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RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 4th August, 2009/13 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*441. [The questioner(s) (Shri Dara Singh) was absent. For answer *vide* page 25 *infra*.]

National Rural Livelihood Mission

*442. MS. MABEL REBELLO:††

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking a cue from National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme's (NREGS) success, his Ministry is considering to launch an equally ambitious programme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for self-employment through skill development by restructuring existing programme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether Government will guarantee self-employment to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families by organizing Self Help Groups (SHGs) under this scheme;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the said programme; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The proposal for restructuring of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) into National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is under consideration of Government of India. The aim of re-structuring is to make it universal in application, focused in approach and time bound poverty reduction. It is proposed to provide flexibility to the State Governments to have their own poverty reduction action plans based upon their specific requirements. Stress will be laid on the formation of women Self Help Groups (SHGs). Apart from providing capital

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Mabel Rebeloo.

subsidy at an enhanced rate, it is also proposed to provide interest subsidy to poor households for loans up to Rs. One lakh from banks. The details of the proposal are, at present, being finalized in consultation with states and other stakeholders.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, the proposal for restructuring SGSY into National Rural Livelihood Mission has been under consideration of the Government of India for a long, long time. The Finance Ministry has also given clearance for that. Besides that, the hon. Finance Minister has announced in his speech that this Mission will be established. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What are the impediments in operationalising this programme? Why is there so much of delay? Sir, this matter assumes particular significance because there is severe drought in the country and there is severe unemployment in the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, what is the Minister proposing to do? I have already asked the question. I have asked as to what are the impediments. So, he should tell me the impediments.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no impediment in this. The process is very simple. Sir, we are seized with this problem. We will resolve it as soon as possible. We are committed to it. We have studied and restructured the programme. I would assure the hon. Member that we will restructure as soon as possible.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, 'as soon' means when? There should be some time frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your second supplementary.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Yes, Sir, I will put my second supplementary. Sir, this Mission is to be linked to skill development and basically it is a self-employment programme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any special component in this project, especially for naxal-affected areas where the youth, girls and boys, are joining the naxalites because of want of employment. Does he have any special component? And if he has, let him specify it. What are the schemes he is going to implement especially for girls and boys who are going astray and joining naxalites? I would like to know that.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, basically, this programme, the National Rural Livelihood Mission, pertains to the Below Poverty Line persons. So far as the naxalite issue is concerned, if those people fall under the category of BPL families, naturally, they will be taken care of under this scheme.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, what are the special schemes? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir. He has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't start a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my question was: What is the special component that he has for naxal-affected youth? He must specify the scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there anything you want to emphasise? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, he must specify the schemes for naxal-affected areas.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, this is a very important question. After the UPA Government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme became successful, the Government felt that our utmost duty is to make efforts for eradication of poverty and create employment potentialities. For this, particularly in the rural area, the Government felt that the National Rural Livelihood Mission is necessary. Sir, this scheme was highlighted in the Rashtrapati's speech also. In this scheme, the speciality is that the Government wants skilled labour. In the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, there is unskilled labour. So, I want a lengthy and clear-cut reply from the hon. Minister. Even though in the reply, he says 'under consideration', I would like to know: How is he planning, what is the modality, how is he going to get skilled labour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many questions will you ask at the same time?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: No, Sir, this is one question. जोशी जी बहुत समझदार हैं, बहुत एक्टिव हैं, इंटेलिजेंट हैं। He must categorically tell the House how is he going to implement this scheme to eradicate poverty and create employment potentialities in rural areas. How is he planning and the length of it?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: मिस्टर चेयरमैन, मैं ऑनरेबल मैम्बर का ध्यान माननीय फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर की स्पीच की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, जिसमें हमने कमिट किया है कि Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is being restructured into the National Rural Livelihood Mission to make it universal in application, focussed in approach and time-bound for poverty eradication by 2014-15. Stress will be laid on the formation of women Self Help Groups. Apart from providing capital subsidy at an enhanced rate, it is also proposed to provide interest subsidy to the poor for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh from banks.

माननीय सभापति जी, आप सभी जानते हैं कि लंबे समय से गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के जीवन-स्तर में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए योजना बन रही है, पहले TRYSEM की योजना बनी, IRDP की योजना बनी, SGSY की योजना बनी, इन कमियों को overcome करने के बाद यह नयी योजना बनने जा रही है, जिस योजना में Self Help Groups और खास तौर से BPL परिवारों में से एक महिला को इसके साथ जोड़कर, उनकी कैपेसिटी को enhance करके, उनको गरीबी रेखा से बाहर निकालने का कार्यक्रम है। मैं विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से हम गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों के परिवारों को address करेंगे और उनको गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर लाने का काम करेंगे।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सभापति जी, मुद्दा यह है कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत Women Self Help Groups को एक लाख रुपए तक देने की बात है, लेकिन बेरोजगार तो नौजवान भी हैं। Women Self Help Groups में जो महिलाएं स्वरोजगार करना चाहती हैं, उनका ख्याल रखा जाएगा, लेकिन जो पुरुष हैं, यानी नौजवानों के लिए मंत्री जी क्या प्रोविजन बनाना चाहते हैं? इसके साथ ही यह भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि यह ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना में परिवर्तन की बात है, लेकिन शहरों में जो योजना है, वह भी निरर्थक साबित हो रही है, उसके लिए सरकार क्या करना चाहती है?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: सभापति जी, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय से संबंधित जो योजना है, मैंने उसके बारे में निवेदन किया है, इसके अलावा UDA Department, Labour Department, Textile Department, अलग-अलग विभाग इस समस्या को address करने के लिए अपनी स्कीमें बना रहे हैं। जहां तक मेरे विभाग का प्रश्न है, उस विभाग में SGSY Scheme, जो मूलतः BPL परिवारों को address करती है, उसको change करके हम NRLM के अंतर्गत लाने का काम करना चाहते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे विभाग से संबंधित पहलू के बारे में मैंने बता दिया है। बाकी जो गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले हैं, जो नौजवान आदमी हैं, जो बेरोजगार हैं, उनकी समस्याओं को address करने के लिए अलग-अलग विभाग अपनी स्कीमें बनाकर काम कर रहे हैं।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: पुरुषों का क्या...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No supplementary on supplementaries.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: Women Self Help Groups की बात आपने कही, पुरुषों की बात नहीं कही है, जो नौजवान हैं, उनका क्या होगा?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prakashji, please.

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: Rural Self Help Groups के अंतर्गत जो 'other than *mahila*' हैं, उनको address करने के लिए SGSY में स्कीम है, उसको upgrade कर रहे हैं, इसलिए उनको बाहर नहीं कर रहे हैं। महिलाओं को भी उसमें हम आगे बढ़ाने का काम करना चाहते हैं और जो नौजवान आदमी हैं, जो BPL परिवारों में रहते हैं, उसके अंतर्गत भी योजना है, जिसका लाभ उनको मिलेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Smt. Brinda Karat.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you, Sir. सर, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है, क्योंकि आज ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खेती संबंधित कार्यों के दिन घट रहे हैं। इसलिए उनकी जीविका के अवसर बढ़ाने के लिए निश्चित रूप से इस Livelihood Mission की बहुत जरूरत भी है और उसका लाभ भी होगा, लेकिन इस बयान में एक contradiction है, एक विरोधाभास है। एक तरफ restructuring में मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि वह universal in application होगा, यानी वह सार्वजनिक होगा, उसमें कोई BPL या APL का सवाल नहीं होगा और दूसरी तरफ ये कह रहे हैं कि...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, स्टेटमेंट में contradiction है, इसलिए मुझे रखना पड़ेगा। दूसरी तरफ आप कह रहे हैं कि Mahila SAGs पर आप विशेष ध्यान देंगे। आज Mahila SAGs को यह दिक्कत है कि आज केवल BPL घरानों की महिलाएं, जिनके पास BPL cards हैं, उन्हीं को आप इन Self Help Groups में रख रहे हैं। तो पहला सवाल यह है कि Self Help Groups के बारे में मंत्रालय की स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने बार-बार जो सिफारिश की है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ने यह सिफारिश की है कि BPL की जो सीमा है, उसको आप थोड़ा बढ़ाइए, ताकि जो गरीब औरतें हैं, जिनके पास BPL card नहीं है, वे भी इसका लाभ उठा सकें, तो क्या इस restructuring में यह जो BPL की सीमा है, इसको आप हटाएंगे और दूसरी बात यह है कि National Commission on Farmers ने जो...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask one supplementary and please don't take too long.
...(Interruptions)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, यह इसी के साथ है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; this is not a debate. This is a supplementary on a question which has been answered.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: तो क्या National Commission on Farmers की जो सिफारिशें हैं, क्या restructuring करते समय, आप उनको जीविका बढ़ाने के संबंध में जोड़ेंगे?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: सभापति जी, SGSY particularly aim करती है BPL रहने वाले लोगों पर। अब BPL परिवारों के Census दोबारा होने वाले हैं, BPL परिवारों के Census में जो लोग जुड़ेंगे, उनको लाभ मिलेगा। जहां तक agricultural farming की बात आपने कही है, SGSY इस समस्या को address नहीं करता है, SGSY केवल मात्र BPL परिवारों के लिए बनाई गई स्कीम है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: आप "universal" शब्द क्यों इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Leave apart the highlights of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, with which I agree, there are several low areas. The Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out a lot of lapses and failures in the implementation of the Scheme. Moreover, — I got my personal knowledge in Tamil Nadu — the work to be done by the workers or labourers is being done by big machines and the accounts are being written as if it is done by rural labourers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is not correct.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I have got my personal knowledge.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You may well be very knowledgeable.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It is done. I can cite an example. In Valasai Salai village of Paramakudi Taluka this has happened. I can prove this with all authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What I am trying to say is that the misuse is relevant. There is misuse. In such a situation, the question is: When there are several lapses and failures, can you take this as a hint for restructuring and doing something? What I am trying to say is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please say it.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: before you take it up as a guideline, you must have a foolproof system so that it can be *pucca*. This is my suggestion. I would like to know whether it is advisable or desirable.

SHRI C. P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that while restructuring the Scheme, we will take care of whatever he has stated.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में वित्तीय अनियमितताएं

*443. श्री प्रभात झा: क्या भारी उद्योग और लोक उद्यम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (पी.एस.ई.ज.) में होने वाली वित्तीय अनियमितताओं की जानकारी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन अनियमितताओं को रोकने में विफलता के क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) वित्तीय अनियमितताओं के सम्बन्ध में नियंत्रक और महालेखापरीक्षक (सी.ए.जी.) के प्रतिवेदन के आधार पर सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में वित्तीय अनियमितताओं के कारण पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान राजकोष को कितना घाटा हुआ है?

भारी उद्योग और लोक उद्यम मंत्री (श्री विलास राव देशमुख): (क) से (ङ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने वर्ष 2009-10 की अपनी रिपोर्ट (वाणिज्यिक) संख्या सीए-24 दिनांक 09 जुलाई, 2009 को संसद में प्रस्तुत कर दी थी और उक्त रिपोर्ट में सरकारी उपक्रमों के प्रबन्धन के सम्बन्ध में कतिपय कमियों के बारे में टिप्पणी की थी जिसके परिणामस्वरूप कुछ वित्तीय जटिलताएं पैदा हो गई हैं।

(ग) और (घ) नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने इन कमियों के कारणों की ओर भी इशारा किया है। सम्बन्धित मंत्रालय/विभाग को अपने प्रशासनिक नियंत्रणाधीन केन्द्रीय सरकारी उद्यमों से सम्बन्धित लेखा परीक्षा पैरों/टिप्पणियों के सम्बन्ध में आवश्यक कार्रवाई कार्रवाई करनी होती है। नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक की रिपोर्ट के संदर्भ में कारगर एवं शीघ्र अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के लिए प्रत्येक प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय/विभाग ने मॉनिटरिंग कक्ष की भी व्यवस्था की है।

(ङ) नियंत्रक महालेखा परीक्षक की लेखा परीक्षा रिपोर्टों-सीए 24, वर्ष 2009-10; सीए 11, वर्ष 2008 तथा सीए 11, वर्ष 2007 में लेखापरीक्षा के सम्बन्ध में की गई टिप्पणियों के अनुसार वित्तीय भार की राशि क्रमशः 1846.58 करोड़ रुपए, 1404.32 करोड़ रुपए तथा 4547.63 करोड़ रुपए रही। संबंधित प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय/विभाग को की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी टिप्पणी (ए.टी.एन.) पुनरीक्षा हेतु नियंत्रक व महालेखा परीक्षक के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करनी होती है। नियंत्रक महालेखा परीक्षक से पुनरीक्षा संबंधी टिप्पणी प्राप्त करने के बाद उसे संबंधित प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय/विभाग द्वारा सरकारी उपक्रमों संबंधी समिति(कोपू) को प्रस्तुत किया जाता है। संबंधित प्रशासनिक मंत्रालय/विभाग द्वारा एटीएन की पुनरीक्षा नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक के कार्यालय से कराना और उसके बाद उसे प्रस्तुत करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है।

Financial irregularities in PSEs

† *443. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of financial irregularities in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons of failure in checking these irregularities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the action, Government proposes to take on the basis of Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) Report in terms of financial irregularities; and

(e) the loss accrued to Government exchequer during the last three years due to financial irregularities in PSEs?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in its Report (Commercial) No. CA 24 of 2009-10 that was placed in the Parliament on 9th July, 2009, has observed deficiencies in management of PSUs, which have certain financial implications.

(c) and (d) C&AG have also pointed out reasons for these deficiencies. The concerned Ministry/Department is required to take necessary action including remedial action, if any, on the Audit paras/observations relating to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under its administrative control. In order to effectively monitor and expedite the follow up action on C&AG report, each Administrative Ministry/Department has also set up monitoring cell.

(e) As per the audit observations made in the C&AG Reports No CA 24 of 2009-10, CA 11 of 2008 and CA 11 of 2007 the financial implications amount to Rs. 1846.58 crore. Rs. 1404.32 crore and Rs. 4547.63 crore respectively. The concerned administrative Ministry/Department is required to submit Action Taken Notes (ATNs) to the office of C&AG for their vetting. After obtaining the vetting remarks of C&AG, the same is submitted by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department for consideration of the Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU). Submission of the ATNs by respectively Ministry/Department after getting the same vetted by the office of C&AG is continuous process.

श्री प्रभात झा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का जो उत्तर आया है, वह प्रश्नकर्ता के समाधान के लिए नहीं है और वह देश के लिए भी खतरा पैदा करता है। नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक ने वर्ष 2009-10 की जो रिपोर्ट रखी है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि सरकार की सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों द्वारा वर्ष 2009-10 में 1846.58 करोड़ रुपए, वर्ष 2008-09 में 1404 करोड़ रुपए और उसके पहले यानी वर्ष 2007-08 में 4547 करोड़ रुपए की अनियमितताएं बरती गई हैं। अब देखिए, इनका उत्तर बड़ा मजेदार है। वह यह है कि इन्होंने कहा कि कुछ अनियमितताएं थोड़ी बहुत होती रहती हैं, जैसे वित्तीय जटिलता हो गई या कुछ कमियां हो गई। महोदय, सरकार देश के गरीबों और अमीरों से टैक्स लेती है और इतनी बड़ी राशि को कहा जाता है कि यह थोड़ी बहुत अनियमितता है।

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री प्रभात झा: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह कितनी बड़ी राशि को अनियमितता मानते हैं?

श्री विलासराव देशमुख: सर, माननीय सम्माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है, वह CAG की रिपोर्ट में जो अनियमितता बताई गई है, उसके बारे में है। सरकार के पास इसके बारे में एक procedure है, उसके अनुसार जो इस तरह की रिपोर्ट आती है, उसके ऊपर डिपार्टमेंट के द्वारा एक 'Action Taken Report' बनायी जाती है और वह दोबारा CAG के पास भेजी जाती है। उसके बाद हमारे पास Undertakings को देखने के लिए पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी बनी हुई है, उसके सामने इस रिपोर्ट को रखा जाता है और इस रिपोर्ट में

जितनी भी अनियमितताएं दिखाई जाती हैं, उनके बारे में संबंधित विभाग से पूछा जाता है। हर विभाग में इसके लिए एक मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी का गठन हुआ है। CAG की रिपोर्ट की जिस-जिस पैरा में अनियमितता दिखाई जाती है, उन सभी पैरा को Undertakings की मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी के पास भेजा जाता है और उसके बाद उसका सही जवाब दिया जाता है। जब उसका समाधान हो जाता है, तो उस पैरा को वहां से हटाया जाता है। जवाब में जो figure आई है, वह सीधे CAG की रिपोर्ट से आई है। CAG की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद दो लंबी procedures होती हैं, उन procedures के बाद यह figure कम होती है। Undertakings की मॉनिटरिंग कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद समझा जाता है कि उसको कोई मोहलत देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है और उसके बाद उसके ऊपर एक्शन लिया जाता है। ऐसा नहीं है कि पहले रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही उस पर एक्शन ले लिया जाता है, बल्कि ये सारी जो procedures हैं, उन procedures के तहत पहले इन सारी अनियमितताओं को दूर करने का प्रयास किया जाता है और कोई अनियमितता दूर नहीं होती है, तो उसके ऊपर एक्शन लिया जाता है।

श्री प्रभात झा: CAG के वाणिज्य एवं ऑडिट के प्रधान निदेशक श्री पी.के. मिश्रा, जो आपके ही हैं, ने कहा है कि हमारा काम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करना है और मंत्रालय का काम एक्शन लेना है। अब मंत्रालय नहीं लेती है, तो हम क्या करें, हम तो हर साल रिपोर्ट भेजते हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने अभी तक कितनी CAG की रिपोर्ट पर कार्रवाई की है?

श्री विलासराव देशमुख: सर, सम्माननीय सदस्य की जानकारी के लिए मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक हमारे पास जो टोटल पैरा अब तक आए थे, वे 2214 थे। उनका सही जवाब देने के बाद कई पैरा उसमें से कम हुए हैं और अब हमारे पास number of paras on which action is complete, तो उसमें करीब 1500 पर action complete हो गया है और जो बाकी बचे हैं, वे केवल 245 हैं। यह एक continuing process है, यह कोई एक दिन का काम नहीं होता है। मुझे लगता है कि ये सारे जो पैरा होते हैं, उनका सही ढंग से समाधान करने का काम वह विभाग करता है और समाधान नहीं होने की स्थिति में उसके लिए पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स कमेटी बनी हुई है। उस कमेटी के सामने सारी रिपोर्ट जाती है और जब कमेटी में समाधान नहीं होता, तो उसके बाद विभाग की तरफ से उसके ऊपर एक्शन लिया जाता है।

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, Bangalore, being the hub of the public sector enterprises in the country, a large number of public sector units are operating from there. Some of the public sector units are pioneers in their fields; like, the Indian Telephone Industries and the Hindustan Machine Tools. Now, these units are in the red. I would like to know whether there is any move, or, as has been stated in part (2) of the reply, whether he has received any suggestion from this Department of merging the ITI with the BSNL, and the HMT taking up any programme or project of the Railways.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, this supplementary does not relate to the main question. But, as the hon. Member has suggested, we will, certainly, look into it.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो सी.ए.जी. की रिपोर्टें आती हैं और उन पर जो वे कहते हैं कि हम कार्यवाही करते हैं, तो उस कार्यवाही की अंततः क्या स्थिति बनती है? महोदय, इन पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स के अंदर जितना भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ रहा है, जितनी पैसे की बरबादी बढ़ रही है, उसकी ओर ध्यान दिया जाना बहुत आवश्यक है। धीरे-धीरे कुछ ऐसी युनिटें हैं, जिन पर नियमित रूप से हर वर्ष सी.ए.जी. अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखता है कि ये public sector enterprises हैं, जिनमें बहुत गड़बड़ियां हो रही हैं। तो क्या वे कोई ऐसी सूची हमारी जानकारी में लाएंगे कि विगत तीन वर्षों में कौन से ऐसे public sector enterprises हैं, जिन पर हर वर्ष सी.ए.जी. के एतराज आ रहे हैं और उन पर क्या कार्यवाहियां की गई हैं?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this information is available in the Report. Anyway, go ahead.

श्री विलासराव देशमुख: सर, सम्माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा है कि उसके लिए क्या कार्यवाही सरकार की होती है, उस पर नियंत्रण कैसे रखा जाता है, तो सरकार की तरफ से जैसे internal audit होता है, statutory audit होता है, उसके लिए ऑडिट कमेटी बनी हुई है। उसके बाद CAG की रिपोर्ट आती है, फिर इसके ऊपर पार्लियामेंटरी कंट्रोल भी है, तो मैं आपकी बात से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ कि इतना सब होने के बाद भी ये अनियमितताएं क्यों होती हैं? आपने बिल्कुल सही सवाल पूछा है। वैसे मैंने खुद देखा है और जो भी अनुभव हमने प्रांतों से लिया है, बहुत बार तो ऐसा होता है कि केवल एक रिपोर्ट भेजनी है और उसके ऊपर चर्चा होनी है, इसलिए उस पर आगे कुछ नहीं होता है। यह जो आपकी भावना है, मुझे लगता है कि उसके ऊपर और ज्यादा monitoring की जरूरत है, ताकि जो CAG की रिपोर्ट आए, तो कम से कम एक डर तो लगे कि अगर इतनी बड़ी अनियमितता होती है, तो मेरे ऊपर कोई एक्शन होगा। इसलिए इस तरह की कोई नई व्यवस्था करने की आवश्यकता है, इस बात को मैं मानता हूँ।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I would first congratulate the hon. Minister, who has just been elected to the Rajya Sabha. In respect of all public sector units, we have reserved two per cent of profit to be spent towards corporate social responsibility. The CAG Report also throws some light on the irregularities; the money, meant for spending for the poorest, is not being spent. These relate to the public sector undertakings. Will the hon. Minister try to look into those irregularities as well; and, is there any thinking on the part of the Government to increase it to five per cent of the profit?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, this suggestion, made by the hon. Member, is very valid, and, we will, certainly, see to it that some more amount is earmarked for any public purpose, or, for environmental improvement of that particular area.

Mormugao Port Trust

*444. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a dispute between the State Government of Goa and the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT);
- (b) if so, the names and description of the disputed plot or plots of land;
- (c) the stand of the State Government of Goa on each plot or parcel of land and the contention of MPT thereon;
- (d) the number of meetings held between MPT and the State Government of Goa in this matter; and
- (e) the status of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) (i) Land admeasuring 23,553 sq.mtrs. at Adarshnagar, bearing No. 144/1 in Chalta No. 1 of PT Sheet No. 144 of Vasco city.

(ii) Land admeasuring 20,500 sq.mtrs. at Dabolim bearing Survey No. 14/1 of Dabolim Village of Mormugao Taluka.

(c) As per Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) the land at Adarshnagar has been acquired by the Government of Goa out of money paid by the Trust for rehabilitation of persons affected due to construction of 4 lane road and other works. It wants that the said land shall be used only for rehabilitation of oustees of developmental projects of the port but the Government of Goa has wrongly transferred it to Goa Rehabilitation Board.

Regarding the land at Dabolim, Mormugao Port Trust has purchased this land from Vasco Planning and Development Authority (VPDA). It plans to use the land for development purpose like for setting up of container yard, weigh bridge etc. but Mormugao Planning and Development Authority (MPDA) has not approved the execution of sale deed between VPDA and MPT. Thus the development project of the port is getting delayed.

(d) None so far, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, unfortunately, there is a dispute between the Government of Goa and the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) with respect to two pieces of land, one situated at Adarshnagar and the other at Dabolim. Would the hon. Minister explain this: what is the stand of the Government of Goa and the stand of the MPT in respect of the Adarshnagar land? Similarly, what is the stand of Government of Goa and that of the MPT in respect of the Dabolim land? Please explain their respective stands?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Through you, Sir, regarding the land dispute at Adarshnagar, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the four-laning of 18.3 kilometres of NH-17B which connects the Mormagao Harbour with NH-17 has been taken up in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Goa, the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, the National Highways Authority of India and the MPT. The MPT has agreed to contribute for the rehabilitation of persons affected due to the construction of the four-lane road and also to bear the cost towards shifting of the existing utilities on the land falling along the alignment of the proposed road. The MPT paid an amount of Rs. 4.55 crores to the Government of Goa on 30.04.2001. With these funds, the Government of Goa has also acquired land measuring 23,553 sq. mtrs. at Adarshnagar, Vasco for the purpose of rehabilitation of affected persons.

However, Sir, it is learnt that this land is proposed to be used for purposes other than rehabilitation of PAPs. The Ministry has been persuading the Government of Goa to use this land only for the said purpose. I would like to inform the hon. Member — who is very concerned about this dispute, and who is the only representative from the State of Goa in the Rajya Sabha — that the intention of the Government is to ensure the development of the MPT, keeping in view the long-term view and, at the same time, addressing adequately the concerns raised by the Government of Goa.

Coming to the dispute regarding Dabolim, Sir, around 20,500 sq. mtrs. of land was purchased from the MPDA by MPT at a cost of Rs. 2.46 crores. After signing the Agreement of Conveyance on 14.5.1999 which clearly mentions that the said land would be used for port development activities, the Port has been requesting for the registration of the sale deed. After prolonged correspondence, the MPDA had agreed to register a deed of sale on the condition that the said land would be used only for the residential purpose.

Sir, the MPT needs that land for development purposes like container yard and other infrastructure facilities. At least for now, no residential quarters are required by the MPT. It will not be a purposeful expenditure also if the MPDA insists on this.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, I think this dispute will not be resolved easily. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government would consider constitution of a committee consisting of the representatives of the Government of Goa and the representatives of the Port Trust to resolve this issue? Before that, would the Minister visit Goa and try to resolve the issue?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Through you, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that Ports are in constant touch with the concerned Government. The Ministry is also helping the port authority in resolving both these disputes.

