देश का प्रधान बनाएंगे।

इस पर गांधी जी ने कहा कि इसके लिए शैक्षणिक योग्यता की आवश्यकता नहीं है। उन्होंने केवल तीन गुण बताए थे। उन्होंने कहा था कि पहला गुण यह हो कि उसकी integrity beyond doubt हो। दूसरी बात यह है कि वह शरीर और मन से शुद्ध हो और उसका कलेजा मजबूत हो। She should be of stout heart. इसके अलावा वह incorruptible भी हो। किसी भी कीमत पर उसको भ्रष्ट न किया जा सके। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... उन्होंने उसको और ज्यादा एक्सप्लेन किया कि उसमें सीता की आँखों की वह चमक होनी चाहिए जिससे कि कोई रावण भी उसे छूने की कोशिश न कर सके। ये गांधी के मूल्य हैं। जो व्यावहारिक जीवन है या जो लोग आज की राजनीति को सेवा के बजाय धन और प्रतिष्ठा कमाने का जरिया बनाना चाहते हैं, वे लोग आज हमारे ऐसे राष्ट्रीय पुरुषों का और ऐसे मूल्यों की हँसी उड़ाते हैं, मजाक उड़ाते हैं। यह सिलसिला जब शुरू होता है तो आज वही सिलसिला संसद से, वही सिलसिला राजनीति से, वही सिलसिला जन प्रतिनिधियों के चरित्रहनन और उनके मूल्यों को घटाने से होगा। अगर यह स्थिति बन जाएगी तो यही नौकरशाह और देश के यही भ्रष्ट पूंजीपति अपने निजी लाभ और अपने निजी स्वार्थ के लिए इस देश को ही विदेशियों के हाथों में बेच देंगे। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... इस पर अंकुश लगाने का एक मात्र जरिया यह है कि हम खुली बहस करें, हम संसद की गरिमा को बढ़ाएँ तथा हम संसद के अधिकारों को बढ़ाएँ। ये अधिकार और गरिमा तभी बढ़ सकती है जब हम इसकी ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा सिटिंग करें और संसद सदस्यों को, जनप्रतिनिधियों को लोक-महत्व के विषयों को उठाने का भरपूर मौका दें। मैं इसीलिए इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अमेंडमेंट लाया जाए और इसे सरकार स्वीकार करे कि कम-से-कम 120 दिन संसद चले और 60 दिन विधान सभा चले। मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ इस बिल का समर्थन करते हुए अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी (जम्मू और कश्मीर): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो बिल आईन की तरमीम के हवाले से आज इस ऐवान में पेश हुआ है, इसके अग्राजो मकासिद पर नज़र डालें तो एक बात साफ हो जाती है कि गुजिश्ता 60 वर्षों से ज्यादा हमारे इस पार्लिमान्ती निजाम में बजाए बेहतरी आने के, बजाय इसके एतबार बढ़ने के, इसके एतबार में आवाम की नज़रों में भी और हिज्बे इख्तिलाफ़ और हिज्बे इत्तिदार की नज़रों में भी इसकी अहमियत घट गई है। अगर आईन के बनने के बाद लोक सभा की और राज्य सभा की भी 110 सिटिंग्स होती थीं, तो अब उनकी 80 सिटिंग्स तक ही होती हैं। 80 सिटिंग्स ही इस साल में होंगी, लोक

5.00 p.m.