Regarding my visit, I would certainly visit Goa, Sir. I would also like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that we will constitute a committee consisting of the representatives of the Government of Goa to look into the entire issue comprehensively so that a proper and just solution of this issue can be arrived at.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, would the hon. Minister explain what the issue relating to the transfer of land from the Salt Commissioner at Ennore Airport is; and how is it useful for the development of the port?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which airport?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Ennore Port, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to Mormugao Port Trust. Please ask the question on that.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: This is also a port, Sir. And, I think the Minister is prepared to reply, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. The Minister is not here to answer questions on all subjects. You put your supplementary on this specific question.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, my supplementary is regarding land transfer to ports. ...*(Interruptions)*... My supplementary is relating to land transfer to ports. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, no. Let us follow the agreed procedure.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, my supplementary is about a specific port in my area, and the hon. Minister is prepared to answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am afraid; the Chair has a responsibility.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It comes under the same portfolio and my supplementary is related to the main question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; Mr. Siva, you can ask the question separately.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Kindly allow me, Sir; the question has come...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You see, if I allow you, then, I will be opening the Pandora's Box. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Swapan Sadhan Bose.

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a dispute between the Government of West Bengal and ...*(Interruptions)*... in the Kolkata Port Trust ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Again, the same ruling holds.

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: Sir, this is not my supplementary. It is just a small line. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to explain the present status regarding the issue? I am asking nothing else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, anything other than the Mormugao Port Trust is not admissible on this.

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: Not even the present status?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am afraid, not.

श्री स्वपन साधन बोस: मंत्री तो हैं, परन्तु गवर्नमेंट तो वेस्ट बंगाल की अलग है, वह लड़ाई तो चालू है।...*(व्यवधान)*... I am the only Rajya Sabha Member of that party...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, do you want to ask a question on this subject?

SHRI D. RAJA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... You put your supplementary on Goa. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए पाणि जी, प्लीज...*(व्यवधान)*... देखिए यह नहीं। आपको प्रोसीजर मालूम है।...*(व्यवधान)*... Yes, Mr. Raja, please.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my supplementary flows from part (d) of the main question. It is regarding the number of meetings held between the MPT and the State Government of Goa on this matter. The written reply says, None so far. But, when the hon. Minister was replying, he has admitted that there were meetings. Following this, I would like to ask the Minister, I don't know what was the capacity of the ports at the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and what would be the capacity at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, but my specific...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; again, this is not on the main question.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, following this, my supplementary is this. What are the steps taken by the Government to enhance the capacity of ports, including Goa? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please ask about this Port. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: That is what I am asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer on this Port. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the hon. Member has put the supplementary regarding the capacity of ports. It is an informative question. If the Chair permits, I can give the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make the information available to the Member after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

*445. [The questioner (s) (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 25 *infra*.]

Implementation of Sixth Pay Commission Report

*446. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism put in place by his Ministry to solve various issues arising out of implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission Report;

(b) whether regular meetings of the Departmental Council (JCM) are held by his Ministry;

(c) if so, when was the last such meeting held; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Group C and D employees of the Income Tax Department are agitating for redressal of some of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Various issues arising out of implementation of Sixth Central Pay Commission's Report are processed by the concerned administrative ministry in consultation with Ministry of Finance and/or Department of Personnel and Training. The Government has also issued instructions for setting up of Anomaly Committees at National and Departmental levels. Ministry of Finance has set up its Departmental Anomaly Committee on 6th February, 2009.

(b) and (c) The 79th, 80th, 81st and 82nd meetings of the Departmental Council (JCM) were convened on 26-27 October, 1995; 10-11 July, 2000. 15 April, 2005 and 14 October, 2005 respectively. Regular meetings with the representatives of recognized Service Associations of CBEC and CBDT are held at various levels. The last such meetings were held on 22.7.2009/23.7.2009.

(d) Federation of Group 'C' and 'D' employees in the income Tax Department had notified of a 'day long mass Dharna' for redressal of some of their demands.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as an ex-employee and officer of the Income Tax Department, I am definitely concerned about the welfare of the employees there. In

the very first answer, the hon. Finance Minister has admitted that the Departmental Anomaly Committee for the Finance Ministry was formed on 6th February, 2009. I would like to know as to how many meetings of the same Anomaly Committee, in between 6th February, 2009 till date, have taken place to solve the various anomalies which are pointed out by the Income Tax Employees Federation. Sir, in particular, the Department is very much agitated about the pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors, which is one of the most important cadres doing the work of inquiry, survey, seizure and also assisting the Assessing Officers. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what efforts are being made to solve the anomaly of this particular cadre, along with other cadres.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the meeting of the Anomaly Committee is concerned, in the last quarter, the review meeting has taken place on 22nd July, 2009. As the hon. Member, who himself served this Department with a distinguished career, is aware that it is not merely at the apex level... Even at the Commissionerate-level and at the lower-levels, efforts are being made to resolve the issue relating to the personnel matter, and, particularly, in respect of the pay fixation. After the recommendations of the Pay Commission, naturally, a large number of cadres are being covered by the Pay Commission, and, there may be anomalies. To remove those anomalies and to arrive at an agreed acceptable arrangements, efforts are continuing.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, my second question is about the Joint Consultative Machinery which is one of the most important bodies created after the great 1960 strike. In that regard, I wanted to know whether regular meetings of the said machinery are called or not. I was a member of the Departmental Council of Finance Ministry during 1972-77. In those days the Departmental Council used to be chaired by the learned Revenue Secretary, Dr. I.G. Patel. For some time, the Prime Minister was also presiding. According to my information, that machinery is not functioning properly. Regular meeting of the Departmental Council means every quarter there should be one meeting. So, in a year, there should be four meetings of the Departmental Council of the Finance Ministry. According to the information given by the hon. Finance Minister, only one meeting took place somewhere in 2000 and another took place in 2005, the third meeting took place in October, 2005. The last meeting...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking a question or making a speech?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, it is a serious question; kindly listen to me. Instead of four meetings in a year, only three meetings took place in all these ten years. That is why employees were agitated and they went on strike. I want to avoid the strike. I would request the hon. Finance Minister, who is one of the senior most Cabinet Ministers in the Government of India to see that the Departmental Councils not only of the Finance Ministry, but of all Departments also are functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are only making suggestions.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: He should see that the Departmental Councils of all Departments are functioning regularly and meeting every quarter so that the issue of the Central Government employees can be solved. I would like to know what actions is he proposing to take.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the Joint Consultative Machinery, which is known as JCM, is concerned, it is true that there has not been any meeting for quite some time and the last three rounds of meetings took place in 2005 itself, that was on 10th and 11th July, 2000, 15th April, 2005 and 14th October, 2005. I will inquire why the meetings have not yet taken place.

But, apart from this mechanism, the other mechanisms, which are in operation, so far as this organisation is concerned are their federation. They are meeting with the member-in charge. Some times, the Chairman also holds this meeting. The last round of the quarterly review, as I have indicated, took place on 22nd July, 2009.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, taking benefit of the presence of the hon. Finance Minister, I would like to ask a larger question relating to the Sixth Pay Commission. We all wish that this Pay Commission needs to be implemented. But, there is a cascading effect, hon. Finance Minister; the employees of the State Governments also want this. Ultimately, the entire State exchequer comes under a severe strain, the cascading effect of borrowing, etc. How do you, with your wide experience, like to address this issue so that the dues are given and the finances of the various State Governments also do not come under serious peril?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member has expanded the scope of the question. The problem is genuine, there is no doubt about it. But, at the same time, the constraint of the federal Finance Minister is also there. When I had interactions with the State Finance Ministers, many of them raised this issue. But for the period of the current financial year, I have provided a little elbow room for the State Governments by permitting them without losing the advantages of following the FRBM by expanding their borrowing power by 0.5 per cent of the State GDP, which will amount to Rs. 21,000 crores. I have suggested to them that, after all, the recommendations of the next Finance Commission are coming and that will cover the remaining period of the period of operation of the Pay Commission.

So, let us wait for the recommendations of the Finance Commission, which will definitely address these issues. But the problem is genuine. At the same time, it is not possible for me to give any blanket assurance that it would be possible for the Union Government to bailout the States in this respect.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, there is difference between the pay structures and other amenities of the employees of the State Governments and the Central Government. It is just like a difference between heaven and hell. This is one of the reasons of agitation by the various State Governments employees. I would like to know whether the Pay Commission constituted by the

Government is bound to see such situations while fixing pay-scales of the Central Government employees; and whether the Government has any mechanism to take into consideration grievances of the State Government employees also, Sir.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the State Governments are concerned, they are covered by their own Pay Commissions. Several States have constituted Pay Commissions to take care of them and more than often they try to tend to follow the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. That is why these problems are coming. As per the scheme of the Constitution, these are the two Governments deriving power from the Constitution itself to discharge their respective functions.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, छठे पे-कमीशन के इम्प्लीमेंट होने से पहले सरकारी कर्मचारियों को CGHS के रूप में 125 रुपए पर month देने पड़ते थे, लेकिन छठे पे-कमीशन के इम्प्लीमेंट होने के बाद 500 रुपए देने पड़ते हैं। उनको पहले लाइफ टाइम मैडिकल फेसिलिटी पाने के लिए 18000 रुपए देने पड़ते थे और अब 1st June 2009 से यह इम्प्लीमेंट हुआ है, तो 60000 रुपए देने पड़ते हैं। बहुत सी जगहों पर कुछ employees 31st May को रिटायर हो गए हैं, तो उनका भी 60000 रुपए डिडेक्ट किया जा रहा है, जबकि वह 18000 रुपए होना चाहिए। क्या मंत्री महोदय की इस बारे में कोई उचित व्यवस्था करेंगे?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is totally outside the purview of this Question. The question was limited to the Anomaly Committee in respect of a particular Department, that is, Income Tax. Therefore, if the hon. Member is interested, he should give notice for a separate Question.

Plan for new airports

*447. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many airports are planned to be made operational in different parts of the country and particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government plans to develop airports at district level in view of the increased requirements of different religious and industrial destinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Statement

(a) A Feasibility study for revival of 32 non-operational airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Tezu airport belonging to State Government, was carried out by M/s RITES, the consultant appointed by AAI. As per the feasibility report submitted by M/s RITES, 13 airports out of 32 were recommended for development which has been accepted by AAI. These 13 airports are Passighat and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh); Kamalpur (Tripura); Rupsi (Assam);

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

Mysore (Karnataka); Sholapur and Akola (Maharashtra); Chakulia (Jharkhand); Jharsuguda (Orissa); Malda (West Bengal); Cuddapah and Warrangal (Andhra Pradesh) and Vellore (Tamil Nadu).

There are no non-operational airports of AAI in the State of Rajasthan. However, AAI is undertaking establishment of new civil air terminal complex at Jaisalmer and Bikaner Air Force Stations. In addition, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed for taking over of Kishangarh airstrip belonging to Government of Rajasthan for developing it into a full-fledged airport of cater for ATR type of aircraft operations.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such plan/proposal under consideration. However, development and modernization of the airport related infrastructure is a continuous process and is undertaken in phased manner depending upon the economic viability and availability of land and other facilities.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, in the answer certain places have been indicated which are in Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu. These are the border States. I would like to know whether these places, namely, Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh, Kamalpur in Tripura, Vellore and also Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu would be given priority because these are the border States. If so, what is the time frame for that?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, in my answer I have already indicated that out of the 32 non-operational airports, 13 have been identified as feasible in terms of further upgradation and modernisation, and out of these 13, as the hon. Member has mentioned, we have mentioned Passighat and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh and Kamalpur in Tripura. All these airports, of course, cannot be made operational simply by the efforts of the AAI. The State Governments will also have to support because sometimes land and other issues like encroachments are also involved. We are working on it. Some of them I can mention. I can mention certainly about Jharsuguda in Orissa of which I have firsthand knowledge. The State Government has been asked for some additional land. Also in the case of Passighat and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh and Kamalpur in Tripura the same issues are involved for which we are in discussion.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, near Rameswaram there is already an airport available but it has to be converted into a civil airport. I would like to know whether that place would be considered.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I will find out and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. For the information of the hon. Minister, there is an airstrip between Bhilwara and Chittor known as Hamirghat. I suggest that you may kindly consider that also along with the other airstrip of Kishangarh for development. In the meanwhile, these are 18 projects, which you have not taken up. The Prime Minister's Office or their Committee has recommended 35, which have been reduced to 30 by some inter-Ministerial Committee. Now, RITES have reduced it to 30. Now, what happens to the remaining

18? Will you like to have private partnership with these 18? I am asking this because these are airports, which also need to be developed.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I can say that out of these non-operational airports, there are some constraints, and, as the hon. Member has rightly suggested that all may not be able to be taken up by the Airports Authority themselves, specially, in these airports, which are closed, I think, we can examine this proposal, and we will try if there is a possibility to have joint ventures for these airports, which are non-operational, if somebody is willing to come forward, as we have already been doing in the case of some States like in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, I am aware, the Government of Maharashtra has set up a Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation. It is a Company, which has taken up development of projects in the State, and we have also joint ventures with the MADC. In the same way, in Rajasthan, as you already pointed out about Kishangarh, we have entered into an MoU with the State Government. It is their facility and the Government of India, through the AI, will do a joint venture and develop that Airport. So, there are various models which can be examined, and, certainly, for non-operational airports or closed airports, if there are ways to revive them through joint ventures, it can, certainly be a question for consideration.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied for smaller airports. मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से सिर्फ यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस देश में मुख्य रूप से जो छह मेट्रो एयरपोर्ट्स हैं, मुंबई, दिल्ली, शमशाबाद, देबनाली, ये चारों प्राइवेट सेक्टर के हैं, इसके अतिरिक्त दो मेट्रो सिटीज कोलकाता और चैन्नेई में हैं। महोदय, मेरा मंत्री जी से यह प्रश्न है कि हाल-फिलहाल निजी एयरलाइन्स ने यह घोषणा की थी कि वे 18 तारीख को स्ट्राइक पर जाएंगे। उनकी जो मुख्य मांगें थीं, उसमें प्रमुख रूप से यह थी कि एटीएफ के दाम ज्यादा हैं, इसमें ज्यादा ड्यूटीज लगती हैं और लैंडिंग चार्ज्स अधिक हैं। महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या निजी एयरपोर्ट्स से, जहां इस देश की पैसठ प्रतिशत हवाई सेवाएं जाती हैं, वहां उनके जो लैंडिंग चार्ज्स हैं, वे इतने अधिक हैं कि आज एयरलाइन्स के ऊपर उसका कुप्रभाव पड़ रहा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह बात उनके संज्ञान में है? उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि आने वाले दिनों में हम प्राइवेट एयरपोर्ट्स का निजीकरण करके उनको देंगे। जहां-जहां निजी एयरपोर्ट्स इस प्रकार का निवेश करेंगे, वहां वे स्वाभाविक रूप से दाम ऊपर रखेंगे, जिसके कारण निजी कंपनियों और हवाई यात्रियों को इसका ज्यादा भुगतान करना पड़ेगा। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को इस बात का संज्ञान है? क्या वे कोई सामूहिक नीति बनाकर इस पर नियंत्रण करना चाहेंगे ताकि विमानन सेवाएं सामान्य लोगों के लिए सहूलियत भरी हो सकें?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it does not arise anywhere in this question. But, as a former Civil Aviation Minister, he is entitled to have a lot more information than the other Members of the House. So, I can only suggest that airport charges will, in future, be determined by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority which has been set up by us. It has been passed by an Act of Parliament. Both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha have approved it. It is now an Act. The Regulator has assumed office on 1st of August. The Regulatory Authority has been set up. So, all future economic issues regarding these two airports will not be further determined by the Ministry or by the Government. It will be decided by the Regulator and, I am sure, keeping in view all the aspects and whatever suggestions do come, the Regulatory Authority will be competent enough to take such decisions.

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी: सभापति जी, असम के बोडोलैण्ड में एक नया एयरपोर्ट बनने की बात थी। इसमें कुछ देर होगी, क्योंकि लैंड एक्विजेशन की बात भी है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि उसी के नजदीक जो भूटान का सारपांग डिस्ट्रिक्ट है, उसमें जो गेलेन्तू है, उसमें हमारे सिविल एविएशन की तरफ से एक इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट बनने की बात थी, यह एयरपोर्ट कब शुरू हो रहा है और कब कम्पलीट होने जा रहा है?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I have not followed the question fully. If the Member is referring to some place in Bhutan, I will not be able to give any details about any issues because it concerns another sovereign country. I am sure that if the Member would like to have some information I can write to them and obtain some information. But as of now, I will not be able to answer anything, especially about another sovereign country.

DR. KARAN SINGH: In Jammu and Kashmir, apart from Srinagar, Jammu and Leh, there are two other important areas where airlines can function. One is Kargil and the other is Kishtwar. Both these areas are in mountainous regions and air services there will be a great boom to the people and also help the tourism. Will the hon. Minister inform us as to whether Kargil and Kisthwar airports are under consideration?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, Dr. Karan Singh is very respected Member and, of course, knows every inch of Kashmir and the entire State.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Also former Aviation Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Of course, he is former Aviation Minister, former Maharaja and everything. But, all I can say is, we all know, after the Kargil war...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, both are concerned about the depleting strength of present Maharaja.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Certainly, all Maharajas will be put back to good health. I can only say that...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: There is no Privy Purse here for Maharajas, Mr. Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the issue is about Kargil. We all know, after the war, there is now a very good airport constructed at Kargil. It was constructed by the AAI and now it is with the Defence. But, certainly, as you rightly said, if any commercial airline wishes to operate, we will also make our endeavor. Sir, these are inaccessible parts. For six months in a year the roads of Leh and Sri Nagar are closed because of snow and mountainous terrain. There is no doubt that we should encourage. And, airport is available.

With regard to Kisthwar, I think, there was a suggestion from the State Government which is under examination. It also involves issues like additional land and other technical things which have to be resolved. But, certainly, both these airports, especially Kargil, which has already got an airport, needs to be made more available, commercially, to the people in that region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 448...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, Question No. 448 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we have to ask our supplementaries on this question...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only three supplementaries are allowed...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid, No...*(Interruptions)*... Please...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I want to put a supplementary...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I would like to ask a question ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, it is an important question...*(Interruptions)*... We wish to ask supplementaries...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SABIR ALI: Sir,...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. There is no point ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, let there be a Half-an-Hour discussion on this question...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: *

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you taking up time when another Member is asking a question?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I would like to have a Half-an-Hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You give a notice for it...*(Interruptions)*... प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्वेश्चन नं. 448 ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, Question No. 448...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 448...*(Interruptions)*... Please, आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: *

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 448 is being answered...*(Interruptions)*... Please, देखिए, आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

*Not recorded.

श्री राम नारायण साहू: *

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: *

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: यह न सवाल है, न स्टेटमेंट है, यह कुछ नहीं है ... (व्यवधान) ... आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking precious time of the House. That is all.

आपकी बात कोई नहीं सुन रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... कोई नहीं रेकार्ड कर रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... आप इस प्रश्न को चलने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no...(Interruptions)... Please...(Interruptions)... No, no. We are following three supplementaries rule and that is what it is...(Interruptions)... आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... आप भी बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of this?...(Interruptions)...

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: *

श्री सभापति: देखिए, आधा क्वेश्चन, चौथाई क्वेश्चन से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता है। तीन क्वेश्चंस हो चुके हैं, इसके आगे कुछ नहीं हो सकता है। ...(व्यवधान)... साबिर अली साहब, आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठ जाइए। इस वक्त आपका सवाल नहीं हो सकता है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

श्री सभापति: अगर आप दूसरे मैम्बर्स का हक मारना चाहते हैं, तो आप शोर मचाते रहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री साबिर अली: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seat? ...(Interruptions)... The Chair will take action against you if you continue to disrupt the House like this. ...(Interruptions)... The Chair will take action against the Members who persist in disrupting the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)... Question No. 448. Let it be answered.

New airports in Orissa

*448. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new airports in Orissa during 2009-10;

*Not recorded.

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) by when Berhampur air-strip would be upgraded to a full-fledged airport?

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

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

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, at two of Airports Authority of India's airports—namely Bhubaneswar, work of modernization is in progress, while, work of operationalizing airstrip at Jharsuguda will be undertaken once Government of Orissa hands over required additional land.

(c) There is no airstrip at Berhampur in Orissa as per the available records.

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, I would like to know whether any feasibility study has been conducted by the Airports Authority of India for the development of idle lying airstrips at the airports in Orissa. If 'yes', I would like to know the details of the airstrips and airports, which have been identified, and the progress made so far in this regard. By when these airports would become operational?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as far as Orissa is concerned, besides Bhubaneswar, the capital, one other airport, which belongs to the Airports Authority of India, has been chosen, as I mentioned in my answer to the previous question, for upgradation. However, there are some issues involved, especially that of land. As all of you know, these are all old runways or airstrips. Now, the times have changed. We have bigger aircraft that require bigger landing space. Therefore, we have asked for additional land. This is only with regard to the airports that belong to the Airports Authority of India.

Sir, I would also like to answer to the point raised by the agitated Member, Shri Shabir Ali, about the Raxaul Airport. The Raxaul Airport may have been a runway/airstrip, in the good old days, which you are right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please listen to my answer? It does not belong to the Airports Authority of India. It is under the jurisdiction of the State Government. There are many such airports even in Orissa which belong to the State Government. I am replying to your question, Madam Renubala. Most of the runways or airstrips across the country, minus the 125 or so, which belong to the Airports Authority of India, are under the ownership or domain of either the State Governments or the defence authorities. And, if some of these airports, which are non-operational, I am sure all of us will appreciate that it is for the State Governments to take up this under the Airports Development Programme. Many State Governments are being. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry, I would correct my answer. I was giving a wrong answer. The Raxaul Airport belongs to the Airport Authority of India. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, I am willing to correct. It is not the issue of standing on somebody's pride or ego. I am correcting myself on whatever information I have got. But it is, again, not operational for various reasons, including non-availability of land. Even the Kamalpur Airport...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. I am answering your question, though it does not

arise out of this question. Mr. Matilal Sarkar, I saw your agitated mood. I am answering your question. The Kamalpur Airport, as you are aware since you come from Tripura, it is completely landlocked in terms of construction; it is in the middle of city. There is no space for expanding or modernising that airport. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot keep on giving your answers based on the inputs that I receive from you in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just trying to answer your point, keeping in view your agitated mood. ...*(Interruptions)*... But I do concede that some of these older, closed airports cannot be immediately operationalised because of various other constraints. Also, the fact is that, in Orissa, as Madam Renubala pointed out, I am coming back to her question, except the Jharsuguda Airport, we do not have, at the moment, any other airport that has been planned for upgradation because that is the only airport available with us. The other airports are with the State Governments. I will also convey your sentiments to the State Government.

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Will the Government give international airport status to the Biju Patnaik Airport and upgrade its facilities to that of international standards? If 'yes', how much funds have been earmarked for the same? By when the work is likely to be completed?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the Bhubaneswar Airport is, certainly one of the airports which have been taken up in the 35 non-metro airports for modernisation and upgradation. A lot of work has already taken place. More work, especially, on the terminal and other areas is also in process of construction in terms of plan, tendering, etc. All that process has already been initiated. I can, certainly, say that in a short span of time the work of building a new terminal will also commence. In terms of money, we have earmarked about Rs.145 crores for the terminal upgradation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Rajeev Shukla.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, इनका क्वेश्चन हो चुका है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: मैं मानता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं यह मान रहा हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... सवाल उड़ीसा पर ही उठेगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... पाणि जी, आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़।

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has said that a lot many airports are non-operational. In reply to the earlier question, he said that 32 airports were non-operational. Then, why in the first place, were these airports constructed when they were not supposed to be operational? Secondly, he has got some problem with the Ministry of Defence. What about the Goa Airport? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, please stick to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: It has been pending for very long. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, put your supplementary on this question please, that is, about the airports in Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*... Put just the question. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... The question is before you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, my previous question was very much related to the North-Eastern region. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, your previous question is not in relevance...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I did not get the...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question relating to this question.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Okay, Sir. I would like to say that my previous question was very much related to the North-Eastern region...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may well have been, but we are now on the next question.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Yes, Sir, I am coming to the question. Sir, air connectivity of Orissa and air connectivity of the North-Eastern Region is very poor. The Capitals of many of the States in the North-Eastern are running without any airport ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you on Orissa or on the North-Eastern region? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I want to know whether the Minister is prepared to establish airport in each and every State Capital of the North-Eastern region. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why should a mockery be made of the Question Hour?

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, देखिए...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... उत्तर प्रदेश की राजधानी लखनऊ से पहले एक योजना थी ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ...*(व्यवधान)*... उस पर क्या हुआ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: साहू जी, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्लीज़ आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, there exists an airport at Rourkela, which is operated, if I am not mistaken, by the Steel Authority of India. Now, my question to the hon. Minister is: Why cannot an airport like Rourkela, which is, otherwise somewhat inaccessible from major cities, whether it is Orissa or its neighbouring States, be upgraded? As per the reply given by the Minister, some of these airports belong to the Defence establishment of the State Government. Sir, I feel that it is not a satisfactory answer. If the Government wishes to upgrade, I am sure that none of these ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question time is running out.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: My specific question is whether there is any plan to operationalise the Rourkela Airport as a full-fledged commercial airport.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, like in Jamshedpur, TISCO has upgraded their own airport for civilian use, let the Rourkela Steel Plant or SAIL upgrade that airport for civilian use. You can ask the commercial companies to operate them.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: It is for you to ask them.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: There is no issue. It is a private airport belonging to SAIL. Let the SAIL operate it and I am sure that the commercial operation will start. (Ends)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Listed companies for expansion in higher education sector

*441. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the need to make higher education in the country independent of Ministry's interference and to ensure quality by allowing the listed companies to expand higher education programmes;

(b) whether Government is in favour of increasing the enrolment rate in higher education to over 20 per cent from present 12 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is Government's view to regulate higher education through an independent regulator, who may remove entry barrier to allow more players as well as give students more choice to choose from?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the autonomy of universities and other institutions of higher learning. The National Policy on Education as well as judicial pronouncements, are against the commercialization of higher education. While any company can assist in providing for improving research and quality of institutions of higher education, there is no proposal at present to allow listed companies to directly establish institutions in higher education. Creation of an overarching regulatory body in higher and technical education, working at arm's length from Government, is one of the priorities of the Government. One of the objectives of Eleventh Five Year Plan, is to strengthen the quality of higher education, for which several academic reforms, have been initiated.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council (NDC), has a target to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 5% by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (2007-12) and increasing it to 21% by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

Revision of wages for Bank employees

*445. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revision of wages of the officers and staff of Public Sector Banks is due since November, 2007;

- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in settling the issue; and
- (c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table on the House.

Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The wage settlement of officers and employees is negotiated by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) representing the managements of such banks, which have mandated it to negotiate on their behalf, with the Unions/Associations representing the employees and officers. The wage revision exercise includes revision of pay and allowances, basic service conditions, perquisites and benefits and retrial benefits etc. The Unions/Associations present their Charter of Demands to IBA and thereafter several rounds of negotiations are held by IBA with the Unions/Association to arrive at a settlement. Resolving the issues involved is a time consuming process. Efforts are being made to arrive at a settlement.

Discussion with States regarding Yashpal Committee's report

*449. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee appointed during the year 2008, with Prof. Yashpal as the Chairman, to advise renovation and rejuvenation of higher education in India has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this report has been accepted by the competent authority;
- (d) if so, the details of decision taken, if any, to implement the report;
- (e) whether the report has been made available to the competent authority of States and the general public for discussion;
- (f) if so, whether the views of the various State Governments will be considered before implementing the report; and
- (g) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Yes, Sir. The Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education constituted by the Government under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009.

- (b) Recommendations of the Committee *inter-alia* are:
 - (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical

Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of professional councils;

- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses;
- (iii) Curricular reform should be of priority of the NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;
- (iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty. While appointing teachers to the universities their affiliations to a particular college should also be specified to emphasize the need for their exposure to undergraduate students;
- (v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;
- (vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and alienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on. Additionally the barriers to entry into universities for students going through vocational training should be lowered to enable them to upgrade their knowledge base at any stage of their careers;
- (vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;
- (viii) New governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;
- (ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in the report within a period of three years failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period of time enriched higher education by their innovations, be given recognition and supported appropriately;
- (x) Modern higher education system requires extension facilities, sophisticated equipment and highly specialized knowledge and competent teachers. It would not be possible for every university to possess the best of these infrastructures. Hence, one of the primary tasks of the NCHER should be to create several inter-university centers (IUCs) in diverse fields to create the best of these possibilities and attract the participation of several institutions of higher learning to avail them;

- (xi) Institutions of excellence like the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model governance systems for all universities;
- (xii) One of the first tasks of the NCHER should be to identify the best 1,500 colleges across India to upgrade them as universities, and create clusters of other potentially good colleges of evolve as universities;
- (xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;
- (xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;
- (xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice;
- (xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;
- (xvii) Expansion of the higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should to external review once in five years;
- (xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;
- (xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action, within a definite time-frame.

(c) and (d) While the report is under consideration of the Government, the need for an overarching regulatory body in higher and technical education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

(e) to (g) The report has been made available to State Governments and has also been placed on the website of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Comments of State Governments have been invited and a few States have already responded which is being considered. A meeting of State Education Secretaries has been held on 24th July, 2009 and the recommendations of the Prof. Yash Pal Committee were considered in the meeting.

Medical insurance and pension benefit

*450. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only Government employees and some employees in the organized sector totalling about 8 per cent of the total workforce are covered under medical insurance or pension on retirement;

(b) whether it is applicable to them even if they lose the job before retirement for some unforeseen reasons; and

(c) whether Government plans to cover this aspect in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government employees are entitled to medical benefits/allowances on retirement. Pensionary benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules/NPS are available.

Further, as on 31.3.2008, the ESI Scheme covered 1.21 crore insured person family units. The total number of beneficiaries including family members eligible for medical care and attendance under the Scheme is 4.68 crores.

Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is one of the three schemes framed under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which is applicable only to these establishments which fulfill the conditions of coverage prescribed under the Act. As on 31.3.2008, approximately 4.06 crore workers are covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for pension and the total number of existing pensionary beneficiaries stood at 29.53 lakh.

(b) and (c) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has implemented an Unemployment Alliance Scheme Known as 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' for persons covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 who are rendered jobless due to retrenchment or closure of factory, etc. or on account of permanent disablement of at least 40% arising out of non employment injury. The scheme was introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and it has been reviewed and amended time to time to cover more persons and to extent additional benefits. Initially Unemployment Allowance was granted for the period of six months. This was recently extended to one year. The rate of unemployment allowance is 50% of the last pay drawn. The Insured Person and his/her dependant family members are also entitled to medical care for a period of one year from the date of unemployment. For ensuring re-employability, now training has also been included in the Scheme. This benefit under Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana ceases to be payable in case the Insured Person gets re-employment or attains the age of superannuation or 60 years, whichever is earlier.

As regard the pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 it is applicable even if the workers lose their jobs before retirement for unforeseen reasons if conditions are satisfied which are: (i) he/she has completed 10 years of eligible service; (ii) he/she has attained the age of 50 years; and (iii) he/she is a member of EPS, 1995. In addition, a member is also eligible to get pension if a member becomes disable or dies (to dependants) while in service and he/she satisfies certain conditions as provided in the scheme.

Stress among class 10th and 12th students

*451. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per the crime records, lots of students are committing suicide in the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that cases of suicide are increasing among 10th and 12th standard students in all parts of the country;

(c) if so, what has been done by Government to save these precious young lives;

(d) whether his Ministry has done any study on stress level of students and suggested any means to solve the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Sporadic incidents of suicide committed by students are reported in the media. However, it is difficult to say that these suicides have occurred due to the examination related stress alone, as various socio-economic factors also contribute to stress and anxiety among the children.

As per the figures based on news reports available with CBSE on suicides of students in schools affiliated to CBSE 17 cases were reported during 2008 and 11 during 2009.

The Government recognizes the need to devise measures to reduce fear of examination among students. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examinations more flexible, provision of guidance and counseling in schools, and making learning child-centric.

CBSE has taken the following measures to reduce the examination related stress among students:—

- Continuous and comprehensive evaluation at the school level with proper weightage to internal school based assessment;
- Restructuring of the examination system to test more on conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory;

- Provision of 15 minutes of additional time in Class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly;
- Making available sample question papers;
- Designing question papers so that all the questions can be answered in 2½ hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours;
- Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing;
- Higher weightage to practicals;
- Introduction of Mathematics labs to improve conceptual understanding;
- Providing counseling services to both students and parents through telephone, and also online;
- Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chance are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.
- Setting up of examination help-line.

The Ministry has not conducted any specific study on the stress level of students. However, the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 suggests several measures to reduce stress level among students.

Spending on social security

*452. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government spends Rs. 139 per person per month on social security;
- (b) if so, whether Government intends to increase this to a reasonable level for real social security; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is not possible to accurately ascertain social security expenditure per person as it may have different components under Central and State Governments and in accordance with the purpose being served. Moreover, people belonging to different sections of society have different levels of need for social security. Hence, all of them cannot be clubbed together. However, as per the data on expenditures of Centre and States combined on social services available from Reserve Bank of India, total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on Social services in 2008-09 (BE) was Rs. 257 per month per person roughly. Social services include, education; sports; art and culture; medical and public health; family welfare; water supply and sanitation; housing; urban development; welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs; labour and labour welfare; social security and welfare; nutrition, relief on account of natural calamities etc.

(b) and (c) Government is fully committed to inclusive growth and is making all efforts to provide sufficient funds for social security, especially for the disadvantaged sections of the society. Total combined expenditure of Central and State Governments on social services in 2008-09 (BE) was 6.72 per cent of GDP at current market prices a compared to 5.57 percent in 2003-04.

Performance of Air India

*453. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how does Air India (AI) compare, for on-time departure and arrival during the last one year, with other domestic and international airlines; and

(b) whether Government plans to take any specific step to improve upon AI's performance in this regard?

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

(a) The details of on-time performance in departures and arrival during the year 2008 in respect of scheduled domestic airlines are as under:—

Name of Airlines	On Time Performance %	
	Departure	Arrival
NACIL (I) and Alliance Air	69.6	—
Jet Airways	75.3	53.5
JetLite	56.4	—
Kingfisher Airlines	82.5	—
Spicejet	80.2	—
Go Air	77.0	65.0
Paramount Airways	87.7	82.3
IndiGo	81.0	71.5

NACIL(I), JetLite, Kingfisher Airlines and Spicejet do not maintain on time arrival data.

On-time performance data of international airlines is not maintained.

(b) DGCA has issued a circular to institutionalize a mechanism at major metro airports wherein a team comprising representatives of airports Authority of India, the airport operator and airlines are working on a daily basis to analyze on-time performance in respect of flights operated the previous day. Further, to improve the On Time Performance, Air India is also in the process of setting up a centralized Operations Control Centre (OCC) and two Hub Control Centres (HCC) at Mumbai and Delhi Airports. The OCC and HCC will be supported with modern IT systems and communication systems to enhance the operational control and efficiency of the airline. This will improve the On Time Performance on Air India network.

Ceiling on Income Tax rebate

†*454. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a jump of 20 to 50 per cent in the salary of Government officers and employees after implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, whether Government has increased the ceiling on income tax rebate by Rs. 10000/- only;

(c) if so, whether this increase of Rs. 10000/- is negligible compared to rise in salary;

(d) whether Government will reconsider to increase this ceiling;

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

(f) whether there is any proposal for further increase in saving limit of rupees one lakh; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) On the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, fitment benefit of 40% of the maximum of the pre-revised pay scale has been granted to Government servants as on 1.1.2006. However, on account of bunching, in some cases, there may be higher fitment.

(b) The basic income-tax exemption limit has been increased by the Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 by Rs. 10000/- in case of individuals and women below the age of sixty-five years and by Rs. 15000/- in case of senior citizens *i.e.* individuals above the age of sixty-five years.

(c) The percentage increase in the exemption limit and the increase in salary varies from individual to individual depending upon the increase in salary in the particular case.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The personal income-tax slabs were substantially restructured by the Finance Act, 2008 increasing the basic exemption limit from Rs. 1,10,000/- to Rs. 1,50,000/- for individuals, from Rs. 1,45,000/- to Rs. 1,80,000/- in the case of women below the age of sixty-five years and from Rs. 1,95,000/- to Rs. 2,25,000/- in the case of senior citizens. The Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 has granted further relief to the taxpayers by enhancing the basic exemption limits and removing the surcharge on Personal Income Tax.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal to increase the savings limit further as substantial relief has already been given to tax payers in Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 and any enhancement of savings limit will lead to loss of revenue.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Flaws in identification of BPL families

*455. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee set up by his Ministry has pointed out that a large number of families living under chronic poverty are often excluded from Below Poverty Line (BPL) lists exposing flaws in systems of identification of BPL families by Government for implementing its mega anti-poverty programmes including Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether according to the panel, only 49.1 per cent of the poorest quintiles of the country possess BPL/Antoyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards while 17.4 per cent of richest quintiles of the population possessed a BPL/AAY card;

(c) if so, what are the other points mentioned in the report;

(d) whether Government has considered the suggestions of the expert Committee; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For the next BPL Census, the Ministry of Rural Development has set up an Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, *inter-alia*, include recommending a suitable methodology for conducting Census. The purpose of the Census is to identify the households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in the rural areas who could be assisted under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry. The Expert Group has not submitted its final report.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Fiscal deficit

*456. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of over Rs. 400000 crores has been shown as fiscal deficit per the budget for the year 2009-10;

(b) the manner in which Government proposes to meet this huge fiscal deficit; and

(c) the manner in which Government met such fiscal deficits during 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the details thereof, Head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The fiscal deficit of the Government as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010 is Rs. 400996 crore.

(b) and (c) The financing of the deficit for the years 2007-08 (actual), 2008-09 (RE) and 2009-10 (BE) is as follows:—

(Amount in Rs. crore)

	2000-08 (Actual)	2008-09 (RE)	2009-10 (BE)
Market Loans	131768	*261972	397957
Short Term Borrowings	27481	57500	0
External Assistance	9315	9603	16047
Securities issued against Small Savings	-11302	1324	13256
State Provident Fund	3897	4800	5000
Other Receipts	-7076	-38668	-31264
Draw Down of Cash Balance	-27171	29984	0
Fiscal Deficit	126912	326515	400996

*Actual borrowing (net) in 2008-09 was Rs. 2,61,000 crore.

Drinking water Schemes

*457. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drinking water schemes implemented in the agency areas where SC/ST people are living, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the funds allocated and used so far under the schemes in each State, during the last three years; and

(c) the role of private people and NGOs in this regard especially in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): Water is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) since renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) *w.e.f.* 1.4.2009. The programme is implemented throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh. The programme covers areas in the State where Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are living. The power to plan, approve and implement the scheme rests with the States. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up Integrated. Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in ST majority areas for the implementation of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy.

(b) The State-wise allocation, release and reported expenditure by States including the expenditure incurred in respect of SC and ST population under the aforesaid programme during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) States are free to involve private individuals and NGOs in rural water supply programme. As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Satya Sai Water Board (a Trust) is involved in the rural water supply programme in Andhra Pradesh which *inter-alia* includes East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

Statement

Allocation, release and reported utilisation of funds under ARWSP

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006-07				
		Allocation	Release	Total Exp.	Expenditure on SCs	STs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20084.08	27221.88	27649.64	4932.88	1973.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10299.00	13663.78	10333.20	—	8868.08
3.	Assam	17369.00	11372.37	18104.16	1085.00	1860.00
4.	Bihar	18571.00	13006.65	13681.84	5460.87	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	6549.00	6549.00	7237.00	0.00	1720.62
6.	Goa	253.00	127.00	147.88	4.03	0.81
7.	Gujarat	13161.56	14033.08	12166.76	892.14	1700.36
8.	Haryana	6045.63	6372.63	6341.02	1011.22	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9706.86	15620.86	15632.68	3042.02	649.80
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	26324.79	23314.67	27092.31	1181.00	3171.64
11.	Jharkhand	7261.00	3631.00	4115.15	391.04	813.08
12.	Karnataka	19502.40	24336.00	24590.65	2123.15	95.40
13.	Kerala	6216.00	6216.00	7471.95	1034.41	470.33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18797.00	19733.40	16798.24	5659.89	3616.68
15.	Maharashtra	36152.00	36152.00	34870.89	4057.08	3424.00
16.	Manipur	3379.00	1689.50	3234.95	1967.02	325.00
17.	Meghalaya	4073.00	5104.59	4569.51	—	4569.51
18.	Mizoram	2920.00	4271.39	4381.79	—	3456.10
19.	Nagaland	2998.00	2998.00	2857.52	—	2857.52
20.	Orissa	10332.00	9722.58	9954.61	1931.15	2606.39
21.	Punjab	4098.00	4098.00	4111.48	647.64	—
22.	Rajasthan	41489.68	31466.30	51477.91	9927.14	397.86
23.	Sikkim	1229.00	1630.77	1596.40	148.63	222.96
24.	Tamil Nadu	12057.00	12496.22	16111.32	2499.96	—
25.	Tripura	3613.00	4577.89	3681.54	308.97	1250.66
26.	Uttar Pradesh	27990.00	28389.40	33073.82	5010.22	0.00
27.	Uttarakhand	7523.00	8329.36	5916.69	1178.82	589.41
28.	West Bengal	15806.00	17118.40	14454.73	1786.56	615.63

2007-08					2008-09				
Allocation	Release	Total Exp.	Expenditure on SCs STs		Allocation	Release	Total Exp.	Expenditure on SCs STs	
29530.00	30524.00	38840.72	7179.43	2872.95	394.53.00	39505.49	39805.30	9893.28	3929.12
11241.00	11241.00	12130.67	–	12130.67	14612.00	16246.35	6341.48	–	6341.48
18959.00	18959.00	11726.22	1144.00	3477.61	24644.00	18756.80	26539.80	1300.76	2759.11
27937.00	16968.50	16580.54	5807.66	–	42538.00	45238.00	16474.16	5769.44	0.00
9595.00	9595.00	10415.54	814.72	2759.60	13042.00	12525.00	10537.33	259.15	4866.61
331.00	165.50	230.99	5.89	1.18	398.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20589.00	20589.00	21911.79	982.74	1523.88	31444.00	36944.00	14526.00	791.15	1582.28
9341.00	9341.00	10953.87	1482.96	–	11729.00	11729.00	11729.00	1638.72	NA
11746.00	13042.00	13245.19	2419.07	56.30	14151.00	14151.00	13863.47	2854.11	61.08
32992.00	32992.00	36140.83	1763.84	2088.88	39786.00	39649.00	23885.99	1115.89	1456.39
11388.00	8445.51	11751.10	606.22	3152.37	16067.00	8033.00	8033.00	1032.10	1822.78
27851.00	28316.24	28656.79	2568.00	300.00	47719.00	47784.57	46081.33	5257.00	1926.01
8293.00	8425.08	8346.25	1264.45	582.15	10333.00	10697.00	9713.90	1938.89	856.94
25162.00	25162.00	26755.60	7295.72	6364.48	37047.00	38047.00	27856.08	5581.11	7053.68
40440.00	40440.00	37838.33	6438.02	5035.38	57257.00	64824.49	60396.20	9843.32	9863.35
3859.00	4559.00	3470.73	243.31	1137.69	5016.00	4522.91	3725.67	–	–
4446.00	5529.00	5661.16	–	5661.16	5779.00	6338.00	7451.25	–	7451.25
3188.00	3888.00	3015.73	–	3015.73	4144.00	5419.26	4615.86	–	4615.86
3272.00	3974.57	2738.62	–	2738.62	4253.00	4253.00	3919.29	–	3919.29
16885.00	17194.55	23360.27	6220.00	5500.00	29868.00	29868.00	16813.05	1748.94	2467.36
5291.00	5179.91	4027.59	975.18	–	8656.00	8656.00	6672.80	2786.00	NA
60672.00	60672.00	61966.80	12031.91	4812.76	97013.00	9182.66	97182.66	20833.20	8333.30
1342.00	2013.00	1536.20	153.61	230.45	1745.00	3245.00	851.00	84.04	126.58
19090.00	19090.00	19090.00	3528.27	–	24182.00	28782.00	16711.32	5997.94	328.31
3943.00	5443.00	5430.45	222.76	779.47	5125.00	4100.80	5484.44	786.42	1531.82
40151.00	40151.00	42113.56	6438.02	5035.38	53974.00	61577.55	61344.25	14158.50	17.20
8930.00	8930.00	11414.46	1868.08	934.04	1758.00	8586.83	5486.68	1227.00	491.00
19137.00	19137.00	23054.59	5763.87	2205.46	38939.00	38939.0	37162.25	3821.33	1528.53

Note : Punjab and Haryana have no ST population.

Nutritious meal for primary school children

*458. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to provide nutritious meal to all primary school children in the country;

(b) if so, the number of schools covered at the beginning of this academic year and those yet to be covered, State-wise; and

(c) what about those ill-fed children, who are not able to go to school for some reasons?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) At present the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) covers children at primary and upper primary (classes I-VIII) in Government, Government Aided, Local Body schools and Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative and Innovative Education (EGS/AIE) Centres including Madarasas/Maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The MDMS provides a hot cooked, wholesome, hygienic mid day meal with 450 calories and 12 grams of protein to every child at Primary level and 700 calories and 20 grams of protein in Upper Primary level. This energy and protein requirement for a child comes from food cooked of 100 grams of rice/flour, 20 grams of pulses and 50 grams of vegetables at Primary level and 150 grams of rice/flour, 25 grams of pulses and 65 grams of vegetables at Upper Primary level.

(b) The State/UT wise details of the total number of schools/centres approved for 2009-10 at primary and upper primary stages are given in the enclosed Statements I and II (See below).

(c) The MDMS provides mid-day meal only to children enrolled and attending eligible schools/centres.

Statement

Mid Day Meal Scheme

No. of Institutions approved for coverage during 2009-10 (Primary)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Institutions				Total (col. 3+4+5+6)
		(Government + LB Schools)	GA Schools	EGS Centres	AIE Centres	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	306	2	24	11	343
2.	Andhra Pradesh	53384	2208	199	2483	58274
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2300	51	1620	125	4096

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Assam	30993	2521	5138	7862	46514
5.	Bihar	67073	1430	0	2882	71385
6.	Chandigarh	103	6		194	303
7.	Chhattisgarh	32707	356	18	238	33319
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	268	12	0	0	280
9.	Daman and Diu	78	4	0	0	82
10.	Delhi	2168	162	0	3	2333
11.	Goa	937	180			1117
12.	Gujarat	32247	446	0	3369	36062
13.	Haryana	9278	170	—	—	9448
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10730	11	80	0	10821
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	17644	0	737	0	18381
16.	Jharkhand	20231	1014	18032	49	39326
17.	Karnataka	48393				48393
18.	Kerala	4650	7253	285	10	12198
19.	Lakshadweep	40	0	0	0	40
20.	Madhya Pradesh*	64180	1751	16794	4346	87071
21.	Maharashtra	62825	14827	2215	2797	82664
22.	Manipur	2455	488	933		3876
23.	Meghalaya	4640	2475	700		7815
24.	Mizoram	1226	0	59	117	1402
25.	Nagaland	1782	0	0	0	1782
26.	Orissa	45985	1467	0	0	47452
27.	Puducherry	313	12			325
28.	Punjab	13400	90	0	1990	15480
29.	Rajasthan	64577	425	0	3557	68559
30.	Sikkim	762	12	57	85	916
31.	Tamil Nadu	24378	4388	92	154	29012
32.	Tripura	3712	87	0	203	4002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Uttarakhand	12684	50	199	58	12991
34.	Uttar Pradesh	102817	848	1650	2748	108063
35.	West Bengal	49891	9530	17908	1252	78581
TOTAL:		789157	52276	66740	34533	942706

*: Includes 3495 Madarsas in AIE Centres.

Source: Annual work Plan and Budget Proposals 2009-2010 submitted by State/UTs

Statement-II

Mid Day Meal Scheme

No. of Institutions approved for coverage during 2009-10 (Upper Primary)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	(Government + LB Schools)	GA Schools	EGS Centres	AIE Centres	Total (col. 3+4+5+6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	133	2	0	0	135
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18410	1281	55	0	19746
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	893	37	0	0	930
4.	Assam	10538	1431	0	0	11969
5.	Bihar	19355	1338	0	131	20824
6.	Chandigarh	90	7	0	0	97
7.	Chhattisgarh	13608	176	0	73	13857
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	75	4	0	0	79
9.	Daman and Diu	80	8	0	0	88
10.	Delhi	992	221	0	0	1213
11.	Goa	134	286	0	0	420
12.	Gujarat	24798	395	0	0	25193
13.	Haryana	7735	170	0	0	7905
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4308	27	0	0	4335
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6974	0	0	0	6974
16.	Jharkhand	11977	538	43	0	12558

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Karnataka	22334	2176	0	0	24510
18.	Kerala	1902	3287	0	0	5189
19.	Lakshadweep	13	0	0	0	13
20.	Madhya Pradesh	26204	491	0	3	26698
21.	Maharashtra	25090	17044	508	205	42847
22.	Manipur	1679	0	0	0	1679
23.	Meghalaya	1279	980	0	0	2259
24.	Mizoram	729	65	0	170	964
25.	Nagaland	406	0	0	0	406
26.	Orissa	18935		0	0	18935
27.	Puducherry	114	22	0	0	136
28.	Punjab	5976		0	0	5976
29.	Rajasthan	32689	340	0	144	33173
30.	Sikkim	327	0	0	0	327
31.	Tamil Nadu	14904	3244	0	0	18148
32.	Tripura	1587	38	0	0	1625
33.	Uttarakhand	4599	626	13	0	5238
34.	Uttar Pradesh	41586	3098	0	0	44684
35.	West Bengal	0	9530	1803	0	11333
TOTAL :		320453	46862	2422	726	370463

Source : Annual work Plan and Budget Proposals 2009-2010 submitted by State/UTs

Managing Committees of Sanskrit Vidyapeeths/Mahavidyalayas

*459. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines for nomination of the Chairperson of the Managing Committees of Sanskrit Vidyapeeths and Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas;

(b) whether it is provided in the statute that the Chairperson of the Managing Committee should be a Sanskrit scholar;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing this statute strictly and appointing the Chairperson of the Managing Committee who are not Sanskrit scholars in some cases;

(d) whether a rule is likely to be framed providing that no person can be appointed as Chairperson for more than two terms; and

(e) whether Government proposes to make a provision for appointing SDM/DC as the Chairperson in case Sanskrit scholars are not available?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Under the scheme of financial assistance to institutions recognized as Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodh Sansthans, some of which are also known as Vidhyapeeths, the Chairman of the Managing Committee for the Mahavidyalaya/Shodh Sansthans, is nominated by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the existing Guidelines, the Chairman, can be nominated for a second term also. At present there is no proposal to amend the guideline.

(e) No, Sir.

Rise in prices of books

†*460. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while on one hand Government is making structural changes in education and on the other hand private publishers are hiking the prices of children's books exorbitantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to check the prices of stationery and books; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) There is no specific information with Government about the exorbitant hike in the prices of children's books by private publishers. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) publishes textbooks for Classes I to XII for all subjects in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. These textbooks are based on National Curriculum Framework, 2005, and are attractive, student-friendly and inexpensive. Despite being printed in good quality paper and in two to four colours, these books are very reasonably priced. The prices of these textbooks from Classes I to VIII do not exceed Rs. 30/- per copy, while textbooks for Classes IX to XII are also priced very reasonably.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) generally prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT for all Classes. In respect of those subjects for which the syllabus has been prescribed by CBSE and where CBSE has prepared its own textbooks, the prices of such books are reasonable.