सभा की भी और राज्य सभा की भी। यह एक बड़ा संजीदा मसला है। इलेक्शन के वक्त या इलेक्शन के बाद सिर्फ इतना कहना ही काफी नहीं है कि हम दुनिया की एक बहुत बड़ी जम्हूरियत हैं, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। बिलाशुबा हम दुनिया के बड़े जम्हूरी मुल्क होने का दावा करते हैं, लेकिन जम्हूरी मुल्क पर आवाम का एतबार बढ़ाने से ही जम्हूरियत मुस्तहकम हो सकती है, जम्हूरी निजाम मुस्तहकम हो सकता है। यहाँ पर आए दिन हम बेहतर निजाम-ए-हुकूमत या good governance का राग भी अलापते हैं। लेकिन कॉल और फेथ, जिसको हिंदी में कहते हैं - करनी और कथनी में कितना अंतर है, कितना फर्क है? वह आप जमीनी सतह पर देखेंगे, आवाम की सतह पर देखेंगे। आप यहां पर क्या मुबाहिसे करते हैं? बहुत कम लोगों को, बावजूद इस बात के, कि आज लोगों के पास टेलीविजन और रेडियो की सहूलियतें दूर-दराज इलाकों तक भी मौजूद हैं, वे तफरीही प्रोग्रामों में ज्यादा दिलचस्पी रखते हैं, आपकी इस निजाम-हुकूमत के चलने में और सबसे अदारे में जो मुबाहिसे होते हैं, उनकी दिलचस्पी आज इसमें बहुत घट गई है। बहुत कम लोग हमने देखे हैं, पढ़े-लिखे भी, सियासी मामलात में दिलचस्पी रखने वाले, वे समझते हैं कि क्या देखना है पार्लियामेंट के इजलास की कार्रवाई, वहां तो यह हंगामा होगा, या वाकआउट होगा, कोई संजीदा बहस तो होगी नहीं। जो कानून आएगा, उस कानून पर मुबाहिसे की बजाय, जल्दी में वह कानून जो है, पास कर दिया जाएगा। ये मामलात ऐसे हैं, जिनको हम नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते, न हमें नजरअंदाज करना चाहिए। जिनकी मजबूती का हम रोज कहते हैं कि अदारे मजबूत होंगे, तो निजामे हुकूमत मजबूत होगा, बेहतर निजामे हुकूमत होगा। जो आवाम की फलाहो-बहबूद के लिए जो भी पालिसियां और प्रोग्राम यहां से बनकर निकलेंगे, वह आवाम तक पहुंचेंगे उनके फवाईद, लेकिन जब जवाबदेही का अमल ही नहीं होगा, जवाबदेही का अमल तो तभी है, जब यहां पर तमाम मामलात, जिनके ऐलानात किए जाएं, जिन पालिसियों को यहां बयान किया जाय, अच्छी पालिसियां, उनकी कितनी अमलआवरी होती है, वह लोगों तक ऐसे पहुंचें कि पार्लियामेंट में इस पर बहस हुए, जो भी ऐलानात हुए हैं, उन पर अमलआवरी के हवाले से हुकूमत क्या कर रही है, वह जवाबदेह है आवाम के।

हम पिछले दस, बीस, तीस साल से इस कार्यवाही को देखते आए हैं, और पिछले छह साल से भी देख रहे हैं, अब तो पार्लियामेंट का बाजाब्ता टेलीविजन पर भी यह मामला दिखाया जाता है। आम राय तो यही बनती है कि जवाबदेही जो है, हिज्बे इत्तिदार अपने आपको जवाबदेह ही नहीं समझता है पार्लियामेंट के सामने, किसी तरीके से वह टालने की कोशिश करता है और हिज्बे इख्तिलाफ यह समझता है कि अगर उनकी कोई खबर मीडिया में आनी है तो उसके लिए सिर्फ हंगामा जरूरी है। अगर वह हंगामा नहीं करेंगे, कोई संजीदा बहस करेंगे, तो खबर नहीं बनेगी। हिज्बे इत्तिदार ने भी अपनी सोच में तब्दीली लानी है, हिज्बे इख्तिलाफ ने भी अपनी सोच में तब्दीली लानी है। सबसे बड़ी बात यहां ऑनरेबल मैम्बर ने कही, एक वक्त था कि पार्लियामेंट में जो भी मैम्बर, चाहे लोक सभा हो या राज्य सभा हो, निहायत ही जिम्मेवारी से अपनी बात कहता था। चाहे हिज्बे इत्तिदार को कोई मैम्बर बात उठाता था, या हिज्बे इख्तिलाफ का मैम्बर ही किसी मसले पर यहां बात करता था, उसका निहायत ही संजीदा नोट लिया जाता था और आवाम को भी पता चलता था कि इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही हुई। तो बड़े-बड़े मसायल के बारे में भी खामोशी को ही बेहतर समझा जाता है। गुज़िश्ता दिनों से हम यहां देखते हैं, दो अहम मामलात यहां पर जेरे-बहस आए। वह अहम इस लिहाज से हैं कि उनके असरात आवाम के जेहन पर पड़ने वाले हैं। एक तो यह था कि किसी वजीर ने - इसमें कितना सच है, यह बात तहकीकात की है.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Shafi, you can continue your speech on the next day when the Private Members' Bill is taken up, please.