Several State Governments have adopted or adapted NCERT textbooks.

Under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), free textbooks are provided to children with a ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- per child at upper primary level.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Airlines

3346. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the background details and the process which culminated into merger of all erstwhile Government-owned airlines into one entity *i.e.*, Air India, indicating profile of the Directors who constituted the respective Boards at each phase of their merger;

(b) the details of expenses incurred in each stage alongwith the merger process *e.g.*, painting of new logos, features of stationeries, dresses of on-board crew and of employees on ground etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had appointed consultants for designing uniform of on-board crew members; and

(d) if so, the profile of consultants, job entrusted to each and fees paid?

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

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

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ms. Ritu Beri a renowned fashion designer, was entrusted with the job of designing a new uniform for female cabinet crew and female ground staff. No fee for consultancy was paid. However, an expenditure of Rs. 86,54,600/- was incurred initially for procuring uniforms designed by Ms. Beri for the cabin crew and female ground staff and ties for crew.

Construction of international airport at Jaipur

†3347. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work for the construction of new building and runway of international standard at international airport, Jaipur and by when it would be opened for the passengers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the total amount spent on it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new terminal building has already been commissioned at Jaipur airport on 1st July, 2009. The work related to extension of runway from 9170 ft. to 10500 ft. has been initiated.

- (b) The amount spent on it so far is Rs. 107.76 crores.

Runway at Khandwa

†3348. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the runway situated at Khandwa airport is fit for flights at present;
- (b) the amount sanctioned and spent for making the runway fit for flights; and
- (c) by what time the remaining amount would be released?

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

(b) As this airport is not in operation for last two decades, no amount has been sanctioned for this airport. However, the nearest Indore airport is at a distance of 130 kms.

- (c) Does not arise.

Pre-paid taxi service at IGI Airport

3349. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) the passengers after securing the pre-paid taxi tokens are on the mercy of taxi drivers to reach their destinations because they are not ready to carry short distance passengers;

(b) whether during night even after paying the night charges, the passengers are forced to pay additional charges;

(c) if so, what action Government would take against the erring officials and taxi drivers; and

(d) whether pre-paid taxi service would be computerized and registration numbers of the taxis would be printed on the bill/token to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A few complaints of harassment of passengers including overcharging and refusal to commute short distance during hiring of pre-paid taxis have been received by the Delhi Police.

(c) Strict enforcement action is taken by Delhi Police against the erring taxi driver, if found indulging in refusal/misbehaving with passengers at IGI Airport.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Delhi International Airport Private Limited, in coordination with Delhi Police, is in the process of implementing a Cab Management System which is to be installed by August, 2009. The salient features of the system are: to register all the pre-paid taxis at both the terminals, to restrict the entry of only authorised taxi and taxi drivers to the system, issue of Bio-metric cards to the drivers after verification of their character and antecedents by the local police and issuance of pre-paid slip which will be readable by the system. The objective of the system is to have a connectivity between the vehicle driver and the passenger.

Meeting between US FAA & DGCA

3350. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of United States Federal Aviation Administration (USFAA) visited India and met Director General of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, whether the team is following international safety standards set up by International Civil Aviation Organisation;

(c) if so, whether US team visited for consultation; and

(d) if so, what was the outcome of discussions held with US team and whether any agreement has been reached in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The United States of America's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) team carried out a reassessment of Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) safety oversight capabilities under the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme and followed the international safety standards set up by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

(d) DGCA has taken action on all concerns raised by the FAA's IASA team.

Ticketing business of Air India

3351. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to outsource its entire ticketing business to a competitor company; and

(b) if so, the detail of the terms and conditions of this deal and the reasons for taking such a decision?

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

(a) No, Sir. All the ticketing business for Air India is being done in-house.

(b) Does not arise.

100 Days Programme of Ministry of Civil Aviation

3352. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the 100 Days Programme of the Ministry;
- (b) what other programmes will be taken up after 100 Days period; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure full utilization of current year's Budget?

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

(a) and (b) There is no such specific proposal.

(c) All necessary steps are being taken to utilize the budget in the current financial year.

New Aviation Policy

3353. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new aviation policy is being put on the fast track;
- (b) if so, whether industry has been asking for clear guidelines for civil aviation sector;
- (c) whether due to global economy slow down, Government is considering to put this policy on 100 days agenda; and
- (d) if so, the details of new policy and by when it is likely to be planned?

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

(a) to (d) Most of the issues which are *inter-alia* set forth as under in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy have already been implemented.

- (i) Revised FDI Policy for airports has been put in place *vide* which 100% FDI, through automatic route, has been permitted in Greenfield airports.
- (ii) FDI requirements for air transport side of civil aviation have been revised and separate limits have been prescribed in respect of different sectors such as cargo, airlines, non-scheduled operators, MRO etc.
- (iii) Greenfield Airport Policy has been announced, which lays down policy guidelines for establishment of new airports.
- (iv) Relaxed procedure for establishment of private airports for 'private use' has been announced.
- (v) The statute for establishment of economic regulator for the airports *viz.*, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has been passed by the Parliament and notified on 05.12.2008.

- (vi) Private domestic airlines have been permitted to fly on overseas routes subject to specified guidelines. Further, bilateral arrangements with other countries have been gradually liberalized. These initiatives have enabled considerably better international connectivity.
- (vii) Air India and Indian Airlines have been merged to create a strong and efficient national carrier.
- (viii) A new Flying Training Institute has been established at Gondia, Maharashtra. Further, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi has been restructured. These measures would help in putting in place better training infrastructure for technical manpower in the aviation sector.

In view of the above, National Civil Aviation Policy is already on fast track.

Aviation fuel loss

3354. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any estimate has been made on aviation fuel loss in terms of quantity and cost to Air India on account of air traffic congestion during 2007-08 and 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The losses for aviation fuel in terms of quantity/cost on account of air traffic congestions during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 were 16718420 Kgs./Rs. 56.71 crores and 11229328 Kgs./Rs. 68.62 crores respectively.

- (c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of NACIL

3355. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the financial problem and the need of restructuring/reviving financial health of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was referred to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE); and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The reference has not been considered necessary because NACIL has taken a number of initiatives of revive the financial health of the Company. Further Air India's

request for equity infusion is under consideration of the Government. A Committee of Secretaries set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary will review the progress made by the Airline towards operational and financial restructuring.

Increase in helicopter crashes

†3356. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in the incidents of helicopter crashes in different parts of the country during last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases of helicopter crashes which have come to the notice during the last two years;
- (d) whether all these cases have been investigated; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to prevent these crashes?

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

(c) Three helicopter crashes were reported in 2007 and two in 2008.

(d) and (e) All accidents reported are investigated as per prescribed procedures and preventive action taken on the basis of the recommendations emanating from the investigation to avoid the recurrence of similar accident. A Helicopter Cell is working in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to look after safe helicopter operations and other requirements.

Contract to Pawan Hans Helicopters by ONGC

†3357. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has awarded a contract to Pawan Hans Helicopters to hire twelve helicopters for a period of three years;
- (b) whether advanced security measures have to be deployed in these helicopters which were supposed to be completed within 150 days starting from 29 July, 2006;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that first three helicopters were to be given in November, 2006 and remaining helicopters were to be given in July, 2007;
- (d) the reasons for not carrying out the work by Pawan Hans Helicopters on time; and
- (e) the total loss incurred by Pawan Hans due to this delay?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) to (c) On 1.3.2006 Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) entered into a contract with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd. to deploy 12 Dauphin Helicopters, complaint with Aviation Standard — 4 (AS-4) requirement, by 29.07.2006. However due to delay in making these helicopters AS-4 complaint, ONGC agreed to extend the time limit upto 31.07.2007. PHHL deployed the required number of AS-4 complaint helicopters by 31.12.2007.

(d) These Dauphin Helicopters needed major retrofitment by the manufacturer to make them AS-4 complaint and subsequent certification by the French Regulatory Authorities before being deployed with ONGC.

(e) ONGC deducted liquidated damages Rs. 14.94 crore from the charter hire charges due to PHHL for the delay. The same has been contested by PHHL because such delay had occurred due to circumstances beyond the control of PHHL and ONGC has not suffered any operational loss as PHHL continued to provide helicopters under old contract.

Plan for VRS/ERS in Civil Aviation Sector

3358. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total number of employees working in the civil aviation sector; and
- (b) whether Government has any plan of retrenchment/Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) Early Retirement Scheme (ERS) for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) There are approximately 52,042 employees working in the civil aviation sector in the attached/autonomous/public sector organisations under this Ministry.

- (b) There are no such proposals in the above organisations.

Status of Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport

3359. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar;
- (b) the figure of air passengers who travelled through Shri Biju Patnaik International Airport in the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) by when this airport named after this freedom fighter would get all facilities like Delhi/Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):
(a) and (c) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. At this airport, construction of a New

Terminal Building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 145.54 crores to handle 800 passengers at a time has been initiated. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also a plan for extension of apron to facilitate aerobridge stands.

(b) The total number of passengers handled at Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar for the last three year (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) are 351336, 702201 and 671861 respectively.

Racial discrimination of Indians by Air France

3360. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry the racial discrimination shown to Indians who were coming by Air France flight from USA to Mumbai by the aviation authorities of France for nearly twelve hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither they gave them hotel accommodation as has been done in the case of other passengers or were allowed to go out to get hotel accommodation on their own;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has raised this matter with the concerned authorities of France; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome?

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

(b) to (d) The matter was taken up, both with Air France as well as with the French Government authorities. The French authorities have explained that the aircraft had developed a technical snag for which a judicial probe was ordered by the French Attorney General. That prohibited access to the aircraft until 10.00 hrs. the next day. Most passengers having valid travel documents were transferred to hotels. However, fifty two Indian nationals could not be transferred to hotels because they did not have transit visas for Finance. Air France initiated grant of visa to these passengers, after which they were given hotel accommodation. This process took time and delays occurred at various stages. However, the french Ambassador has conveyed his sincere regrets for the unfortunate situation faced by the Indian passengers.

Exorbitant rate of interest on use of credit cards

3361. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks like Citibank, HSBC, SBI, ICICI and HDFC are charging exorbitant rate of interest on use of credit cards despite RBI guidelines to charge less interest;

(b) whether the due amount a customer has to pay including the interest doubles the actual usage in a year;

(c) whether there is any scheme for one time settlement of credit card dues, particularly Citibank, HSBC and ICICI;

(d) if so, the details of benefits a customer would get by exercising this option;
and

(e) if not, what action Government proposes to protect the customers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Circular dated 7th May, 2007 on 'Complaints about excessive interest charged by banks' advising all commercial bank to put in place appropriate internal principles and procedures so that usurious interest, including processing and other charges are not levied by them on loans and advances. Further, the banks have been advised that while laying down such principles and procedures in respect of small value loans, particularly personal loans and such other loans of similar nature, banks should keep in view the broad guiding principles enumerated in the above circular such as prescribing an appropriate prior approval process for sanctioning such loans, incorporating a reasonable and justified risk premium in the interest rate charged by the banks, fixing justifiable interest and all other charges levied on a loan as well as ceiling thereof, etc.

To address the grievances of the bank customers arising out of perceived non adherence to RBI guidelines or the policies of the banks, RBI has advised the banks to put in place an effective grievances redressal mechanism to redress the grievances of their customers. In case of non redressal of the grievances of the bank customers, RBI has notified Banking Ombudsman Scheme to resolve such issues. As per the extant procedure, the Banking Ombudsman verifies the contents of the complaint with the concerned bank, evaluates the evidence produced by the parties and pass 'awards' of compensation, wherever considered appropriate, which covers actual pecuniary loss to the customer of account of excess charges/penal interest, etc. and a compensation upto Rs. 1 lakh on account of harassment and mental anguish suffered by the customer.

(c) to (e) There is no specific one time settlement scheme for credit cards customers of private sector and foreign banks. However, the banks may consider any such proposal of their customers keeping in view their recovery policies and extant RBI guidelines, in usual course of their business.

New guidelines for recovery agents of banks

3362. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued a new set of guidelines for banks' recovery agents;

(b) if so, the details of final norms issued by the RBI for banks' recovery agents;
and

(c) to what extent his Ministry thinks that it would reduce harassment by agents in recovering loans on behalf of banks from consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on 24th April, 2008 on

recovery agents engaged by banks. The RBI has advised the banks to ensure verification of antecedents of employees of recovery agencies engaged by them. Police verification has been suggested as one of the pre-employment due diligence measures. RBI has also stipulated that all recovery agents undergo a training-cum-certification programme offered by Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF).

Complaints received by RBI regarding violation of guidelines and adoption of abusive practices followed by banks' recovery agents would be viewed seriously. RBI may consider imposing a ban on banks from engaging recovery agents in a particular area, either jurisdictional or functional, for a limited period. Similar supervisory action could be attracted when the High Courts or the Supreme Court pass strictures or impose penalties against any bank or its Directors/Officers/agents with regard to policy, practice and procedure related to the recovery process.

Offshore tax havens

3363. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States (US) is contemplating to enact a legislation that will prevent US firms from using offshore tax havens;

(b) whether the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is also determined on eliminating fraud and enhancing banking transparency and has initiated similar move across the European Union;

(c) if so, whether India having tax treaties with Mauritius and Bermuda from where much of the FDI inflows originate, is also contemplating any such move; and

(d) whether the European and American initiatives targeting tax havens overseas will have any impact on investment flow to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per information obtained from the website of the White House. www.whitehouse.gov, the US administration plans to legislate measures to reduce the amount of taxes lost to tax havens;

(b) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as per the information available in public domain, commends that all countries should permit access to bank information for all tax purposes so that tax authorities can fully discharge their revenue raising responsibilities and engage in effective exchange of information with their treaty partners. OECD, through the Global Forum on Taxation, assesses implementation of its standards of Transparency and Exchange of Information and is currently focusing on strengthening the Global Forum and developing further its toolbox of counter measures against non-cooperative jurisdictions and assessing their effectiveness;

(c) During the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09, FDI inflow from Mauritius and Bermuda was Rs. 1,241,416 million and Rs. 19,986 million respectively. India has a Double

Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with Mauritius but not with Bermuda. Amendments to the Indo-Mauritius DTAC to prevent its misuse and enhance exchange of information, including banking information, are being pursued through the Joint Working Group constituted for this purpose.

(d) It is not possible to assess whether European and American initiatives targeting tax havens will have any impact on investment flow to India.

Likely decrease in wages

†3364. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid attention towards the report of the World Bank wherein it has been said that there is likelihood of decrease in amount earned as wages in developing countries in 2009;

(b) if so, the likelihood of reduction in the said amount on the basis of the report; and

(c) the effect on the amount coming to India as a result of this reduction and the country from where the reduction in amount will be maximum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Report of the World Bank, as referred in the Question, indicating likelihood of decrease in amount earned as wages in developing countries in 2009, could not be identified.

Increase in prices of consumable goods

†3365. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a fall in inflation, there is a huge increase in prices of daily consumable goods;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures/steps taken by Government to curb unprecedented increase in prices of consumer goods, vegetables and fruits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The overall monthly average Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 4.9 per cent in January 2009. It declined to 1.2 – 1.3 per cent in March – April, 2009 and further to 0.4 per cent (Provisional) in May, 2009. It becomes negative in June, 2009 to (-) 1.4 per cent (Provisional). Despite fall in overall inflation, inflation in some of the food products and items of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

daily use like tea and sugar continues to remain high on account of lower agricultural production in some crops, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand. Details of overall inflation, as also in some major essential commodities are indicated in the table below:—

Items/Month	Weight	Jan.-09	Feb.-09	Mar.-09	Apr.-09	May-09	Jun.-09
All commodities	100.0	4.9	3.5	1.2	1.3	0.4	-1.4
Rice	2.4	15.2	17.1	16.7	14.7	14.6	15.5
Wheat	1.4	5.2	6.1	4.6	5.7	7.0	6.8
Pulses	0.6	13.6	16.8	10.8	13.7	14.9	16.8
Fruits and Vegetables	2.9	17.3	9.6	2.1	10.5	8.2	10.4
Condiments and Spices	0.7	10.1	6.6	13.8	12.0	8.0	7.3
Tea	0.2	43.2	29.8	25.3	20.3	36.8	38.1
Sugar	3.6	16.9	24.0	21.4	27.7	30.0	33.9
Salt	0.0	11.8	10.8	10.8	14.4	11.2	19.9

The Government monitors the price situation regularly, with price stability being high on its agenda. Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include selective ban on exports and futures trading in food grains, zero import duty on select food items, permitting imports of pulses and sugar by public sector undertakings, distribution of imported pulses and edible oils through the PDS and release of higher quota of non-levy sugar. In addition, the State Governments have been empowered to act against hoarders of food items by keeping in abeyance the removal of restrictions on licensing, stock limits and movements of food articles under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

Holding companies of ICICI/SBI Banks

3366. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether banks like ICICI and SBI have been asking for permission to set up a holding company, which in turn can set up banks or other financial services companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, by when action will be taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received proposal from State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank Ltd. for setting up holding companies. As the issue of allowing banks to set up holding companies has wide ranging implications, a discussion paper on holding companies in Banking Groups has been placed on 27th August, 2007 on RBI website for public comments. A Committee was formed to examine these responses from legal and prudential perspectives. The

Committee has since submitted its Report. However, no policy decision has been taken by RBI in the matter.

Seizure of fake currency

3367. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 153 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14 July, 2009 and state the amount of fake currencies seized from different States in the country especially from Delhi during the last two years, till-date, indicating details of their denominations and value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
As per the information furnished by NCRB, the amount of fake currencies seized from different States/UTs in the country including Delhi, with details of denominations and value, during the last two years and upto March, 2009 is as follows:—

Denomination-wise number of pieces seized

Year (Jan.- Dec.)	5	10	20	50	100	500	1000	Total	Value
2007	71 (0)	220 (0)	421 (0)	12518 (1400)	128745 (1698)	74404 (92)	14959 (39)	231338 (3229)	65672375 (324800)
2008	1 (0)	201 (0)	326 (0)	20088 (394)	87068 (7311)	82341 (755)	21116 (233)	211141 (8693)	72006235 (1361300)
2009 (upto 31.3.09)	1 (0)	3 (0)	34 (0)	1125 (63)	8845 (845)	13019 (2251)	3238 (948)	26265 (4107)	10688965 (2161150)

Figures in brackets relate to Delhi.

Investigation by the CVC

3368. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had initiated investigation against the immediate past Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of India for alleged misappropriation of funds;

(b) if so, the details of allegations against him; and

(c) the status of investigation at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission had received complaints against Shri T.S. Narayanasami, Ex CMD, Bank of India making following allegations:—

- (i) Exorbitant amount spent on renovation and furnishing of the flat for the residence of CMD, Bank of India, much beyond entitlement.
- (ii) Sanction of huge credit facilities in the accounts where the bank had permitted one time settlement (OTS) of the dues by sacrificing amounts in violation of the laid down norms.
- (iii) Sanctioning of huge credit facilities to a borrower without obtaining NOC from the existing banker and financial institutions where the borrower had entered into compromise under OTS.
- (iv) Sanctioning of credit facilities of borrowers having rating less than that required entry level rating.

After investigation, Central Vigilance Commission advised that the complaints did not result in the establishment of any cause for vigilance action against Shri Narayanasami.

SMS alerts for money transfers

3369. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the RBI has given directions to all banks that they should send SMS messages and e-mails on money transfer requests of customers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

- (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to enhance the security of online transactions, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular on 18th February, 2009. As per circular it would be mandatory to put in place with effect from August 1, 2009, a system of 'online alerts' to the cardholder for all 'card not present' transactions of the value of Rs. 5,000/- and above.

Tax collection target

3370. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target for tax collection for the financial year 2008-09;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these tax collections have fallen short of the target; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A target of Rs. 3,65,000 crore was fixed for collection of Direct taxes for Financial Year 2008-09 during the Budget Estimates. The target was subsequently revised to Rs. 3,45,000 crore during Revised Estimates for Financial Year 2008-09. In indirect taxes the Budget Estimates for Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax for 2008-09 were Rs. 1,18,930;

1,37,874 and 64,460 crore respectively, while the revised targets for the year 2008-09 for Customs duty, Central Excise and Service Tax were fixed as Rs. 1,08,000 crore, Rs. 1,08,359 crore and Rs. 65,000 crore respectively which added upto Rs. 2,81,359 crore.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam, In the Financial Year 2008-09 an amount of Rs. 3,38,212 crore was collected against the Revised Estimate of Rs. 3,45,000 crore on the Direct taxes side. Thus there was shortfall of Rs. 6788 crore in collection of Direct Taxes. The shortfall was primarily on account of economic slowdown resulting from the global financial meltdown and consequent economic recession in developed economies. The economic slowdown dented the profits of companies and also resulted in lesser salary payouts, resulting in decrease in collection in Corporate Tax and personal Income tax. The stock market also remained subdued which impacted the collection of Securities Transaction Tax. Therefore, Direct taxes collection was below the Revised Estimate.

In Indirect Taxes, in the first half of 2008-09, the economy came under severe inflationary pressures. With a view to augment supply of essential items, the rates of basic Customs duty were reduced. By the middle of 2008-09, as the signs of economic slowdown became apparent, Government announced a series of stimulus packages in the form of reduction in Excise duty and Service tax rates to revive the economy. On 7th December, 2008, the Central Excise duty (and also CVD) was reduced by four percentage points across the board on non-petroleum items. Further on 24th February, 2009, the rate of Central Excise (and also CVD) on items attracting 10% of excise were reduced by two percentage point. The rate of Service tax was also reduced from 12% to 10% across the board on the same day. Further, the overall global economic meltdown affected the domestic economy both by way of reduced domestic production of goods and by way of reduced imports and led to reduced collection of Customs duty, Central Excise duty and Service tax.

Measures to curb illegal poppy cultivation

3371. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the world's major illicit opium and poppy drug producing and transit country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strong counter-narcotics measures and efforts taken to curb illegal production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The World Drug Report, 2009 published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime highlights only Afghanistan, Myanmar and Lao PDR as the major illicit opium cultivating countries. However, the US Government has its own method of determining

major illicit drug producing and/or drug transit countries. It has listed 20 countries including India in this category.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to curb illegal production of opium poppy in the country. These include:-

- (i) Carrying out of satellite/ground survey to detect illicit cultivation of opium poppy;
- (ii) Destruction of illicit opium poppy and prosecution of the offenders.
- (iii) Coordination between various drug law enforcement agencies to enhance the impact of drug law enforcement.
- (iv) Training law enforcement officials to upgrade their skills to combat drug trafficking.
- (v) A scheme of monetary rewards to informers and officers for information leading to seizures of narcotics drugs.
- (vi) Financial assistance being provided to eligible States for strengthening their anti-narcotic units.

**Acquisition and transfer of immovable property
outside the country**

3372. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has asked the State Governments to be extra vigilant in matters of acquisition and transfer of immovable property in the country by a resident outside India and checking the eligibility under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) before registering a sale or purchase;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments thereto and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will constitute a separate board to monitor such acquisition and transfer of immovable property by foreign nationals or resident outside India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has also issued a Press Release dated the 6th November, 2008 in this regard and the State Governments are taking appropriate action.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government of India.

Financing of States' plans

3373. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantum of funds given to the State Governments for financing the States' plans in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Funds to the tune of Rs. 48809.91 crore in the financial year 2007-08 and Rs. 60990.92 crore in the financial year 2008-09 have been released to the State Governments for financing the States' Plans in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Tax holiday on oil and gas explorations

3374. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-I to VII has provided tax holidays both on oil and gas without any exceptions;

(b) whether bidders had also submitted bids on explicit commitment on availability of 7 years tax holidays on commercial production of both oil and gas under NELP-I to VII;

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawing tax holidays now;

(d) whether Government would clarify its stands on tax holidays on NELP-I and NELP-VII to avoid adverse impact on future exploration programmes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Tax holiday is provided as per the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and not as per the New Exploration Licencing Policy.

As per the provisions of sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income-tax Act, 1961, as they stood prior to the amendment proposed by the Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009, a deduction was available only in respect of profits and gains derived from commercial production or refining of mineral oil. The Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 proposes to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to extend the tax holiday under sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act, which was hitherto available in respect of profits arising from the commercial production or refining of mineral oil, also to natural gas from blocks which are licensed under the VIII Round of bidding for award of exploration contracts (hereafter referred to as 'NELP-VIII') under the New Exploration Licencing Policy announced by the Government of India *vide* Resolution No. O-19018/22/95-ONG. DO.VL, dated 10th February, 1999 and begin commercial production of natural gas on or after the 1st day of April, 2009. This benefit will also be available for profits from natural gas produced in blocks awarded under the IVth round of bidding for coal bed methane blocks.

The commitment to the bidders was that the tax holiday would be available to them as per the provisions of sub-section (4E) of section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, as it stood prior to its substitution by Finance Act 1999, or sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income-tax Act, as applicable from time to time.

The Government stands by its commitment to the bidders that the tax holiday would be available to them as per the provisions of sub-section (4E) of section 80-IA of the Income-tax

Act, as it stood prior to its substitution by Finance Act 1999, or sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income-tax Act, as applicable from time to time.

Valuation of Government owned-lands

3375. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much land Government owns including the property owned in the name of Government Corporations, Public Undertakings, Public Trusts and other Government bodies;

(b) what is the present market-value thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to utilise, manage and regulate these properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) The information relating to land owned by Government including the property owned in the name of Government Corporations, Public Undertakings, Public Trusts and other Government bodies; their present market-value and manner of utilization, management etc., is not maintained centrally.

Annual expenditure on social services

3376. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual expenditure for Indian poor as percentage of GDP on social services during the last three plans from 1997 onwards;

(b) whether Government plans to increase this in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Total Central and State Government annual average expenditures on social and community services as percentage of GDP at market prices during last three plans were as under:—

Ninth Plan	5.37
Tenth Plan	5.34
2007-08 (B.E.) (for Eleventh Plan)	6.03

(b) and (c) Government has been consistently increasing its expenditure on social and community services. Depending on the needs in the future, the Government will make available necessary funds for social and community services.

Profits of banks

†3377. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Indian banks earned profits during financial year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the share of income from interest on loan and income from the profit of investments made in share market in the above mentioned profit; and

(c) the amount of capital invested by banks in these two sectors during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir. All Indian banks, except the Development Credit Bank Ltd., have reported profit for the year 2008-09.

(b) The existing Management Information System of Reserve Bank of India does not generate data in the desired manner. However, in 2008-09, the Indian banks reported a total interest income (on loans/advances and all kinds of investments) of Rs. 3,44,508 crore. Out of this, the interest income on loans and advances alone was Rs. 2,51,382 crore which accounted for 73% of the total interest income.

(c) As at end March, 2009, the outstanding gross advances of the Indian banks stood at Rs. 26,23,419 crore and their investment to capital market was Rs. 24,566 crore.

Forecast of World Bank for India's economy

3378. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has forecast India's economy to expand by 5.1 per cent during this fiscal which is lowest in six years, although, the country has consistently outperformed multilateral funder's estimates in the past;

(b) if so, whether it has pointed out that Indian economy has grown by 6.7 per cent in 2008-09 against World Bank's estimate of 6.1 per cent despite recession in most of the developed nations;

(c) whether according to World Bank, the Prime Minister has also acknowledged that there is indeed a slow down in foreign investment; and

(d) if so, what steps Government is considering to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) As per the World Bank's Global Development Finance Report, June 2009, the forecast of real GDP growth for India, measured at 2000 purchasing power parity weights, is 5.1 per cent for the fiscal 2009-10 and is estimated at 6.1 per cent for fiscal 2008-09. As per the revised estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008-09 is estimated at 6.7 per cent.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Net foreign investment in 2008-09 as per preliminary estimates, stood at US \$ 3462 million as compared to US \$ 15528 million in 2005-06, as on 24th July, 2009. Government of India has taken policy initiatives like enhancing the limit for Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in government securities and for corporate debt to address the slowdown in foreign investment.

Safeguarding interest of depositors

†3379. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to bring in any special law for safeguarding the interests of depositors in financial institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that 14 State Governments have enacted special laws for safeguarding the interests of depositors in financial institutions, after getting them duly approved from the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the Central Government is not giving approval to a Bill from Rajasthan having similar provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. The existing law *i.e.* Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 provides adequate protection to small depositors in financial institutions. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been pursuing with the State Governments and Union Territories to enact a law to safeguard the interest of the depositors in financial establishments. So far, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttarakhand have enacted certain legislations for protection of interest of depositors.

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs has indicated to the Government of Rajasthan that it would be appropriate if the Rajasthan Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishment) Bill, 2005 is examined alongwith the judgement of the Supreme Court in the SLP filed by the Government of Maharashtra on the order of the Maharashtra High Court holding the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishment) Act, 1999 ultra vires of the Constitution of India.

Customs and Central Excise office in Goa

3380. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an office of Customs and Central Excise in Goa;

(b) if so, the nature of the office;

(c) the number of officers and other employees working therein;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) whether there is a demand for additional post from the said office;
- (e) the number and category of post demanded;
- (f) whether there are any vacancies in any of the sanctioned post; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is one of the four Commissionerates under Pune Zone of Central Excise and Customs Department responsible for levy and collection of customs, central excise and service tax in its jurisdiction.

(c) As on 1.1.2009, a total of 452 officers and employees are working in Central Excise and Customs Commissionerate, Goa.

(d) Yes, Sir. A proposal for reorganization of the Pune Zone (including Goa Commissionerate) of Customs and Central Excise Department, by creation of new divisions and ranges has been sent by the Chief Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs, Pune.

(e) In the above proposal, 749 additional posts in various categories have been demanded for Goa Commissionerate.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The number of current vacancies reported by Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs, Goa are:

Group 'A'	—	6
Group 'B' (Gazetted)	—	16
Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)	—	67
Group 'C'	—	48
Group 'D'	—	—

Fake currency

3381. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 153 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th July, 2009 and state:

- (a) whether the circulation of fake currency in the country has shattered our economy; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservations from States on GST

3382. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have reservation about the implementation of proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country from next year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States which have reservations; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring about a consensus among the States on its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Government of Tamil Nadu have communicated to the Central Government certain concerns related to the implementation of the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country from next year. Their main concerns are for having a GST design that is not regressive, is aligned to federal principles of our Constitution, protects revenue interests of the States and Centre, and does not impose additional compliance burden on small and medium enterprises. They have also advised adoption of an implementation schedule for GST that permits requisite capacity building.

(d) The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers meets regularly to evolve consensus among States on the various issues involved.

CPI method of calculating inflation

3383. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change method of calculation with regard to inflation rate which is based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) which is not realistic;

(b) whether it is a fact that most developed countries use Consumer Price Index (CPI) to calculate inflation rate; and

(c) the reasons for India not switching over to CPI method of calculation of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is no proposal to change the method of calculation of inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which is being published on weekly basis regularly since 1947.

(b) According to available information, 157 countries use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to track inflation, while the WPI is used by 24 countries including India.

(c) The reason why India does not switch over to CPI method of calculating inflation is because we do not have an aggregate CPI, but only four sectional CPIs compiled at the National

level. These are Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL), Consumer Price Index for Rural Labour (CPI-RL) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME). The National Statistical Commission (2001) has recommended that the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) compile a national consumer price index by computing the CPI (Urban) and CPI (Rural) separately and then combining together into an All India Index. Data collection for CPI (Urban) has commenced.

**Discriminatory clause in recommendations of
Sixth Pay Commission Report**

3384. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a discriminatory clause has been inserted in recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission *vide* First Schedule, Part-A, Section II which defines entry pay for direct recruits on or after 1 January, 2006;

(b) the reasons for having given fitment factor of 1.43, 1.68, 1.78 for pay band of Rs. 6500, Rs. 7450 and Rs. 7500, respectively, for those joining service on or after 1 January, 2006;

(c) the reason for not giving the fitment factor of 1.86 to these recruits; and

(d) by when this anomaly would be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (c) As per the recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission, the revised pay structure has been implemented with effect from 1.1.2006 and fitment benefit is to be given to existing government servants as on 1.1.2006. Entry pay of direct recruits appointed on or after 1.1.2006 is to be fixed in accordance with Section II, Part A of First Schedule to the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008. The same has been notified on the basis of the recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission contained in para 2.2.22(iv) of its Report.

(d) Pay fixation based on the reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) above does not constitute an anomaly.

Annual cost of e-filing of TDS returns

3385. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the estimated annual cost of e-filing of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) returns etc. by a company and what efforts are being done to reduce the cost for small entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): A taxpayer is not liable to make any payment to the Income-tax Department for using its facilities for e-filing of this income-tax return.

A deductor is required to furnish his e-TDS return by uploading the data through the NSDL service provider. For this purpose, he is required to made payment as indicated in the Table below:—

Table: Fee for uploading e-TDS return

Number of records	Upload fee (exclusive of service tax) For each upload
Up to 100 records	Rs. 27.50/-
Between 100 to 1000 records	Rs. 165/-
More than 1000 records	Rs. 550/-

The fee varies with the number of records in the e-TDS return. In general, a deductor is expected to file four quarterly e-TDS returns. Therefore, in the case of a small entrepreneur with less than one hundred TDS/TCS records, the annual cost of e-filing is Rs. 110/-

The Government is engaged in a continuous exercise of simplifying the procedures and reducing compliance cost. The existing procedure for filing e-TDS returns is also under constant review.

Implementation of loan-waiver scheme

†3386. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had implemented the loan-waiver scheme last year;

(b) if so, the number of farmers benefited under the scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that farmers, who had made part payment of the loan, could not avail of the benefit thereunder; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of farmers who had made part payment of their loan during the year 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme 2008 has been implemented throughout the country covering around 3.68 crores farmers with total eligible waiver and relief amounting to Rs. 65,318.33 crore. (All figures provisional).

(c) and (d) The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008 has covered all agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions during the period from April 01, 1997 to March 31, 2007 which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

became overdue as on December 31, 2007 and remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. For marginal farmers (*i.e.*, holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there was a complete waiver of all such overdues while in respect of other farmers, there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for such loans. Under the OTs, a rebate of 25 per cent is to be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent of the eligible amount. Any farmer fulfilling the above criteria is covered under the Scheme.

Manipulation of record books by nationalised banks

3387. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Nationalised Banks are manipulating the records to reduce the NPAs of the Banks by showing at the end of the financial years as collected and again financed after the financial year closing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) No such specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, as and when the instances of divergence in Asset Classification and Provisioning are brought to the notice of the Government or Reserve Bank of India (RBI), or are brought out during Annual Financial Inspection of the bank by RBI, the matter is taken up with the concerned bank for appropriate corrective action in the matter.

100 days programme in the Ministry of Finance

3388. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the 100 days programme of his Ministry;

(b) what other programmes will be taken up after 100 days period; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure full utilisation of current year's Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) IBA and NABARD have been instructed by Department of Financial Services (DFS) to issue instructions to all Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) respectively to open at least 250 rural house holds accounts at each of their rural and semi-urban branches and submit quarterly report to DFS. Further, as per announcement made in Finance Minister's Budget speech, IIFCL would, in consultation with Banks, evolve a scheme on 'take out financing', which would facilitate banks in providing long term loans to the infrastructure sector. IIFCL has already appointed a consultant for this purpose.

The following programmes to be taken up after 100 days period:—

- (i) Public shareholding in listed companies at minimum level of 25%.
- (ii) Dedicated SME Exchange or platform for easy availability of equity capital for SMEs.
- (iii) A sustainable and comprehensive pension system and creation of a statutory PFRDA.
- (iv) Amendment to Section 20 of Indian Trusts Act to provide for a class of securities.
- (v) Liberalisation of the regulatory regime for ADRs and ECB.
- (vi) To undertake new and innovative measures to promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

(c) Out of 13 Demands pertaining to the Ministry of Finance, 5 Demands namely Demand Nos. '32-Department of Economic Affairs', '40-India Audit and Accounts Department', '41-Department of Revenue', '42-Direct Taxes' and '43-Indirect Taxes' are covered by the Modified Cash Management System in Central Government. Accordingly, Monthly Expenditure Plan has been prepared in respect of these Demands and monitored closely. The Expenditure trend is monitored on monthly basis with a view to ensure optimum utilisation of funds and suitable steps are taken as and when necessary.

Economic recession

†3389. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government holds the economic policy of developed countries alongwith big international financial institutions responsible for the present economic recession; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) The origin of global financial crisis lay in structured investment instruments created out of subprime mortgage lending in United States of America. The securitization process, however, was not backed by due diligence and led to large-scale default. The complexity of the instruments, the role of credit rating agencies and lax regulatory structure played a contributory role. The high ratings assigned to certain tranches of structured instruments, which were quickly reversed with the onset of the crisis, created a panic situation among investors and precipitated the crisis. Following the collapse of Lehman Brothers in mid September 2008, there was a full-blown financial meltdown, which severely affected the financial and real sectors of the developed and developing countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In view of the severity of the global economic crisis, India has taken both monetary and fiscal measures to restore the growth momentum. The monetary and credit measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India include provision of adequate liquidity and credit delivery, progressive reduction in the Repo and Reverse Repo rates under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and reduction in cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios (CRR and SLR) for banks. These measures have been supplemented with sector specific credit measures for exports, housing, micro and small enterprises and infrastructure.

Further, to counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown, the Government has responded by providing a substantial fiscal expansion in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets.

As a result of monetary and fiscal stimulus packages, an unimpaired financial system and a large domestic market, the effect of global economic recession on the Indian economy has been minimal *vis-a-vis* most other countries.

Market share of Life Insurance Corporation

3390. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) *vis-a-vis* other public or private sector 'Life Insurance' enterprises;

(b) the details of financial viability, *i.e.* profit or loss, made by LIC during the last three fiscal years;

(c) the penetration of LIC in countries where majority of migrant labour and professionals is 'Indian'; and

(d) the number of foreign offices of LIC, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that its market share in terms of First Year Premium and Number of Policies *vis-a-vis* private sector life insurance companies as on 31st March, 2009 is as under:—

Market Share in percentage

	First Year Premium	Number of Policies
LIC	60.79	70.52
Private Sector Life Insurance Companies	39.21	29.48

(b) The concept of Profit and Loss is not applicable to LIC. However, the Valuation Surplus is calculated every year by Appointed Actuary. The Valuation Surplus for last three financial year is as under:—

Financial Year	Valuation Surplus (Rs. in crore)
2005-06	12,435.76
2006-07	15,156.19
2007-08	16,591.79

(c) LIC operates through its Branch offices in Fiji, Mauritius and United Kingdom (U.K.) and operates through joint venture (JV) companies in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bahrain, Kenya and Saudi Arabia. LIC's penetration in these countries is as follows:—

Country	Market share in terms of premium income (in %).
Fiji	51.4
Mauritius	12.25
U.K.	Insignificant
Sri Lanka	01.23
Nepal	23.02
Bahrain	60.50
Kenya	06.70

(d) LIC has foreign operations in the following countries:—

1. **Branch Offices:**

- (a) Suva, Fiji
- (b) Port Louis, Mauritius; and
- (c) Wembley, U.K.

2. **Representative Office:** Singapore

3. **Joint Venture Companies:**

- (a) LIC (International) B.S.C. (c), Bahrain — operates in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and UAE.
- (b) LIC (Nepal) Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal
- (c) LIC (Lanka) Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka
- (d) Saudi Indian Company for Co-operative Insurance, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- (e) Kenindia Assurance Co. Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya
- (f) LIC (Mauritius) Offshore Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius.

Banking service in Jharkhand

3391. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the rate of per capita bank branches in Jharkhand;
- (b) the amount of advances sanctioned to agriculture sector;
- (c) the ratio of disbursement and recovery;
- (d) whether there is any planning to grant more funds to agriculture sector;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any move to open new branches of Nationalised and Regional Rural Banks (RRB) in rural areas of Jharkhand;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; district-wise; and
- (h) the ratio of savings and advances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) According to information reported by the Jharkhand State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), there were 15636 persons per bank branch in the State as on 30.6.2009.

(b) and (c) The amount of advances sanctioned to the Agriculture sector in Jharkhand was Rs. 213.40 crore as on 30.06.2009 while the ratio of disbursement to recovery was 2.59 : 1.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per the Annual Credit Plan for 2009-10 for Jharkhand, the target for disbursement under Agriculture Sector has been stepped up to Rs. 2419 crores.

(f) and (g) According to the action Plan suggested by the State Government to Banks in Jharkhand, the target for opening of branches during 2009-10 is 180, out of which Regional Rural Banks have to open 40 branches. Most of the branches have to be opened in un-banked/under-banked rural areas of the State. As reported by the SLBC, district-wise details are not available.

(h) The ratio of savings to advances is reported as 2.29 : 1, according to the above source.

Loan waiver for loan taken from money lenders

3392. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many farmers in the country approach private money lenders for their agriculture needs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning loan waiver for such farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation data on 'Indebtedness of Farmer Households' (2003), 51.4% of farmer households do not access credit, either from institutional or non-institutional sources. 27.30% of total farm households are indebted to formal sources and 21.3% to informal sources, including moneylenders.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to address the issue that in some regions of Maharashtra, a large number of farmers had taken loans from private moneylenders and the loan waiver scheme did not cover them, an announcement has been made in the Budget 2009-10 to set up a task force to examine the matter in detail and suggest the future course of action.

Excess staff in Ministries

†3393. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Commission for Expenditure Reforms' constituted under the Chairmanship of K.P. Geeta Krishan has said that 20,000 posts in 36 Ministries are useless;

(b) whether the Commission has recommended to retrench one lakh posts in attached and subordinate offices of these Ministries; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to take any action accordingly after contemplating recommendations made by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) This Ministry set up the 'Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC)' under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan on 28.2.2000. The ERC had presented 10 reports in all covering 36 Ministries/Departments/Organizations. Among other recommendations made relating to staff strength, the ERC recommended abolishing around 42,000 posts. Against this, as per information available, around 26,581 posts have been abolished.

Work studies conducted by the SIU

3394. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) is conducting work studies in various Departments/Ministries of Government and some other autonomous bodies;

(b) if so, the Departments/Ministries where such studies are going on;

(c) whether objections have been received in any of the Departments over the process and method used by SIU to assess the actual work load;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details thereof along with action taken by SIU on these objections;
- (e) the details of steps Government proposes to take to bring SIU in consonance with the current requirements of Departments/Ministries; and
- (f) if the answer to part (e) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) yes, Sir.

(b) SIU is at present conducting studies in Rajya Sabha Secretariat and in Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Review of the staffing of Government establishments with a view to securing economy is one of the functions of the Department of Expenditure in Ministry of Finance under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The SIU in the Department of Expenditure, as a professional body, undertakes review of staffing strength in various types of Ministries/Departments, as per the laid down parameters, methods and procedures.

Annual expenditure for rural welfare

3395. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual expenditure on poor Indians as percentage of GDP on rural welfare during the last three Plans;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this percentage has decreased from 0.51 per cent in the Tenth Plan (2002-07) to 0.42 per cent in Eleventh Plan (2007-09 and onwards); and
- (c) the details of Government plans to rectify this and increase percentage to at least 1 per cent from 2010 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) No information is available on annual expenditure on poor Indians as percentage of GDP on rural welfare during the last three Plans. However, year-wise details of GDP at current price, expenditure (centre and states) on rural development and expenditure on rural development as percentage of GDP during last three Five Year Plans, starting from Eighth Five Year Plan are given in table below.

(b) and (c) It may be seen that expenditure on rural development as percentage of GDP was 0.95 per cent in the Eighth Plan, 0.80 per cent in Ninth Plan and 0.98 per cent in the Tenth Plan. In the first year of Eleventh Plan (2007-08) for which data is available, the expenditure on rural development has been already 1.02 per cent.

Year	GDP Current Market Price (Rs. crore)*	Expenditure on Rural Development (Centre and States) (Rs. Crore)**	Per cent
1992-93	752591	6297.80	0.84
1993-94	865805	8583.51	0.99
1994-95	1015764	10605.85	1.04
1995-96	1191813	11948.81	1.00
1996-97	1378617	12001.43	0.87
Eighth Plan	5204590	49437.40	0.95
1997-98	1527158	12966.20	0.85
1998-99	1751199	15474.91	0.88
1999-2000	1952035	16129.81	0.83
2000-01	2102314	14728.89	0.70
2001-02	2278952	17981.46	0.79
Ninth Plan	9611658	77281.27	0.80
2002-03	2454561	23111.59	0.94
2003-04	2754620	26339.25	0.96
2004-05	3149407	26522.84	0.84
2005-06	3586743	36767.78	1.03
2006-07	4129174	44416.38#	1.08
Tenth Plan	16074505	112741.46	0.98
2007-08	4723400***	48264.41\$	1.02
2008-09			

*Source: Economic Survey 2008-09.

**Source: Indian Public Finance Statistics, Ministry of Finance.

***Quick Estimates

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Agreement during G-20 Summit

3396. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement was arrived at during April 2009 G-20 Summit in London, to act against tax heavens, through the twin approach of naming those that do not conform to

transparency norms and by imposing sanctions against those that continue to hold out;

(b) if so, the precise and concrete measures that were evolved to implement this Agreement;

(c) whether these measures are adequately efficacious; and

(d) whether the envisaged objective towards solving the recessionary trends by the end of 2010 are expected to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The G-20 Leaders have agreed to:—

- Adopt the international standard for information exchange endorsed by the G-20 in 2004 and reflected in the UN Model Tax Convention.
- Take agreed action against those jurisdictions which do not meet international standards in relation to tax transparency. To this end, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) has been called to develop a toolbox of measures to promote adherence to prudential standards and cooperation with jurisdictions.
- Adhere to the international standards in the prudential, tax and Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) areas. To this end, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and FSB in cooperation with international standard-setters have been called upon to conduct and strengthen objective peer reviews, based on existing processes, including through the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) process. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has been called upon to revise the reinvigorated review process for assessing compliance by jurisdictions with AML/CFT standards, using agreed evaluation reports where available.
- Developing proposals, by end 2009, to make it easier for developing countries to secure the benefits of a new cooperative tax environment.
- Call upon the FSB and the FATF to report to the next G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting on adoption and implementation by countries.

(c) The efficaciousness of these measures will depend upon their actual implementation by countries and on the effectiveness of the toolbox of measures to be developed by the FSB to promote adherence to prudential standards and cooperation with jurisdictions.

(d) The above mentioned actions against non-cooperative jurisdictions, including tax heavens are aimed at protecting our public finances and financial systems over the medium to long term.

Re-appointment of ex-CMDs of nationalized banks

3397. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Chairman-cum-Managing Directors (CMDs) of nationalized banks have joined Financial Institutions/RBI/other Government organizations after their superannuation at the age of 60 years;

(b) if so, the details of such officers with the names of organization joined by them during the last two years; and

(c) what is the policy of Government with regard to re-appointment of CMDs after their superannuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) It is not true that several Chairman-cum-Managing Directors (CMDs) of Nationalised Banks have joined Financial Institutions/RBI/other Government Organizations after their superannuation at the age of 60 years. However, CMDs have taken up full time assignments in the private/joint sector organisations or as non-official directors on the Boards of Financial Institutions/RBI/other Government organizations. The list of such CMDs who have joined Financial Institutions/RBI/other Government organizations on full time assignments is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) Since re-appointment of CMDs after their superannuation is not ordinarily considered by Government, there is no such policy regarding re-appointment after their superannuation. However, the terms and conditions of appointment of CMDs of nationalized banks require them to obtain prior permission of the Central Government before accepting any commercial employment within one year of demitting office on superannuation, expiry of tenure, resignation or for any other reason.

Statement

List of CMD's joining other organisations

Sl. No.	Name of the CMD S/Shri	Post retirement assignment
1.	S.S. Kohli, ex-CMD Punjab National Bank Ltd.	India Infrastructure Finance Company
2.	Cherian Varghese, ex-CMD Union Bank of India	Member, BIFR
3.	B. Sambamurthy, ex-CMD Cooperation Bank	Directorship on the Board of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology.

Securitization of loans

3398. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether relaxed loan securitization practice in the United States of America was the key factor behind the sub-prime crisis that eventually led to global financial meltdown;

(b) if so, whether by hindsight, India has planned to prescribe a minimum lock-in period and minimum retention criteria for securitizing loans originated and purchased by banks;

(c) if so, whether Government would like to review this policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) As per the assessments, a combination of factors was responsible for sub-prime crisis in USA, which *inter-alia*, include sustained rise in asset prices, particularly house prices, during early 2000s on the back of excessively accommodative monetary policy, lax lending standards, financial innovations, etc. Though, securitisation improves the overall efficiency of financial intermediation by way of transfer of risk from the originator and allows greater risk dispersal, the events surrounding the crisis revealed that the benefits can be undermined by weaknesses stemming from the interactions between individual incentives and the quality of the information flow along the securitisation chain.

(b) to (d) The securitisation framework in India is considered to be reasonably prudent and has been able to minimise the incentives which led to the problems surfaced in the current crisis. In order to further strengthen the framework, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, in its Annual Policy Statement for the year 2009-10, announced to prescribe a minimum lock-in-period and minimum retention criteria for securitizing the loans originated and purchased by banks.

Action plan for disinvestment

3399. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up an action plan on the proposed PSU disinvestments;

(b) if so, whether Government has set a target for disinvestment receipts;

(c) whether Government has sought to engage a global merchant banker to put in place a road map for selling stakes in PSUs;

(d) whether an advisory panel has also been constituted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The cases for disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis. The process of Initial Public Offerings in NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited is in progress.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Raids by Income Tax Department

3400. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of houses raided by the Income Tax officials during the last three months in Muzaffarnagar District, Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of objectionable documents and other valuables seized during the raids;
- (c) the details of cases registered against those involved in tax evasion, possession of illegal property, disproportionate amassing of cash and jewellery during the raids; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to conduct more such raids in a time bound manner to unearth the rising cases of tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No. Search and Seizure action has been conducted by the Income Tax Department in Muzaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh during last three months.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of the answer to part (a) above.

(d) Conducting of Income tax searches is an ongoing process based on information in the possession of Income Tax Department.

Home loan at lower interest rate

3401. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is intending to extend home finance at lower rate of interest especially to the economically backward class people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any planning to provide home finance at lower rate to lower income class people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A new scheme of Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing to Urban Poor (ISHUP) has been launched by the Government to provide interest subsidy of 5% (ISHUP) on

home loans upto Rs. 1 lakh availed by Economically weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIGs). The loan can be taken for acquisition of house or construction of house provided the beneficiary does not already own a house. The nodal agencies for implementation of the Scheme are the National Housing Bank (NHB) and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), whereas loans for the Scheme can be given by commercial banks as well as housing finance companies.

A special scheme called the Rural Housing Refinance Scheme some also introduced by the National Housing Bank (NHB) in the year 2008-09. The Scheme is funded through a special allocation 'Rural Housing Fund (RHF)' of the order of Rs. 2,000 crore. The Scheme benefited the weaker sections as defined in the priority sector guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) including SC/ST, Minority, Small and Marginal farmers, Share croppers and Rural women.

More than one lakh dwelling units have been provided financial assistance out of the funds disbursed under the Scheme. About 50% of the beneficiaries are women while the SC/STs and the minority communities have share of about 11.5% each.

Further, the Union Budget has allocated Rs. 2000 crore to NHB under RHF for the current year *i.e.* 2009-10 to be utilized for providing housing to the weaker sections in the rural areas including people having annual income upto Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.

Amendment to FRBM Act

3402. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States are requesting the Central Government to amend Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act and allow it to borrow money from the market in view of the global recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has allowed States to borrow money from the market; and

(d) if so, the details of money borrowed by various States in the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (d) Finance Ministers of some States requested the Central Government during pre-budget consultation held on 11 June, 2009 with the Union Finance Minister, to amend Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act and allow them to borrow more money. The main issues raised by the State Finance Ministers are given in the Statement. (*See below*).

The Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech on 6 July, 2009 has announced relaxation of fiscal deficit target for States from 3.5% to 4% of their Gross State Domestic Product for the financial year 2009-10.

A statement showing amounts borrowed by the States from the open market during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the Statement-II.

Statement

Amendment to FRBM Act

Sl. No.	State	Request made by the States regarding relaxation of fiscal deficit targets under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act during the pre-Budget consultations with the Union Finance Minister
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) target of 3.5% fiscal deficit is unrealistic due to the impact of 6th Central Pay Commission recommendations and this is hampering the investment in Power, Agriculture sectors etc. FRBM Act needs to be amended accordingly.
2.	Rajasthan	Additional market borrowings required to implement flagship programmes. Larger borrowing limits for the States to be considered. Similarly limit for fiscal deficit should also be increased.
3.	West Bengal	The entire structure of FRBM Act to be reviewed by an Expert Group.
4.	Bihar	FRBM targets should not be made operational for this year. Fiscal deficit target to be allowed further relaxation and kept at 5% GSDP.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Higher fiscal deficit target for 2009-10 would help to go for Capital Expenditure to give additional stimulus to the economy.
6.	Gujarat	FRBM Act targets cannot be achieved. Therefore policy statement in this regard should be made.
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	It is not possible to comply with the parameters laid down in the FRBM Act. Expert Group needs to be appointed for a review thereof. Fiscal deficit to be borne by the Centre fully.
8.	Karnataka	FRBM Act needs to be revised to facilitate increase borrowings by States.
9.	Kerala	FRBM policy needs review with the States given necessary freedom.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	FRBM—Loans GSDP of 3.5% be increased to 5%.
11.	Punjab	FRBM Act needs to be reviewed on an annual basis.
12.	Uttar Pradesh	FRBM Act is not favourable to States and needs review.
13.	Manipur	Increase in FRBM limits proposed.

Statement-II
Market borrowings raised by States

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2725.94	6650.00	10933.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	107.73	184.69	26.05
3.	Assam	856.65	963.13	2505.64
4.	Bihar	0.00	1092.00	3396.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	100.00	400.00	500.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	6775.00	8534.00
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2795.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	511.50	1399.01	1912.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	690.70	2226.10	1756.85
11.	Jharkhand	400.53	1192.18	1486.00
12.	Karnataka	0.00	750.00	7417.00
13.	Kerala	2167.82	4296.75	5515.93
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1420.00	1875.00	4495.25
15.	Maharashtra	1737.60	8519.66	17761.93
16.	Manipur	98.90	247.23	303.30
17.	Meghalaya	191.86	195.69	259.40
18.	Mizoram	124.74	146.87	156.18
19.	Nagaland	293.19	369.05	466.96
20.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	981.22	4121.30	5061.19
22.	Rajasthan	1499.01	3986.96	6355.80
23.	Sikkim	114.61	249.91	293.02
24.	Tamil Nadu	1814.47	4942.44	9597.73
25.	Tripura	35.00	0.00	156.00

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3247.91	4422.00	12693.33
27.	Uttarakhand	369.19	830.00	1010.69
28.	West Bengal	1336.00	11606.65	12397.45
TOTAL:		20824.56	67441.62	117787.22

Sovereign guarantee to private sector companies

3403. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Government's policy of giving sovereign guarantee to private sector company;

(b) whether any private company which has defaulted loans from Government financial institutions be granted such sovereign guarantee; and

(c) whether companies that had defaulted the loans taken from financial institutions were granted such sovereign guarantee by Government in the past and under what criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) As per the extant Government of India policy, sovereign guarantees are not extended to private sector company.

(c) No, Sir.

Impact of strike calls on prices of commodities

3404. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assessed the impact of strike by truck operators and public sector petroleum companies officers on the price rise of commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) It is difficult to assess the impact of the strike by truck operators and public sector petroleum companies officers on the price rise of commodities as prices are determined by several factors affecting their demand and supply. However, overall inflation, which had been declining consistently since mid-September, 2008, increased by 13 basis points and inflation in food index increased by 33 basis points in the week of the strike (January 10, 2009 over January 3, 2009).

Arrear for Government employees

‡3405. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the arrear paid to Government officers and employees was full or partial;
- (b) by when Government would make payment of remaining amount in the event it being partial;
- (c) whether Government proposes to give interest on this amount;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the justification for keeping the outstanding amount in its coffers for such a long period at this time of recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (e) Forty per cent of the arrears have been paid by the Government to its employees during the year 2008-09 following the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission Report. Government has decided to pay the remaining 60% of the arrears during 2009-10. As there is no delay in the payment of balance sixty per cent, no interest is payable.

Implementation of agricultural debt waiver/relief scheme

3406. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agricultural debt waiver and debt relief scheme, 2008 has been made applicable to the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details including the number of farmers who had availed relief as on date State-wise and category-wise;
- (c) whether this scheme has been made applicable to farmers whose loans were outstanding as on 29 February, 2008;
- (d) if so, whether the above scheme discriminates those farmers who have repaid the dues dutifully before this date;
- (e) whether any steps will be taken to include the farmers who had settled the dues before 29 February, 2008;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (g) The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008 has been implemented throughout the country. The Scheme has covered all agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions during

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the period from April 01, 1997 to March 31, 2007 which became overdue as on December 31, 2007 and remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. For marginal farmers (*i.e.*, holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there was a complete waiver of all such overdues while in respect of other farmers, there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for such loans. Under the OTS, a rebate of 25 per cent is to be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent of the eligible amount. Any farmer fulfilling the above criteria is covered under the Scheme. The provisional details of farmers benefited under ADWDR Scheme, 2008, State-wise, are at in the Statement.

Statement

*Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 State-wise figures
(provisional)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total Farmers covered			Total eligible Waiver/ Relief
		SF/MF	Of	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6646198	1109029	7755227	11353.71
2.	Assam	319546	18146	337692	405.51
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10775	1241	12016	20.47
4.	Bihar	1662971	94548	1757519	3158.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	493828	201119	694947	701.28
6.	Delhi	1324	388	1712	7.36
7.	Gujarat	576137	410605	986742	2395.32
8.	Goa	1592	768	2360	5.58
9.	Haryana	527490	357612	885102	2648.73
10.	Himachal Pradesh	114997	4794	119791	273.82
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	47449	3081	50530	97.06
12.	Jharkhand	639187	27239	666426	789.60
13.	Karnataka	1171983	555360	1727343	4020.29
14.	Kerala	1390546	40192	1430738	2962.97
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1715624	659202	2374826	4203.25
16.	Maharashtra	3023000	1225000	4248000	8951.33
17.	Meghalaya	40885	2129	43014	77.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Mizoram	18699	1641	20340	34.22
19.	Manipur	56670	1393	58063	57.49
20.	Nagaland	12623	2290	14913	22.39
21.	Orissa	2377022	135935	2512957	3277.75
22.	Punjab	227416	193862	421278	1222.91
23.	Rajasthan	1111821	732765	1844586	3795.78
24.	Sikkim	7140	651	7791	13.39
25.	Tamil Nadu	1427280	328206	1755486	3365.39
26.	Tripura	60502	1101	61603	97.09
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4794348	621693	5416041	9095.11
28.	Uttarakhand	154962	18733	173695	317.65
29.	West Bengal	1445743	16590	1462333	1882.27
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1537	958	2495	1.96
31.	Chandigarh	148	79	227	1.35
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	351	137	488	0.69
33.	Daman and Diu	65	38	103	0.15
34.	Lakshadweep	130	2	132	0.25
35.	Puducherry	26247	5055	31302	59.37
TOTAL:		30106236	6771582	36877818	65318.33

Education loans

3407. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of general category students who have been granted education loans during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of SC, ST and OBC students who have been granted education loans during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of students from minority communities who have been granted education loans during the last three years, State-wise and Community-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) Bank-wise number of education loans disbursed by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to

students, category-wise (General, SC, ST, OBC and Minorities), during 2007-08 and 2008-09, as provided by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), is at Statement-I and Statement-II (See below) respectively. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and IBA have reported that State-wise data for each category and Community-wise data for minority communities is not collected.

Statement

Number of education loans disbursed by Public Sector Banks during 2007-08

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of students disbursed Education Loans				
		General No. of a/c	SC No. of a/c	ST No. of a/c	OBC No. of a/c	Minorities No. of a/c
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Allahabad Bank	4353	737	257	1577	330
2.	Andhra Bank	11730	1265	133	506	390
3.	Bank of Baroda	8552	592	264	2047	1342
4.	Bank of India	12613	2344	627	4928	1766
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3551	268	46	360	395
6.	Cenara Bank	44919	5322	478	18854	890
7.	Central Bank of India	6614	1197	505	3403	825
8.	Corporation Bank	4977	299	218	1567	1043
9.	Dena Bank	705	95	49	155	46
10.	Indian Bank	18888	4861	805	17445	2711
11.	India Overseas Bank	4674	3864	528	8841	2034
12.	IDBI Limited	783	5	0	14	13
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	8979	452	57	708	571
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1107	55	4	107	739
15.	Punjab National Bank	18592	2414	1122	3789	2345
16.	State Bank of India	25400	6465	3268	14638	4180
17.	Syndicate Bank	11755	927	185	3861	1686
18.	UCO Bank	2942	550	135	1220	328
19.	Union Bank of India	9066	1641	258	3876	1351
20.	United Bank of India	1799	274	60	232	105

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Vijaya Bank	6044	403	126	1378	647
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	3731	233	183	412	97
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	6334	1559	589	3491	1035
24.	State Bank of Indore	2572	106	60	119	34
25.	State Bank of Mysore	0	752	541	3580	1041
26.	State Bank of Patiala	7042	0	0	0	0
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	567	25	10	0	0
28.	State Bank of Travancore	932	84	17	608	320
TOTAL :		229221	36789	10525	97716	26264

Source: IBA

Statement-II

Number of education loans disbursed by Public Sector Banks during 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of students disbursed Education Loans				
		General No. of a/c	SC No. of a/c	ST No. of a/c	OBC No. of a/c	Minorities No. of a/c
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Allahabad Bank	5455	872	239	1503	396
2.	Andhra Bank	7465	1748	869	4233	614
3.	Bank of Baroda	11509	975	469	3986	2315
4.	Bank of India	17502	3358	890	6449	2410
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3075	249	28	398	240
6.	Cenara Bank	72012	7611	152	37509	5452
7.	Central Bank of India	10528	910	380	3542	526
8.	Corporation Bank	4966	454	72	1682	813
9.	Dena Bank	1984	175	88	470	48
10.	Indian Bank	29660	6645	958	25269	3728
11.	India Overseas Bank	5027	4040	591	13504	1690
12.	IDBI Limited	613	2	1	19	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	14116	452	130	809	861
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1542	68	5	110	525
15.	Punjab National Bank	32274	4902	2200	9729	5140
16.	State Bank of India	59172	14108	5095	28832	9716
17.	Syndicate Bank	13307	1036	243	2814	1562
18.	UCO Bank	4921	1416	421	2266	909
19.	Union Bank of India	21554	2204	329	6697	2366
20.	United Bank of India	2439	382	80	129	163
21.	Vijaya Bank	4937	488	133	2414	1446
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	4386	234	212	444	115
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3738	594	384	1439	328
24.	State Bank of Indore	1532	243	126	162	139
25.	State Bank of Mysore	2199	665	486	2257	370
26.	State Bank of Patiala	10928	0	0	0	0
27.	State Bank of Travancore	6548	1121	197	5152	2145
TOTAL :		354389	54952	14778	161818	44029

Road projects under the VGF scheme in Madhya Pradesh

†3408. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of road projects for which Government has received proposals from Madhya Pradesh under Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme and when these proposals were received;

(b) the cost incurred by Government for roads under VGF scheme and present status of received proposals;

(c) by when these proposals will be approved keeping in view the conditions of roads in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government would sanction these proposals during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) The proposals received from Government of Madhya Pradesh under **Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (Viability Gap Funding Scheme)**, their approval and present status is as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Received approved	Amount of VGF approved (Rs. crore)	VGF sought (Rs. crore)	VGF disbursed (Rs. crore)
1.	Four laning of Lebad Jaura State Highways	May, 2006 Nov., 2006	84.14	0.00@	0.00@
2.	Strengthening of Mandasaur-Sitama Road	May, 2006 Sept., 2006	5.05	5.05@	5.05
3.	Strengthening of Matkuli Tamia-Chindwara	May, 2006 Sept., 2006	19.70	19.69\$	7.64
4.	Strengthening of Chandpur-Alirajpur-Kukshi-Badwani Raod	May, 2006 Sept., 2006	12.60	12.60\$	5.31
5.	Four laning of Bhopal Devas State Highways	May, 2006 Nov., 2006	81.00	81.00\$	59.07
6.	4 laning of Joura-Nnayagaon State Highways	May, 2006 Nov., 2006	0.00	0.00@	0.00@
7.	4 laning of Indore-Ujjain Highways Road Project	Dec., 2007 March, 2008	48.95	0.00@	0.00@
8.	Construction of 4 laning of Bhopal bypass	Jan., 2008 March, 2008	42.89	0.00@	0.00@
9.	Development of Bhina-Khimalsa-Mathon	Dec., 2008 Feb., 2009	13.82		
10.	Development of Bhind Mlitora Gopalpur Road	Dec., 2008 Feb., 2009	16.58		
11.	Development of Damoh-Jabalpur Road	Dec., 2008 Feb., 2009	42.43		
12.	Development of Sagar-Damoh Road	Dec., 2008 Feb., 2009	23.30		

\$granted final approval.

@Negative Grant

(d) Does not arise.

Funds from World Bank

‡3409. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the amount of funds and the projects for which assistance is being received from the World Bank for meeting the needs of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the rules and conditions of this support;

(c) the amount of support being provided, State-wise; and

(d) whether it is being provided through the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (c) Project-wise and State-wise list of projects with World Bank assistance, which became effective, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, from April, 2007 till June, 2009 is given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*).

(b) Terms and conditions of World Banks assistance to India is at Annex B.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement-I

Project-wise and State-wise list of World Bank Projects which became effective between April, 2007 and June, 2009 (in US \$ Millions)

Sl. No.	Project Name	State	Date of effectiveness	Commitment amount	Cumulative disbursement upto June, 2009
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management Project	Tamil Nadu	09-Apr.-07	485	60.44
2.	Andhra Pradesh Community-Based Tank Management Project	Andhra Pradesh	27-Jul.-07	189	13.69
3.	Third National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central	05-Sept.-07	250	63.27
4.	India Vocational Training Improvement Project	Central	17-Dec.-07	280	68.81
5.	Himachal Pradesh Development Policy Loan 1	Himachal Pradesh	18-Dec.-07	200	89.09
6.	Strengthening India's Rural Credit Cooperatives	Central	31-Dec.-07	600	315.5
7.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project (Supplement)	Karnataka	14-Jan.-08	64	0.85

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Bihar DPL	Bihar	27-Feb.-08	225	114.28
9.	Rampur Hydropower Project	Himachal Pradesh	14-Apr.-08	400	81.7
10.	Power System Development IV	Central	16-May-08	600	246.69
11.	Elementary Education (SSA II)	Central	12-Sep.-08	600	215.1
12.	Orissa Community Tank Management Project	Orissa	17-Mar.-09	112	4.35
13.	Power System Development IV — Additional Financing	Central	30-Mar.-09	400	0
14.	Orissa Rural Livelihood Project	Orissa	31-Mar.-09	82.4	3.11

Statement-II

Terms and Conditions of World Bank Lending to India

Donor Agency	Grace Period	Period of repayment after Grace Period	Rate of Interest	Commitment* Charges
IBRD	5 years	15 years	Variable-based on 6-month LIBOR #	Nil
IDA	10 years	25 years	0.75% (Service Charge)	Nil

#Interest rate is determined based on 6 months LIBOR rate plus a variable spread.

*Commitment charge is currently nil for both IBRD and IDA

Issue and circulation of fake currency

3410. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that issue of circulation of fake currency has become a new threat to the economy of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the challenge of counterfeit flooding to market is inspired by I.S.I.; and

(c) what are the effective measures taken or being taken to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) As per intelligence reports, involvement of Pak Officials suspected to be working for intelligence agencies of Pakistan has been revealed.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of curb circulation of FICN in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the banks notes in 2005 to make counterfeiting very difficult. A High Level Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising officials from central agencies and other senior police officials has been constituted to monitor and draw a comprehensive strategy to combat FICN. Similar bodies have also been set up in the States. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Simplification of laws relating to direct taxes

3411. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government constituted an expert group with the objective of simplifying laws relating to direct taxes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the expert group has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the expert group and whether the recommendations have been implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to amend direct tax laws to reduce mounting arrears of direct and indirect tax revenues; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The present Income-tax Act is voluminous and complex to understand by a common man. The complicated procedure often encourages tax evasion and avoidance. Therefore, with a view to simplify the existing Income-tax Act, the Government has constituted an expert group.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Group has submitted its report on 08.09.2006.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendation of expert group, a new Direct Tax Code is under preparation and as announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, the same would be released for public discussion latest by 20th of August, 2009.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Revised re-scheduling of farm loans

3412. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government wants to set up a mechanism for re-scheduling farm loans when a farmer really needs it, rather than one time massive waiver like the recent Rs. 75,000 crore debt relief;

(b) whether independent studies show that many loan defaulters have immensely benefited from the waiver package, while causing resentment among farmers who have been prompt in their loan repayment obligations; and

(c) if so, the details of the revised loan schedule solely meant to help needy farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) No, Sir. However, in order to provide relief to farmers in times of natural calamities, Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks which, *inter alia*, include conversion of the outstanding into term loans for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years depending upon the frequency of crop failures/intensity of damage to crops, disbursement of fresh crop loans to the affected farmers, etc.

(b) and (c) No such report has come to the notice of this Department. However, it has been announced in the Union Budget Speech 2009-10 to provide an additional subvention of 1 per cent, over and above the subvention on short term crop loans, as an incentive to those farmers who repay such loans on schedule. Thus, the interest rate for such farmers will come down to 6 per cent per annum on short term crop loans.

New home loans of SBI

3413. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SBI's new home loan do not appear to be an attractive one;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) No, Sir. The new home loan scheme of the State Bank of India (SBI) offers a rate of interest for the first three years ranging between 2% to 1.5% below the Prime Lending Rate of SBI. As a result there has been a spurt in sanction of home loans from 190 loans per day in the first quarter of last year to 350 loans per day in the first quarter of the current year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

WPI and CPI based inflation rates

3414. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which his Ministry reconciles the rapidly descending Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the spiraling Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has four different CPI inflation rates;

(c) if so, whether out of the four above, only the urban non-manual employees rate has come down and the other three indices have gone up; and

(d) if so, the manner in which his Ministry is planning to rein in the other three rates which are primarily concerning the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) The decline in inflation in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been partly due to the global deceleration in prices of items like fuels, metals and oilseeds and partly due to the base effect of the high crude oil prices in 2008. Despite the fall in overall inflation, inflation in food items and in essential commodities in the WPI continues to remain high. The decline in inflation in the intermediate products included in the WPI are not reflected in the CPIs, but the high inflation in food items are reflected, as the CPIs accord two to three items larger weight to food compared to the WPI.

(b) and (c) Instead of an aggregate Consumer Price Index (CPI), India has four sectional CPIs, namely, CPI for industrial workers (CPI-IW), CPI for agricultural labour (CPI-AL), CPI for urban non-manual employees (CPI-UNME) and CPI for rural labour (CPI-RL). The CPIs are released on a monthly basis while WPI is released every week. All the CPIs recorded a fall in inflation in March, 2009. The inflation measured by different price indices are given in table below:—

Table: Inflation for price indices (per cent)

Year/month	WPI	CPI-IW	CPI-UNME	CPI-AL	CPI-RL
Aug.-08	12.82	9.02	8.54	10.29	10.29
Sep.-08	12.27	9.77	9.50	10.98	10.98
Oct.-08	11.06	10.45	10.38	11.14	11.14
Nov.-08	8.48	10.45	10.79	11.11	11.11
Dec.-08	6.19	9.70	9.85	11.14	11.14
Jan.-09	4.90	10.45	10.38	11.62	11.35
Feb.-09	3.50	9.63	9.94	10.79	10.79
Mar.-09	1.20	8.03	9.28	9.46	9.69
Apr.-09	1.31	8.70	8.77	9.09	9.09
May-09 (P)	0.43	8.63	9.68	10.21	10.21
Jun-09 (P)	-1.39	9.29	—	11.52	11.26

(d) The Government monitors the price situation regularly, with price stability being high on its agenda. Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include selective ban or exports and futures trading in food grains, zero import duty on select food items, permitting imports of pulses and sugar by public sector undertakings, Distribution of imported pulses and edible oils through the PDS and release of higher quota of non-levy sugar. In addition, the State Governments have been empowered to act against hoarders of food items by keeping in abeyance the removal of restrictions on licensing, stock limits and movements of food articles under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

Direct tax arrears

3415. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI DARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's direct tax arrears including income and corporate tax reportedly stood at over Rs. 21 lakh crore at end of May, 2009;

(b) if so, the percentage of total amount collected during each of the last two years, till-date, of both direct and indirect taxes, Chief Commissionerate-wise;

(c) what steps Government is planning to settle disputes in time bound manner so that delaying tactics by assesseees are avoided and recoveries are made quickly; and

(d) the details of those companies/individuals whose demand for arrear is more than Rs. One crore and above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) In the Finance Bill 2009-10 an alternate dispute settlement mechanism has been introduced for expediting the recovery of income tax on a fast track basis which is applicable to foreign companies and to any person whose case is processed under the transfer pricing regulations. Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income tax Act (including attachment of bank account and debtors, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc.), the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of default amount :

- I. Monitoring of recovery of amount in large cases by a Task force. Invariably arrear demand above Rs. 25 crore is monitored by CBDT and between 10 crore and 25 crore is monitored by CBDT and between 10 crore and 25 crore by CCIT concerned/DIT (Recovery).
- II. Identification of cases involving substantial amount pending before CITs (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the amount can be collected during current financial year itself.
- III. Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose of high demand cases expeditiously.

(d) The details of companies/individuals whose direct tax arrear demand is more than on crore is not centrally maintained. However, the list of top 100 tax defaulters is enclosed in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Top 100 defaulters of direct taxes

Sl. No.	Name of the assessee	Outstanding Demand as on 31.03.09 (Fig. in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	Hassan Ali Khan	5034573
2.	Chandrika Tapuriah	2054083
3.	Harshad S. Mehta (Late)	1271914
4.	A.D. Narrotam	578186
5.	Hiten P. Dalal (I.T.)	420004
6.	Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd.	306358
7.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	241785
8.	Sahara India	194580
9.	Jyoti H. Mehta	173957
10.	Ashwin S. Mehta	159551
11.	B.C. Dalal (I.T.)	153589
12.	Triumph International Finance (I) Ltd.	148590
13.	Soundcraft Inds. Ltd.	119035
14.	S. Ramaswamy	112248
15.	IDBI	96412
16.	Sahara Airlines Ltd. (Jet Lite (India) Ltd.)	85008
17.	Satellite Television Asian Region Ltd.	83896
18.	Triumph Securities Ltd.	78016
19.	Panther Fincap and Management Services P. Ltd.	76462
20.	GTC Industries Ltd.	75637
21.	Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.	70020
22.	Uday M. Acharya	68322
23.	NTPC Ltd.	62218

1	2	3
24.	Kashinath Tapuriah	60280
25.	Coca Cola India Pvt. Ltd.	60002
26.	Baron International Ltd.	58930
27.	Classic Credit Ltd.	57155
28.	Aaditya Luxury Hotels Ltd.	56445
29.	Oracle Corporation	55854
30.	Rolex Holding Ltd.	55818
31.	Canara Bank	51241
32.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	50755
33.	Growmore Research and Asset Management Ltd.	50747
34.	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	49401
35.	Allahabad Bank	48748
36.	General Insurance Corporation of India	47341
37.	Ghaziabad Development Authority	45822
38.	Nokia Corporation	44861
39.	Trisuns Chemicals Industries Ltd.	44745
40.	Oil India Ltd.	44711
41.	Harshad S. Mehta (W.T.)	43193
42.	Daewoo Motors India Ltd.	42859
43.	Sri Prem Properties Pvt. Ltd.	41112
44.	Cascade Holding P. Ltd.	39870
45.	J.P. Gandhi	35977
46.	Bimal S. Gandhi	35965
47.	Nirma Ltd.	34171
48.	R.M. Investment and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	33630
49.	Ganpati Exports Ltd.	33478
50.	State Bank of India	33365
51.	Atul Amrutlal Sanghvi	33106
52.	Dilip Shah	32458
53.	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd.	32374

1	2	3
54.	Sudhir S. Mehta	29248
55.	Satyam comptuer Services Ltd.	29004
56.	Rajendra Steels Ltd.	28492
57.	Pratima H. Mehta	28163
58.	Shree Vatsa Housing Finance Ltd.	27756
59.	Deepika A. Mehta	26074
60.	Tata Industries Ltd.	25185
61.	Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	25101
62.	Heat Shrink Technologies Ltd. (Formerly known as REPL Engg. Ltd.)	25096
63.	Bank of India	24844
64.	Krishna Filaments Ltd.	24708
65.	Andhra Bank Hyderabad	24673
66.	R.M. Machinery Pvt. Ltd.	24654
67.	Jamnadas Nathalal and Co.	24465
68.	Parekh Platinum Pvt. Ltd.	24054
69.	Bunge India Pvt. Ltd.	23193
70.	Subroto Roy	23039
71.	East West Travel and Trade Link Ltd.	22879
72.	Pentamedia Graphics Ltd.	22419
73.	Patheja Bros. Foreings and Auto Parts MFG. Co. Ltd.	22405
74.	Greenfield Holding Ltd.	22161
75.	Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, Delhi	21668
76.	Kailash Prasad Jain	21430
77.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	21038
78.	Abdul Kareem	20847
79.	IBM Pvt. Ltd.	20802
80.	Mumbaimetropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)	20790
81.	Tata Motors Ltd.	20655
82.	Baron Electronics Ltd.	20475

1	2	3
83.	Siti Cable Network Ltd.	20258
84.	Hitesh S. Mehta	20136
85.	A.D Narrotam (W.T.)	19525
86.	Caribjet Inc.	19479
87.	The Metropolitan Co. operative Bank Ltd.	19400
88.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.	18729
89.	Raytheon Company	18641
90.	Khomo Exports Pvt. Ltd.	18385
91.	Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.	18302
92.	Rohinton Investment P. Ltd.	18225
93.	Shaw Wallace Breweries Ltd.	18149
94.	Ganapati Combines Ltd.	18040
95.	UCO Bank	17967
96.	Reliance Energy Ltd.	17689
97.	Margadarsi Chit Fund Ltd.	17679
98.	Sanjeev Malhotra	17674
99.	Rasila S. Mehta	16563
100.	CRB Share Custodian Services Ltd.	16368
TOTAL:		14045385

The Outstanding Demands include demand difficult to recover for various reasons like demand notified under Special Court, inadequate assets, companies under litigation etc.