श्री मोहम्मद शफी: थैंक यू सर।

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب (جموں اور کشمیر) : آپ سبھا ادھیکش جی، یہ جو بل آئین کی ترمیم کے حوالے سے آج اس ایوان میں پیش ہوا ہے اس کے اغراض و مقاصد پر نظر ڈالیں تو ایک بات صاف ہو جاتی ہے کہ گزشتہ 60 سالوں سے زیادہ ہمارے اس پارلیمانی نظام میں بجائے بہتری آنے کے، بجائے اس کے اعتبار بڑھنے کے، اس کے اعتبار میں عوام کی نظروں میں بھی اور حزب اختلاف اور حزب اقتدار کی نظروں میں بھی اس کی اہمیت گھٹ گئی ہے۔ اگر آئین کے بننے کے بعد 110 سٹنگس ہوتی تھیں، لوک سبھا کی بھی اور راجیہ سبھا کی بھی، وہ اب 80 سٹنگس تک ہی ہوتی ہیں۔ 80 سٹنگس ہی اس سال میں ہوں گی، لوک سبھا کی بھی اور راجیہ سبھا کی بھی۔ یہ ایک بڑا سنجیدہ مسئلہ ہے۔ الیکشن کے وقت یا الیکشن کے بعد صرف اتنا کہنا ہی کافی نہیں ہے کہ ہم دنیا کی ایک بہت بڑی جمہوریت ہیں، اس میں کوئی شک نہیں ہے۔ بلاشبہ ہم دنیا کے بڑے جمہوری ملک ہونے کا دعویٰ کرتے ہیں، لیکن جمہوری ملک پر عوام کا اعتبار بڑھانے سے ہی جمہوریت مستحکم ہو سکتی ہے، جمہوری نظام مستحکم ہو سکتا ہے۔ یہاں پر آنے دن ہم بہتر نظام حکومت یا good governance کا راگ بھی الاپتے ہیں۔ لیکن کال اور فیتھ، جس کو ہندی میں کہتے ہیں، "کرنی اور کتھنی میں کتنا انتر ہے، کتنا فرق ہے؟" وہ آپ زمینی سطح پر دیکھیں گے، عوام کی سطح پر دیکھیں گے، آپ یہاں پر کیا مباحثے کرتے ہیں؟ بہت کم لوگوں کو، باوجود اس بات کے، کہ آج لوگوں کے پاس ٹیلی ویژن اور ریڈیو کی سہولیتیں دور دراز علاقوں تک بھی موجود ہیں، وہ تفریحی پروگراموں میں زیادہ دلچسپی رکھتے ہیں، اس کی دلچسپی آج اس میں بہت گھٹ گئی ہے۔ بہت کم لوگ ہم

نے دیکھے ہیں، پڑھے لکھے بھی، سیاسی معاملات میں دلچسپی رکھنے والے، وہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ کیا دیکھنا ہے پارلیمنٹ کے اجلاس کی کارروائی، وہاں تو یہ ہنگامہ ہوگا، یا واک آؤٹ ہوگا، کوئی سنجیدہ بحث تو ہوگی نہیں۔ جو قانون آئے گا، اس قانون پر مباحثے کی بجائے، جلدی میں وہ قانون جو ہے، پاس کر دیا جائے گا۔ وہ معاملات ایسے ہیں، جن کو ہم نظر انداز نہیں کر سکتے، نہ ہمیں نظر انداز کرنا چاہئے۔ جن کی مضبوطی کا ہم روز ذکر کرتے ہیں کہ ادارے مضبوط ہوں گے، تو نظام حکومت مضبوط ہوگا، بہتر نظام حکومت ہوگا۔ جو عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے لئے جو بھی پالیسیاں اور پروگرام یہاں سے بن کر نکلیں گے، وہ عوام تک پہنچیں گے ان کے فوائد، لیکن جب جواب دہی کا عمل ہی نہیں ہوگا، جواب دہی کا عمل تو بھی ہے، جب یہاں پر تمام معاملات، جن کے اعلانات کئے جائیں، جن پالیسیوں کو یہاں بیان کیا جائے، اچھی پالیسیاں، ان کی کتنی عمل آوری ہوتی ہے، وہ لوگوں تک ایسے پہنچے کہ پارلیمنٹ میں اس پر بحث ہو، جب بھی اعلانات ہوئے ہیں، ان پر عمل آوری کے حوالے سے حکومت کیا کر رہی ہے، وہ جواب دہ ہے عوام کے۔