Marginalisation of minorities by banks

3416. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that minorities are marginalized by the banks/financial institutions in giving loans;

(b) if so, the steps taken to sensitize the banks/financial institutions to do away such things; and

(c) the details of quantum of amount disbursed to minorities in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) In order to strengthen credit flow to the Minority Communities, the Scheduled

Commercial Banks including PSBs have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India, *inter-alia*, the following:—

- (i) To set up a Special Cell to be headed by a Deputy General Manager/Assistant General Manager or any other similar rank who should function as a 'Nodal Officer' ;
- (ii) The Lead Bank in each of the Minority Concentration Districts should have an officer to inclusively look after the problems regarding the credit flow to minority communities;
- (iii) The convener banks of the District Consultative Committees (DCCs) and the State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) should ensure that steps are taken to facilitate the flow of credit to the minority communities and the progress made in this regard is reviewed regularly at their meetings;
- (iv) The Lead Banks functioning in the identified districts should organize Entrepreneur Development Programmes so that the members of the minority communities in these areas are enabled to derive the benefit of various programmes being financed by the banks.

In addition to above the Government has advised the PSBs, *inter-alia*, the following:—

- To step up their lending to Minority Communities to 15% of their Priority Sector Lending by the end of 2009-2010;
- To open branches in identified Minority Concentration Districts/areas.
- To organize awareness campaigns in Districts/Towns/Blocks having substantial minority population and to organize publicity campaign of their loan products through print and electronic media and religious festivals;
- To monitor disposal of loan applications from Minority Communities.

(c) As per data available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total loans outstanding to Minority Communities as at the end of March 2006, 2007 and 2008 (latest available) for all scheduled commercial banks is as under:—

As at the end of March	Total amount of loan outstanding to Minority Communities (Rs. in crore)
2006	45491
2007	53541
2008	72481

Decline in forex reserves

3417. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forex reserves have been declining for the last six months;

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

(c) the measures being taken by Government to ensure it does not decline below optimal levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) The position of foreign exchange reserves during last six months (January, 2009 to June, 2009) is indicated below:—

Sl. No.	End of Month	Foreign exchange reserves (US\$ billion)
1.	January, 2009	248.61
2.	February, 2009	249.28
3.	March, 2009	251.74
4.	April, 2009	251.70
5.	May, 2009	262.31
6.	June, 2009	265.14

There has been no decline in the level of foreign exchange reserves in the last six months. The level of foreign exchange reserves is largely the outcome of the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to *inter se* movement of US dollar against other international currencies.

International funding for infrastructure projects

3418. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with mobilization of private capital becoming tough, India is looking for funding from international financial institutions for bridging gap in key infrastructure projects;

(b) whether change in international financial environment does present problems in mobilizing some of the private investments which India had hoped would flow in these sectors;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has issued any instructions in this regard;

(d) whether funding gap for infrastructure development is estimated to be \$190 billion according to the Prime Minister; and

(e) if so, to what extent Government has been able to get funds from global institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) In his statement at the Summit of Heads of State or Governments of the G-20

countries on Financial Markets and the World Economy on November 15, 2008, the Prime Minister (PM), has stressed on the need for new and innovative ways of solving the financing problems that will restrain infrastructure investment.

(d) In the context to his address to the Business Community Reception in Oman on November 9, 2008, the PM has estimated the infrastructure financing needs for India are estimated to be USD 500 billion in the next five years.

(e) To mitigate the global financial crisis, world Bank intends to increase its commitment by 2.5 times during the period 2009-11. India has indicated willingness to avail additional financial of US\$ 5.2 billion out of the increase commitment by the World Bank. ADB has allocated \$250 million under ADB's Financial Crisis Facility; \$235 million under Guarantee Facility and \$500 million under ADB's Counter-cyclical Support Facility (CSF). The CSF was declined to be taken as the terms were not found to be beneficial.

Diversions of funds from Tsunami relief funds

3419. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tsunami relief funds were not properly utilized in some States and these States committed irregularities in disposing funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these Tsunami-hit States diverted funds to the tune of rupees 228.58 crores and failed to provide much needed relief to the victims even after years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (d) Certain irregularities in providing relief in Tsunami affected areas under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP)' have been reported by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in the Performance Audit of 'Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation' for the year ending March, 2006. Audit analysis pointed out that out of the total amount of Rs. 1,795.05 crore released to four States/UTs an amount of Rs. 228.58 crore was either mis-utilized or diverted to various purposes. There have been instances of irregular construction/repair work and payment of honorarium to Government staff. Tsunami funds were also utilized for routine administrative expenses, works not connected with the Tsunami, fishermen's subsidy, purchase of furniture for school not affected by the Tsunami resulting in diversion of funds. Wrong application of rates and non-adherence to codal provisions, avoidable payment of subsidy and avoidable expenditure on sanitation were irregularities reported by Aduit. The required remedial and corrective measures had been taken up and States/UTs were suitably advised.

Agricultural credit to farmers

3420. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of agricultural credit extended to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last two years; and

(b) what are the projections for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Agricultural loans extended by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the projections for the current year are as below:—

(Rs. in crore)

2007-08					
Name of the State	Commercial Banks	Cooperative Banks	Regional Rural Banks	Total	
Uttar Pradesh	10,390	2,579	4,815	17,784	
Bihar	1,828	356	952	3,136	
2008-09 (provisional)					
Name of the State	Commercial Banks	Cooperative Banks	Regional Rural Banks	Total	Projection 2009-10
Uttar Pradesh	9,683.18	2,486	5,517	17,686.18	29,458
Bihar	2,577.71	2,55	1,438	4,270.71	8,727

Net bank credit to SMEs

3421. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the net bank credit from banks is on the decline, the RBI guidelines are flouted and disturbing trends in getting the credit have arisen despite the predominant role played by Small Scale Medium Enterprises in terms of Industrial production, employment, export, etc. in our country;

(b) if so, what are the measures taken to rectify this unhealthy trend in existence; and

(c) whether there can a time frame to do this task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) No, Sir. Net Bank Credit (NBC) to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by Public Sector Banks has increased over time as follows:—

<i>(Amount in Rupees crore)</i>		
As on the last Reporting Friday of March	Outstanding advances to MSEs	Percentage to NBC
2007	1,02,550	7.8
2008@	1,51,137	11.1
2009 (Provisional)	1,90,968	11.28

@ With effect from April 30, 2007, Small Scale Industries have been redefined as MSEs.

World Bank assistance for highways project in Gujarat

3422. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat regarding posing the project of State Highways to World Bank for financial assistance;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid proposal has also been recommended by his Ministry and the Planning Commission after detailed examination; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been recommended to the World Bank for its loan assistance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat has been recommended to the World Bank on 3.10.2008 for loan assistance.

Global economic recession

3423. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether general feeling all over world that the USA model of capitalist development has caused global recession and hence the model required structural changes has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, what are views on this debate and whether due restructuring is necessary particularly since that model is affecting economies of all other countries including India; and

(c) Government's efforts in international fora in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c) The origin of global financial crisis lay in structured investment instruments created out of subprime mortgage lending in United States of America. The securitization process, however, was not backed by due diligence and led to large-scale default. The complexity of the instruments, the role of credit rating agencies and lax regulatory structure played a contributory role. The high ratings assigned to certain tranches of structured instruments, which were quickly reserved with the onset of the crisis, created a panic situation among investors and precipitated the crisis. Following the collapse of Lehman Brothers in mid September, 2008, there was a full-blown financial meltdown, which severely affected the financial and real sectors of the development and developing countries.

At the meeting of leaders of Group of 20 countries (G-20) held in London in April, 2009 against the backdrop of the worst economic and financial crisis, India has, *inter-alia*, stressed, upon the need for longer term reform of the global financial architecture including increasing the representation of developing and emerging market economies in international organisations; reform of the global financial system through stronger regulation and improved supervision, especially to systemically important financial institutions, through, among other things, developing an effective early warning system which can spot a build up of risks threatening global financial stability. Further, it has strongly emphasised the need to avoid protectionist sentiments in goods and services trade and taking concrete steps to ensure adequate credit flows, including trade finance, to developing countries. It has also endorsed sharing information and bringing tax havens and non-cooperating jurisdictions under closer scrutiny.

The major initiatives agreed upon in the G-20 meeting included strengthening the financial system and global financial institutions; resisting protectionism and promoting global trade and investment, and measures to ensure a fair and sustainable recovery.

Stake sales in PSUs

3424. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to modify rules to allow Government to use funds realized from stake sales in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Housing Bank

3425. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Housing Bank (NHB) will host an electronic site for the South Asia Housing Forum;

- (b) if so, the details worked out so far;
- (c) the role of Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and
- (d) the countries likely to participate in this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Housing Bank (NHB) has developed an electronic site to host the South Asia Housing Finance (SAHF) Forum, in consultation with other countries in the South Asia region and the World Bank. The Portal was soft-launched by the Governor, Central Bank of Afghanistan on July 9, 2009. The portal has been initially created on NHB's website www.nhb.org.in and will in due course migrate to a separate independent domain.

The objective of this electronic forum is to provide to platform for exchange of ideas, and experiences of different countries of South Asia so as to facilitate a coordinated approach on housing strategy in this region.

(c) No specific role has been assigned to Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

(d) The Forum consists of various countries of the South Asia region including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Road map for disinvestment of PSEs

3426. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a road map for disinvestment in many Public Sector Enterprises is being drawn;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the financial implications and the policy thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The cases for disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis. The process of Initial Public Offerings in NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited is in progress.

(c) The receipts from disinvestment would be channelised into National Investment Fund.

Re-opening of Ashok Paper Mill at Jogighopa in Assam

3427. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ashok Paper Mill, Jogighopa in Assam has been re-opened;
- (b) if so, the details of the present status of the Mill; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b)

- (i) The revival process of Ashok Paper Mill has been initiated. Presently, production operations of Ashok Paper Mill are suspended.
- (ii) It was decided by the Government to commission Techno-Economic Feasibility Study (TEFR) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for revival of Ashok Paper Mill. M/s. Sandwell Consultancy Engineers Private Limited, Mumbai was engaged on 19.09.2008. for preparing TEFR.
- (iii) M/s. Sandwell submitted final TEFR on 10.02.2009. TEFR was accepted by Government of Assam and Sandwell was advised to prepared draft DPR. It was also decided that Government of Assam would prepare an inventory of availability of bamboo in Assam and submit a report within three months which is awaited. Availability of bamboo in adequate quantities would be the mainstay of any revival effort.
- (iv) Meanwhile, M/s Sandwell submitted draft Detailed Project Report on 15.05.2009.
- (c) Not applicable.

CAG Report on PSUs

3428. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the audit of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has unveiled that a large number of PSUs cost Government several crore during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of fiscal shortcomings discovered in PSUs;

(c) whether Government proposes to take concrete steps to prevent such financial deficiencies in PSUs and to fix responsibilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per C&AG's Report No. CA 22 of 2009-10, which was placed in the Parliament on 9th July, 2009, 103 Government companies and corporations had accumulated losses of Rs. 96,992.49 crore as on 31st. March, 2008, However, equity capital of 72 Government companies (out of 103) had been completely eroded. The accumulated losses of these 72 companies were Rs. 94,428.27 crore against equity investment of Rs. 15762.83 crore as on 31st. March, 2008 making their combined net worth negative at

Rs. 78,665.44 crore. The deficiencies pointed out by the audit in the aforesaid report relate to overstated assets/profits and understated liabilities/losses, departures from Accounting Standards, not obtaining confirmation of balances in respect of debtors/creditors and deficiencies in internal control, etc.

(c) and (d) The administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are required to take necessary action on the observations made/deficiencies pointed out in the report of C&AG and submit the Action Taken Notes (ATN) to the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) after getting the same vetted by the Office of C&AG.

Financial restructuring of NACIL

3429. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretary, Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSEs) has objected that the sickness and proposed financial restructuring of National Aviation Company of India Limited/Air India has not been referred to BRPSE so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Secretary, Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) had written to Ministry of Civil Aviation to refer the restructuring of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) to BRPSE for its advice.

PSUs in West Bengal

3430. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many nationalized Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are there in West Bengal;

(b) the details of closed PSUs in West Bengal out of them;

(c) the details of land of these PSUs;

(d) whether there has been any decision for opening them;

(e) if so, by when they will be re-opened;

(f) the companies which will be re-opened; and;

(g) whether the Government will give these lands in lease to the State Government for opening up of new industries in case the Central Government does not have any plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) As per available information, there were 19 sick units which were taken over by the Government in the State of West Bengal.

(b) Out of these 19 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), 7 CPSEs namely Bharat Immunity Ltd., Smith Stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Limited, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd., Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Weighbird India Limited and Reayrolle Burn Ltd. have since been closed.

(c) Information in respect of land of CPSEs is kept by concerned CPSEs and official liquidators appointed by the Courts.

(d) to (f) Decision in respect of revival and re-opening of CPSEs is taken by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department.

(g) Utilization of land of the closed companies is done as per the Companies Act, 1956. In case of companies referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), utilization of land is done as per directions of the BIFR.

CAG report about BHEL

3431. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report-2008, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has placed an order worth crores of rupees with a banned power equipment manufacturing company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for placing order with a banned company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) through its agency, viz. Principal Director of Commercial Audit (PDCA) had in June, 2008 made observations as a 'Draft Para' on awarding of contract worth Rs. 26.61 crore by one of the units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) on a vendor, despite ban on all business dealings with that firm. The circumstances in which the order was placed by the concerned unit of BHEL have been furnished to the PDCA in November, 2008. The vendor company was banned *vide* Orders dated 01.3.2006 whereas the order placed on it pertained to the tender dated 19.07.2005 for which the technical bid was opened on 26.09.0005 and the technical recommendation made on 04.02.2006. (all prior to the date on which the said company was banned). Award of contract against these recommendations on a later date was an administrative decision taken in the best interest of BHEL.

Grants to NGOs

3432. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of grant released to different Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) since 2005-06 to 2008-09 and for what purpose/programme;
- (b) what were the value addition and contribution by NGOs to the programme;
- (c) whether his Ministry is funding only in select innovative activities; and
- (d) if so, the achievements made in those activities, Activity-wise and the manner in which that has helped the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Quantum of grant released to various NGOs/programmes since 2005-06 to 2008-09 is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2005-06	7574.49
2006-07	7223.02
2007-08	7373.01
2008-09	7721.03

As per the National Education Policy 1986 (as modified in 1992), Non Government and Voluntary effort including social activist groups will be encouraged and provided with financial assistance. NGOs are accordingly encouraged to participate in various schemes for the promotion of literacy and education related activities with a view to complement and supplement the efforts of the Government and have generally contributed in reaching targeted groups as the grass root level.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Reduction of customs duty on ship breaking

3433. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has reconsidered the request of the State Government of Gujarat for reducing customs duty on ship breaking from 5 per cent to 0 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that imposition of customs duty is adversely affecting the industry to compete with others; and

(d) if so, by when the exemption on customs duty would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the budgetary process for the budget 2009-10, the Union Government re-examined the representation of Government of Gujarat and ship breaking industry in Gujarat was facing stiff competition and decline due to increase in price of ships, liberal duty concessions in neighbouring countries, environmental regulations and internal competition from finished steel and melting scrap. However, it was not found possible to accede to the request for full exemption.

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

Access to higher education

3434. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a small fraction of students, after obtaining graduation degrees in professional education, can enter into higher education;

(b) whether the main reasons are the presence of stiff competition in Government institutions and of heavy amount of donation, direct or indirect in the case of private institutions; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to provide higher education in all deserving cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Higher Education includes post-senior secondary professional and technical education and, therefore, a student who has obtained a 'graduate' degree in professional education has already entered the realm of higher education. Charging of capitation fees by private institutions is prohibited as per the judgement of the Supreme Court in the matter of P.A. Inamdar and Others Vs State of Maharashtra and Others.

In order to increase access to higher education, the Government has embarked, in the Eleventh Plan, major expansion programmes by way of establishment of new Central Universities, new institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research and Schools of Planning and Architecture. New schemes for setting up of model degree colleges with Central-State partnership in districts with Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) less than the National GER, and incentivising State Governments of setting up or expansion of educational institutions have been envisaged. A scheme to provide interest subsidy on the loans taken by students belonging to the economically backward classes under the educational loan scheme of the Indian Banks' Association for pursuing professional education in India, is under consideration of the Government.

Validity of degrees by open universities

3435. DR. JANARADHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the opinion expressed by a Supreme Court Bench that the degrees given by open universities, especially private universities are not equivalent to the degrees given by the regular universities; and

(b) if so, what would be the fate of the students getting their degrees from open and private universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It has not come, specifically, to the notice of this Ministry that Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed opinion that the degrees given by open universities, especially private universities, are not equivalent to the degrees given by the regular universities. However, it is learnt that Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeals No. 2252 of 2006 and 4173 of 2008 has *inter-alia* opined that Master's degrees awarded by Annamalai University through distance mode, to the students, who were not holding basic graduation degree, cannot be considered as valid for the purpose of academic pursuit and employment respectively.

Functioning of KGBVs

3436. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of students in KGBVs, State-wise;

(c) the number of minority students enrolled in KGBVs, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that ratio of minority girl students is very low in these KGBVs; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has sanctioned 2573 KGBVs in the country. A State-wise list of KGBVs and girls enrolled therein including minority girls is given the Statement (*See below*).

(d) and (e) 479 KGBVs are set up in minority concentration blocks having a 25% minority population. The enrolment of minority girls in the KGBVs in these blocks is 24.5%.

Statement

Functioning of KGBVs

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of KGBVs sanctioned	No. of girls enrolled in KGBVs	No. of Minority students enrolled in KGBVs state-wise
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	395	32007	1207
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	3600	0
3.	Assam	26	1450	516
4.	Bihar	391	28099	3920
5.	Chhattisgarh	93	8279	43
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	49	0
7.	Delhi	1	0	0
8.	Gujarat	63	3517	105
9.	Haryana	9	1048	453
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10	408	20
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	79	3193	2144
12.	Jharkhand	198	17743	1066
13.	Karnataka	64	5629	396
14.	Madhya Pradesh	200	19235	305
15.	Maharashtra	36	2860	37
16.	Manipur	1	81	0
17.	Meghalaya	2	102	0
18.	Mizoram	1	100	0
19.	Nagaland	2	100	0
20.	Orissa	157	12912	79
21.	Punjab	3	51	0
22.	Rajasthan	200	14183	819
23.	Tamil Nadu	54	2902	22
24.	Tripura	7	350	1

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Uttar Pradesh	454	29749	2565
26.	Uttarakhand	26	934	62
27.	West Bengal	65	2542	259
GRAND TOTAL :		2573	191123	14019

Enrolment of students by private institutions

3437. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is concerned about the practice of private institutions enrolling thousands of students even before they get the mandatory recognition;

(b) if so, whether Government has constituted monitory mechanism to curb such irregularities in accrediting private institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of private institutions which enrolled students beyond prescribed limit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information given by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Council has not received any information or complaint about private institutions enrolling students before getting mandatory approval. The Council has yet to constitute a monitoring mechanism to curb such irregularities.

(c) and (d) During the academic year 2007-09 and 2008-10, 15 institutions offering PGDM courses have enrolled students beyond prescribed limits. As per the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the AICTE, all such institutions which admitted excess students over and above sanctioned intake have to disclose the information and are required to submit an affidavit on non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- stating that they shall not repeat the same in future. They are also required to pay a penalty @75% of tuition fee.

Establishment of model schools in Tamil Nadu

3438. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to establish model schools on the lines of Central Schools in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) especially in Tamil Nadu under the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the number of such schools planned to be established in Tamil Nadu under the Eleventh Plan and proposed budget allocation for the same;

(c) whether Government has also proposed to set up model schools on the Public Private

Partnership (PPP) mode in Educationally Backward Blocks in Tamil Nadu to prevent the drop in secondary stage enrolment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government has decided to set up 6,000 Model Schools at the Block level, at the rate of one school per block, as benchmarks of excellence. The first phase of the programme to establish 2,500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State Government was launched in November, 2008.

(b) Under the scheme, each block in Tamil Nadu can have a Model School. The actual number to be established during the Eleventh Plan depends on the viable proposals from State Government of Tamil Nadu. There is a Plan allocation of Rs. 12750 crore for the scheme to be implemented throughout the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Education problems in Assam

3439. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are a number of Lower Primary, Middle and High Schools in Assam which are recognized by the State Government and the buildings of which are in deplorable conditions, where the teaching and other staff are doing their job with a meagre amount;

(b) whether Government has received any such proposal from the State Government of Assam to provide proper infrastructure and assistance to such Government recognized schools;

(c) whether Government would take initiative to solve such age old problem of education in the State or conduct an enquiry about such problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, schools sanctioned under SSA alone are provided assistance for civil infrastructure, etc. Government aided schools are not entitled to any civil infrastructure support under SSA programme. However, SSA provides financial support for in service training of teachers to ensure that quality education is transacted in schools.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Employment opportunities

†3440. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of unemployed students in the country holding the MBBS and engineering degrees, State-wise; and

(b) the details of arrangements being made by Government to provide employment to these unemployed students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) This Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not centrally maintain information regarding the number of unemployed students.

(b) This Department has started a scheme of Finishing School for enhancing Information Technology and Communications skills of unemployed engineering graduates. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not have any scheme to provide employment to these unemployed students.

Replacing marks with grades as evaluation

3441. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is planning for setting up of a single school board and making Class X board exam as optional as a part of its 100-days plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is keen to introduce a system to replace marks with grades in classes IX and X; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for setting up of a single school board in the country. A proposal to make Class 10 Examination conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) optional for students continuing in the same school to the higher secondary stage, is under consideration of CBSE.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal with CBSE to introduce grades in place of marks in Class 10 Examination conducted by CBSE.

Comparative performance of Government and private schools

†3442. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an assessment of performance of Government and private schools with regard to CBSE exams was done by Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the average assessment of performance of Government and private schools made during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Details of pass percentage in respect of different categories of schools in class 10 class 12 Examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education during the last three years are given below:—

Category of schools	Class X (Pass Percentage)			Class XII (Pass Percentage)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Government	70.36	75.31	80.08	78.59	81.96	82.81
Government aided	72.66	72.57	78.16	75.93	78.61	75.68
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan	95.64	96.07	96.35	93.14	91.00	91.32
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Administration	96.41	97.54	97.84	90.11	92.44	94.09
Central Tibetan School	92.33	87.06	92.77	86.24	85.81	91.15
Independent Public School	91.81	91.77	91.89	82.29	81.68	80.94
Overall	84.44	86.72	89.52	80.64	85.25	85.99

(c) Does not arise.

Functioning of universities

‡3443. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several universities of the country are functioning outside their prescribed limits also;

(b) if so, the names of such universities as on June, 2009;

(c) the names of States whose borders were encroached upon by these universities;

(d) whether these universities have stopped encroaching limits after Government's order; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

University Grants Commission (UGC), the following universities are reportedly functioning outside their territorial jurisdiction:—

- (i) Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai;
- (ii) Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thakersey (SNDT) Women's University, Mumbai;
- (iii) Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management University, Sikkim;
- (iv) Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) University, Dehradun;
- (v) Singhania University, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan);
- (vi) University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.

All the State universities, including privately funded universities, have been advised by the UGC to stop their operations, if any, beyond their territorial jurisdiction as off-campus/study centres/affiliation to college and centres operating through franchises. The State Governments have also been advised by UGC to take suitable steps for amending the existing Acts so as to bring the same in conformity with the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prof. Yash Pal and another Vs. State of Chhattisgarh and others.

Mandatory accreditation and grading of higher educational institutes

3444. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to introduce mandatory accreditation and grading for all higher educational institutions with the help of Government agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Yes, Sir.

(b) The legislative proposal to introduce mandatory accreditation for higher education institutions is yet to be finalised.

CBI cases against AICTE members

†3445. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has taken action against Chairman and several members and officers of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on charges of corruption;

(b) the names of members and officers and the sections under which they were charged; and

(c) the status of the inquiry and until when the chargesheet would be filed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Yes, Sir.

(b) A case under section 120-B IPC and under section 7 and 8 of PC Act, 1988 has been registered against Shri R.A. Yadav, Prof. H.C. Rai, Ms. Rominder Randhawa, Shri Srioma Dalal, Shri Sanjay Sharma and Prof. K. Narayan Rao.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting an investigation and filing of chargesheet would be based on the finalization of the investigation and report of CBI.

Introduction of sex education in the country

†3446. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI O. T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to revamp school curricula;

(b) whether this also includes sex education;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary Committee recommendations are against it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The National Curriculum Framework was revised in 2005.