ہم پچھلے دس، بیس، تیس سالوں سے اس کارروائی کو دیکھتے آئے ہیں، اور پچھلے چھ سال سے بھی دیکھ رہے ہیں، اب تو پارلیمنٹ کا باضابطہ ٹیلی ویژن پر بھی یہ معاملہ دکھایا جاتا ہے۔ عام رائے تو یہی بنتی ہے کہ جواب دہی جو ہے، حزب اقتدار اپنے آپ کو جواب دہ ہی نہیں سمجھتا ہے پارلیمنٹ کے سامنے، کسی طریقے سے وہ ٹالنے کی کوشش کرتا ہے اور حزب اختلاف یہ سمجھتا ہے کہ اگر ان کی کوئی خبر میڈیا میں آئی ہے تو اس کے لئے صرف ہنگامہ ضروری ہے۔ اگر وہ ہنگامہ نہیں کریں گے، کوئی سنجیدہ بحث کریں گے، تو خبر نہیں بنے گی۔ حزب اقتدار نے بھی اپنی سوچ میں تبدیلی لانی ہے، حزب اختلاف نے بھی اپنی سوچ میں تبدیلی لانی ہے۔ سب سے بڑی بات یہاں آنریبل ممبر نے کہی، ایک وقت تھا کہ پارلیمنٹ میں جو بھی ممبر، چاہے لوک سبھا ہو یا راجیہ سبھا کا ہو، نہایت ذمہ داری

سے اپنی بات کہتا تھا۔ چاہے حزب اقتدار کا کوئی ممبر بات اٹھاتا تھا، یا حزب اختلاف کا ممبر ہی کسی مسئلے پر یہاں بات کرتا تھا، اس کا نہایت ہی سنجیدہ نوٹ لیا جاتا تھا اور عوام کو بھی پتہ چلتا تھا کہ اس بارے میں کیا کارروائی ہوئی۔ تو بڑے بڑے مسائل کے بارے میں بھی خاموشی کو ہی بہتر سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ گزشتہ دنوں سے ہم یہاں دیکھتے ہیں، دو اہم معاملات یہاں پر زیر بحث آئے۔ وہ اہم اس لحاظ سے ہے کہ ان کے اثرات عوام کے ذہن پر پڑنے والے ہیں۔ ایک تو یہ تھا کہ کسی وزیر نے - اس میں کتنا سچ ہے، یہ بات تحقیقات کی ہے۔۔۔

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Shafi, you can continue your speech on the next day when the Private Members' Bill is taken up, please.

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: تھینک یو سر۔

(ختم شد)

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

- (I) Motion Re: Nomination of Members to the Committee on Public Accounts
- (II) Motion Re: Nomination of Members to the Committee on Public Undertakings
- (III) Motion Re: Nomination of Members to the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:-

(I)

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 3rd July, 2009, adopted the following motion:-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha for being associated with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 2010 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

- 2. I am to request that the concurrence of Raja Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House."

[] Transliteration in Urdu Script.

(II)

“I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 3rd July, 2009, adopted the following motion:-

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha for being associated with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 2010 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Raja Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House.”

(III)

“I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 3rd July, 2009, adopted the following motion:-

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha for being associated with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term ending on the 30th April, 2010 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House.”

Sir, I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 1.30 p.m. on 6th July, 2009.

The House then adjourned at one minute past five of the clock till thirty minutes past one of the clock on Monday, the 6th July, 2009.