(b) No, Sir. After consultation with State Government representatives and other stakeholders, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has introduced an educational programme, known as Adolescence Education Programme (AEP). This programme focuses on making students aware of the concerns of adolescence stage, and dangers of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse; and helping them to acquire necessary life skills to enable them to avoid risky situations, to take informed decisions and to develop healthy and responsible behaviour.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions in its 135th report presented to the Rajya Sabha on 9.6.2009, has, *inter alia*, recommended that there shall be no sex education in schools.

Tuition fee for the wards of Central Government employees

†3447. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission, Government reimburses one thousand rupees per month in the form of tuition fee for the children of its employees, studying upto Class XII;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether this tuition fee is reimbursed to all those employees whose wards are studying in Government/Semi-Government and private schools;

(c) whether it is also a fact that employees whose wards are studying in Government/Semi-Government Schools have to move place to place to get receipt of books, uniforms, shoes etc.;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to add tuition fee in the salary of employees; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Subsequent to the recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission, the Government had introduced the Children Education Allowance Scheme *w.e.f.* 01.09.2008. Under the Scheme, the Children Education Allowance reimbursement can be availed by the Government Servant for a maximum of two children @ Rs. 1000/- p.m. per child.

(b) and (c) The reimbursement is applicable for the education of school going children only *i.e.* for Classes Nursery of XII including XI and XII held by junior colleges or schools affiliated to Universities or Board of Education. Under this scheme, reimbursement can be claimed for the tuition fee, admission fee, laboratory fee, special fee charged for agriculture, electronics, music or any other subject, fee charged for practical work under the programme for work experience, fee paid for the use of any aid or appliance by the child, library fee, games/sports fee and fee for extra-curricular activities. This also includes reimbursement for purchase of one set of text books and notebooks, two sets of uniforms and one set of school shoes which can be claimed for a child, in a year. The reimbursement is made on submission of original receipts on the basis of self certification by the Government servant.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal in the Government of add tuition fee in the salary of the employees as it is a reimbursable allowance and does not form part of the salary of the employee.

Brain Gain Policy

3448. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to introduce Brain Gain Policy to attract Indian talents for national universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the national universities will be provided freedom to establish chairs of studies and would be funded through the non-Government endowments; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A policy to attract talent into higher education, particularly into 14 Universities to be established as Innovation Universities is under consideration of Government. Even existing Universities have the autonomy to establish chairs of studies and obtain funds for the purpose from Government and Non Government sources.

Teaching standards in schools

†3449. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need to raise the standards of teaching in the existing schools of the country;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard;

(c) whether measures have been implemented in this regard during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the consequential increase in percentage of results in school examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. National Curriculum Framework, 2005 articulates the need for a substantial improvement in the quality of education. Continuous steps have been taken to raise the standard of teaching in the existing schools through in-service teachers training programmes and various other measures under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). SSA has identified quality parameters such as basic infrastructure, school and classroom environment, teacher training etc. and is providing assistance to achieve them. Under SSA, existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training and grants provided for developing teacher training materials. Schools under Central Government like Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas generally maintain high standards of teaching. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has adopted syllabi and curriculum prepared by National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) and prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT. CBSE verifies quality of education in respect of infrastructure, teaching methodologies, co-curricular activities and teachers training programmes, etc. before granting affiliation to schools.

(e) As per the National Achievement Surveys conducted under SSA across the States by NCERT, there is an increase of 2-4% in average achievement at different stages of school education over a period of three years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Identification of educationally backward districts

3450. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has identified educationally backward States and districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government in discussion with the concerned State Governments proposes to develop the educationally backward States and districts by setting up model schools etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the allocations made to such States during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Based on the population data of census 2001 and the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for the relevant group of 18 to 24 years of age, an expert committee was constituted by the UGC to prepare a detailed Project Report for Establishing Model Colleges in educationally backward districts of the country. This committee has identified 374 such districts where the GER in higher Education was less than the national average. There is a proposal to launch a new scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts. Further, the Central Government has decided to set up 6000 high quality model schools at the block level, at the rate of one school per block, as benchmarks of excellence. The first phase of the scheme to set up 2500 Model Schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) under the State Governments was launched in November, 2008.

An amount of Rs. 12,750 crore has been allocated for this scheme for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, and Rs. 350 crores has been provided in the budget for 2009-10.

Exorbitant development charge of private and minority schools

3451. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private and minority schools recognized by CBSE and ICSE are charging the students exorbitant money even more than Rupees 50,000-60,000 per year as developmental charge specially in NCR and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any complaint has been received in this regard during the last three years;

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

(d) what action Government proposes in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government has taken during the last three years till date to provide qualitative education to all children alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) have not received any complaint in the last three years about private and minority schools charging students exorbitant development charge in National Capital Region (NCR) and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) Some of the steps taken by CBSE and CISCE to provide qualitative education are as follows:—

CBSE

Training of teachers on a regular basis on content and pedagogy,

Emphasis on importance of school based assessment,

Emphasis on learning by doing,

Continuous and comprehensive evaluation in schools

CISCE

Insistence on qualified and trained teachers and focus on teachers' training,

Focus on language and communication skills among students.

Reservation in private institutions

3452. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to provide education for all and are ready for education reforms;

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken or likely to take;

(c) what would be the first step in this direction;

(d) whether expansion of higher education is not possible without participation of private sector and whether his Ministry is willing for more public private partnership;

(e) the manner in which Government, plans to address the issue of reservation in private educational institutions; and

(f) if so, by when these reforms after being considered are to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Through the Constitution (eight-sixth

Amendment) Act, 2002, Article 21A was inserted in the Constitution which provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. Consequently, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009 has been introduced which *inter-alia* seeks to provide that every child has right to be provided full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standard.

The 100 days programme announced by the Government includes major Legislative initiatives; Policy initiatives; and Administrative and other initiatives.

(d) As per the National Policy on Education, 1986 as modified in 1992, Government is against the commercialization of education. Several pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India, have also prohibited commercialization of education in India, through reasonable surpluses can be generated for further development of the educational institutions.

Government favours active support and involvement of private participation for funding and management of educational institutions subject to reasonable surplus earned and the same being ploughed back for development of institutions. The Eleventh Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector. Government has already decided to set up 2500 Model Schools and 300 Polytechnics under Public Private Partnership mode during Eleventh Plan period. A proposal for setting up of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology in various parts of the country under PPP mode is also under consideration.

(e) and (f) In regard to admission made by unaided non-minority educational institutions, the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Increased investment in PPP programme

3453. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though educated and trained talent has remained insulated from the impact of global economic slowdown, but it faces a huge challenge of reducing the gap of educated yet unemployable personnel;

(b) if so, whether it requires increased investment in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) programme to improve education quality at the bottom of pyramid; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to include about 14 million students who are out of education field in school system as only 40 per cent of a total of 219 million students are enrolled in schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No study has been carried out about the

reducing the gap of educated unemployable personnel on account of slow down of global economy. As per the National Policy on Education (as modified in 1992), Government is against the commercialization of education. Several pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India, have also prohibited commercialization of education in India, though reasonable surpluses can be generated for further development of the educational institutions. However, the Government favours the active support and involvement of the not-for-profit private participation for funding and management of educational institutions subject to reasonable surplus earned being ploughed back into the development of institutions.

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach to improve the quality of elementary education, and subject to certain norms provides for:—

- Opening of new primary schools
- Upgradation of Primary schools to upper primary schools
- Construction of school buildings
- Construction of additional classrooms to improve the student classroom ratio
- Recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio
- In-service training to the teachers and training of untrained teachers
- Provision of text books
- Learning Enhancement Programme
- Remedial Teaching
- School and Teacher grant
- Regular academic support to the school through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres to improve the quality of classroom practices.

Besides, efforts are made to address the interests of children with special needs, out of school children and those living in SC/ST and minority concentration districts. A variety of interventions have been implemented for bringing out of school children to school. These include *inter alia*, the Education Guarantee Centres (EGS), Residential Bridge Courses and Non-Residential Bridge Courses.

Setting up of JSS in Uttar Pradesh

3454. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years till date, district-wise;

(b) the details of JSS to be set up in Uttar Pradesh during the current and next financial years;

(c) whether Government has any plan to set up JSS in Jyotiba Phule Nagar and Ghazipur Districts during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criterion fixed for NGOs for award of JSS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years till date, district-wise are as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of District	Year of sanction
1.	Lucknow	2007-08
2.	Chandoli	2007-08
3.	Shrawasti	2007-08
4.	Saharanpur	2008-09
5.	Kanpur Dehat	2008-09
6.	J.P. Nagar (Amroha)	2008-09
7.	Mathura	2008-09
8.	Ballia	2008-09
9.	Balrampur	2008-09
10.	Mathura	2008-09
11.	Ferozabad	2008-09

(b) to (d) At present there is no proposal to set up any new Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) as the number of JSSs approved for the Eleventh Plan Period under the Scheme of 'Support to Voluntary Agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development' have already been sanctioned.

Appointment of lecturers in Delhi University

3455. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recruitments made for the posts of permanent lecturers in Delhi University for the SCs/STs in the past one year;

(b) the details of the quota which has been filled so far for the SCs/STs in faculty positions in Delhi University;

(c) the reasons therefor, if it is below the requisite level; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to fill the quota for SC/ST/ OBC in Delhi University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information provided by the University of Delhi 12 and 7 appointments under the categories of SCs and STs respectively, have been made to the post of permanent Lecturers in the University of Delhi during the past one year.

(b) 38 Lecturers under SC category and 14 Lecturers under ST category have been appointed against the quota of 85 and 38 posts for Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

(c) and (d) During the year 2009, the University of Delhi has advertised 24, 7 and 51 posts of Lecturers under SC, ST and OBC categories respectively.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country

3456. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government is intending to increase the number of Central Schools in the country and specially in the backward State like Orissa to protect the children of *Aam Aadmi* from the exploitation of so-called public schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) depends on the receipt of a viable proposal from the sponsor *i.e.* State Government, Central Ministry, Public Sector Undertaking etc. who need to commit free land and temporary accommodation, availability of adequate number of students of specified categories, approval of competent authority and availability of funds.

Minimum qualification for college teachers

3457. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state how many M. Phils and Ph.D holding candidates in the country would stand disqualified from teaching positions in Colleges due to the recent circular of University Grants Commission (UGC) on minimum qualifications for teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): No such information is maintained by the Government centrally in regard to candidates holding M.Phil and Ph.D degrees in the country who would stand disqualified from teaching positions in colleges. However, no person with M. Phil. and/or Ph.D without National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) qualification appointed in regular process against a regular post on or before the notification dated 1.6.2009 of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications required for the appointment and career advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it (3rd Amendment) Regulation, 2009, shall be affected and those working in *ad-hoc* capacity and do not possess Ph.D awarded in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of M. Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations, 2009, have been provided 4 attempts at NET/SLET with in a two year period to qualify for being appointed as teachers in Higher Education subject to other eligibility.

Rural-Urban difference in drop-out rate

3458. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the overall SC/ST Girl student dropout rate at various stages (Class I-XII);
- (b) how does it compare with general category boys;
- (c) the improvement achieved during past four years; and
- (d) whether rural-urban divide has been noticed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per information available with the Ministry, the Table giving comparative drop-out rates of overall SC/ST Girl students and general category of boys at primary, upper-primary and secondary stages during the 2003-04 to 2006-07 is given as under:—

Categories	Overall drop-out Rates			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Primary Stage (Classes I-V)				
Boys (General Category)	33.7	31.8	28.7	24.4
SC Girls	36.2	36.1	33.8	39.9
ST Girls	48.7	42.0	39.3	35.9
Upper Primary Stage (Classes I-VIII)				
Boys (General Category)	51.8	50.5	48.7	46.6
SC Girls	62.2	60.0	57.1	55.0
ST Girls	71.4	67.1	62.9	62.2
Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)				
Boys (General Category)	61.0	60.4	60.1	58.6
SC Girls	75.5	74.2	73.8	72.2
ST Girls	81.2	80.7	79.2	79.8

It reveals from the Table above that the overall drop-out rate of SC/ST Girls has been higher than the general category of boys at primary, upper primary and secondary stages of education during 2003-04 to 2006-07.

The dropout rate at senior secondary stage are not been calculated by the Ministry. Annual class-wide enrolment figures are not available for urban and rural areas separately, and therefore dropout rates for urban and rural separately cannot be calculated.

Free and compulsory education

3459. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of primary schools in the country in view of passing of legislation on free and compulsory education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any idea about the children who are not going to schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which the Centre is going to share expenditure in this regard;

(f) whether States have got enough infrastructure in this regard; and

(g) if not, whether the Centre will help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Clause 6 of 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009' provides that appropriate Government and the local authority would establish elementary schools in such area or limits of neighbourhood as may be prescribed. Rules for prescribing such areas/limits can be framed only after the proposed Bill is enacted, and the State Governments would determine the requirement of primary schools thereafter.

(c) and (d) The Gross Enrolment Ratio at the primary level was 111.24 in 2006-07. The drop out rate for that level that decreased from 31.5% in 2003-04 to 25.43% in 2006-07.

(e) to (g) Clause 7 of the Bill lays down that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. It further lays down that the Central Government (a) shall prepare estimates of capital and recurring expenditure for implementation of the provision of the Act (b) shall provide to the State Governments, as grants-in-aid of revenues, such percentage of expenditure as it may determine in consultation with the States and (c) may request the President of India for making a reference to the Finance Commission to examine the need for additional resources, if any, to be provided to the State Governments for meeting their financial commitment to implement the Act.

Budgetary expenditure of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

3460. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of the budgetary expenditure of National Council for Promotion of

Urdu Language specifically in the area of language teachers' recruitment for the past four years in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): No budgetary expenditure is incurred by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) in the area of language teachers' recruitment.

Central Government-funded schools and colleges in Orissa

3461. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will increase the number of Central Government-funded schools and colleges in Orissa where the literacy rate is less than the other States in the country;

(b) if so, what are the major steps Government is taking for the same;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry will promote the opening of more Central schools in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, District-wise and phase-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the major steps taken by the Government in this regard:—

(i) A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan' has been launched in March, 2009 to universalise access to secondary education and to improve its quality.

(ii) As a part of another Centrally Sponsored Scheme to set up 2500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs), all the EBBs of the State of Orissa will be covered under the Scheme.

(iii) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the following schools have been sanctioned to Orissa during 2009-10:

Primary Schools	2328
Upper Primary Schools	928
Opening of Class VIII in existing Upper Primary Schools	5616

(iv) A new Central University has been established in Orissa.

(v) A sum of Rs. 28.47 crores has been released to establishment of 14 new Polytechnics in Orissa.

(vi) A new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has been establishment in Orissa.

(c) and (d) At present, this Ministry does not have any proposal to open any more Central Schools (Kendriya Vidyalayas).

Setting up of polytechnic college in Himachal Pradesh

3462. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh proposes to set up a polytechnic college at Pragati Nagar, Gumma, Shimla District with the financial assistance of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has received any request from the State Government to bear the recurring cost of the project also as the former has already agreed to bear the capital cost;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to accede to the request;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) This Ministry has not received any such proposal.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Medical preparedness in schools

3463. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there is no guidelines for medical preparedness in schools;

(b) if so, the delays in this regards; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure medical preparedness in schools to meet any emergency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Education being a concurrent subject, and most of the schools being under the purview of the State Governments, it is for the State Governments to issue guidelines for medical preparedness in schools.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a Comprehensive School Health Programme for the schools affiliated to it and has advised schools to set up health and wellness clubs in each school. The Health Programme includes health check-up, health card for each student and first aid facilities.

Transparency in JEE

3464. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conducting of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) is lacking transparency;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the complaints/RTI applications received by Government and IITs during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government to make JEE more transparent;

(d) whether the current syllabus and methods of JEE are over burdening the candidates as it is not strictly as per CBSE classes XI and XII curricula; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken from this year onwards to make JEE strictly as per CBSE syllabus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are fully transparent as all information relating to cut-off marks, aggregate marks with marks obtained in each subject and also the marks obtained by the toppers in each category are made available to the candidates by posting at the JEE website on 1st August of each year. The Ministry and the JEE offices receive complaints/RTI applications from various quarters on different issues including some from the candidates or their parents regarding individual cases of non-selection or not getting the Institutes/streams of their choice. All complaints/applications are duly replied.

(d) and (e) It is not correct to say that the syllabus and methods of JEE are over burdening to the candidates. JEE cannot be as per CBSE syllabus only, since the students belonging to other State Boards also write the examination every year. JEE syllabus includes mostly the CBSE syllabus and also the syllabi of other State Boards. There may be minor differences, but the syllabus of JEE is less than that of CBSE and includes only whatever is considered common to CBSE and the syllabi of the other State Boards of the country.

Establishment of colleges in Madhya Pradesh

†3465. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has made a provision to set up 39 excellent colleges in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Central Government wants to bear only one-third of the total amount to set up these colleges whereas the State Government has to bear two-third for the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the State Government has requested the Central Government to provide whole of the amount citing its inability to bear the two-third amount; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Central Government so far to set-up excellent colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is proposal to launch a new scheme with Central State funding for establishment of one model degree college at an estimate cost of Rs. 8.00 crore, in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts (including 39 districts in Madhya Pradesh) having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education lower than the national GER. For colleges to be set up in districts not falling in Special Category States, the Central Government shall bear one-third of the capital cost (excluding the cost of land which shall be provided by the State Government), while the remaining two-third of the capital cost, and the entire recurring expenditure shall be borne by the concerned State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Problem of crediting scholarships

3466. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the scholarships is not being credited to the accounts of the students though their names appear in the web list of concerned channelising agencies of different States;

(b) if so, what are the remedial measures taken by the concerned authorities;

(c) whether his Ministry has started a scheme to help minority students for higher technical research studies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not disburse scholarships through channelizing agencies in the States as is being done by Ministry of Minority Affairs. In the two scholarship schemes of this Ministry, the scholarship is disbursed electronically into the bank accounts of the students

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

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not have any scheme specifically for minority community students in the field of higher education.

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

Private and foreign investments in education

3467. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to abolish the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is going to allow foreign investment and private investment in the field of higher as well primary education in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The creation of an over-arching body to regulate higher and technical education by subsuming bodies like the All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education etc. and the University Grants Commission is a priority for the Government. No legislative proposal has been finalized.

(c) and (d) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the Eleventh February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector. Government encourages private participation in the field of education, consistent with its policy of non-commercialisation of education.

Grants for Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Universities

3468. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got the details of the universities which are having Rajiv Gandhi Chair and the amount spent so far;

(b) whether Government has got any proposal to give the chair to other universities, if any university is not taking initiative to fill the position and do the activities; and

(c) if so, whether Government would give the grant to the Rajiv Gandhi Chair established in Gandhigram Rural Institute, a Deemed University which has carried out the activities in Panchayati Raj for the past ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), details of the amount spent by the ten universities where Rajiv Gandhi Chairs have been established is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Amount spent by the universities having the Rajiv Gandhi Chair

Sl. No.	Name of University	Area of study	Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	University of Allahabad	a. Nuclear Disarmament and b. Secularism and Nation Building c. Social Justice.	40.85
2.	University of Delhi	Impact of Technology in Society (Management of Innovation)	Nil
3.	North Eastern Hill University	Livelihood and Food Security	14.14
4.	Punjab University	Panchayati Raj System and Local Governance.	Nil
5.	University of Mumbai	Impact of Technology on Society.	17.25
6.	University of Calcutta	Eco-Systems and Sustainable Development.	Nil
7.	University of Madras	Social Justice.	Nil
8.	Cochin University of Science and Technology	Protection of Child Rights.	36.77
9.	Barkatullah University	Secularism and Nation Building.	20.25
10.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology	Tribal Development.	22.53

Minority status to institutes

3469. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from various institutions for granting minority status to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir, application for grant of Minority status are received by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) and

according to the Commission it has received the following number of applications in the year mentioned:—

2006	2007	2008	2009 upto 27.7.2009
1684	950	1396	440

The number of educational institutions granted minority status by the National Commission for Minority Education Institutions (NCMEI) during the last three calendar years and the current calendar year (upto 27.7.2009) is 2082.

Establishment of engineering college at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh

3470. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to establish an engineering college specializing in hydro power technology, at Bilaspur, in Himachal Pradesh, with the association of National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has agreed to bear the recurring cost since the graduates of this college will be employed by these corporations;

(d) if so, whether the terms and conditions on this account has been finalized;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Nyaya Panchayat Bill

3471. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Nyaya Panchayat Bill;

(b) if so, whether the draft of the bill is ready;

(c) the essential features of the draft provisions;

(d) by what date the bill is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Establishment of Nyaya Panchayats in the country is under consideration of Union Government. The details are being worked out.

(d) and (e) No firm date for introduction of the Nyaya Panchayats Bill can be given as the details are being worked out.

Programmes and Schemes for Panchayati Raj

3472. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the Programmes and Schemes to promote and strengthen Panchayati Raj in the country;

(b) the State which is best in performance in the matter of implementation of Panchayati Raj;

(c) the States where it is still to be fully implemented; and

(d) the incentives for proper implementation and development of Panchayati Raj in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) Panchayati Raj is a States subject and accordingly the responsibility of promoting and strengthening Panchayati Raj lies with the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has schemes of Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEIAS), Rashtriya Gram Sawraj Yojana, Panchayat Mahila and Yuva Shakti Abhiyan, Backward Regions (Grant Fund and Rural Business Hubs to support State Governments in this effort.

PEAIS encourages States in empowering PRIs by incentivizing devolution to Functions, Funds and Functionaries to PRIs and prizes are given to better performing States. For the year 2008-09, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Assam got the prizes.

Financial assistance to local bodies

3473. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given direct financial assistance to the municipal and panchayat bodies in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance given to the village panchayats, zilla panchayats and the lone municipal body in the Goa in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PMGSY in Orissa

3474. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many roads in Orissa have been taken under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the funds allotted for these roads from 2004 to 2008-09;

(b) whether all funds have been utilized; and

(c) the roads sanctioned under PMGSY in Jajpur district and funds allotted for these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) So far, 7488 road works at the estimated cost of Rs. 9846.45 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for implementation in Orissa. During the period from 2004-05 to 2008-09, Rs. 2924.03 crore has been released by the Ministry to the State and the expenditure of Rs. 3069.48 crore has been reported by the State Government under the programme.

(c) So far, 213 road works at the estimated cost of Rs. 311.24 crore have been sanctioned under PMGSY for implementation in Jajpur district of Orissa. Funds under PMGSY are released by the Ministry to the States and not district-wise.

Assigning of rural development projects to Panchayats

3475. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have made tall claims for the successful implementation of the rural development programmes assigned to panchayats but in the real sense these State Governments have failed to implement this scheme in letter and spirit, which has resulted in a large-scale irregularities and rampant corruption;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any case has been reported regarding figuring of dead persons in the muster rolls of panchayat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps initiated by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements various rural development schemes through State Governments, District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA)/Zilla Parishads as per the Programme guidelines. The State Governments furnish periodic financial and physical progress reports/returns as per the prescribed formats of the programmes. It is

observed that the parameters of achievements of various programmes varies from State to State.

(c) and (d) One such case under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been noticed in the State of Haryana. With a view to ensure transparency in the implementation of NREGA, the Ministry has taken up the following steps:—

- (i) Wage payment to unskilled workers is to be made through Banks and Post Offices.
- (ii) State Governments have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months.
- (iii) A comprehensive Web-based MIS *www.nrega.nic.in* has been developed which places all data in public domain.
- (iv) National toll-free telephone Helpline under NREGA has been established which receives complaints and queries relating to NREGA. States has also been requested to set up similar help lines.

Villages under NREGS

†3476. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in all the villages of the country;

(b) the additional sum required for implementing this scheme; and

(c) the number of the beneficiaries under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Web-enabled NREGA MIS (*www.nrega.nic.in*) developed by this Ministry can capture Gram Panchayat-wise data relating to progress made under NREGA. State-wise status of implementation of NREGA during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) NREGA is demand based. Central Government releases funds to the State for implementation of the Act on the basis of labour demand. A budget provision for Rs. 39,100 crore has been made for NREGA in 2009-10. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 9910.95 crore has so far been released to the various States.

(c) A household is the basic unit for providing employment under NREGA. Number of households provided employment during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the Statement referred to above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise implementation of NAREGA

Sl. No.	States	2006-07					2007-08		
		No. of house-holds provided employment	Person-days of employment generated (In lakhs)	Funds in (Rs. crore)	Central release in (Rs. crore)	Expenditure in (Rs. crore)	Total works	No. of house-holds provided employment	Person-days of employment generated (In lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2161395	678.77	1142.24	1025.41	680.20	221298	4803892	2010.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16926	4.53	12.11	14.51	2.21	496	4490	2.79
3.	Assam	792270	572.92	707.69	265.51	592.53	15407	1402888	487.61
4.	Bihar	1688899	596.87	1191.18	548.31	712.76	61881	3859630	843.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	1256737	700.21	840.89	718.51	668.82	32463	2284963	1316.11
6.	Gujarat	226269	100.48	123.75	74.34	85.85	8429	290691	90.06
7.	Haryana	50765	24.12	46.53	35.89	35.95	1652	70869	35.76
8.	Himachal Pradesh	63514	29.9	57.19	46.68	39.40	8726	271099	97.53
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	121328	32.3	50.12	41.36	34.54	1958	116800	36.8
10.	Jharkhand	1394108	520.47	982.21	558.55	711.55	63815	1679868	747.54
11.	Karnataka	545185	222.01	341.31	248.51	248.30	18643	549994	197.78
12.	Kerala	99107	20.48	48.35	37.40	27.90	3041	185392	60.75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2666349	1971.77	2133.68	1909.44	1862.69	169158	4346916	2753.01
14.	Maharashtra	353024	159.28	486.94	218.16	174.61	10892	474695	184.86
15.	Manipur	18568	18.57	20.38	16.93	20.26	1615	112549	48.32
16.	Meghalaya	96627	24.22	25.84	32.25	21.12	2924	106042	41.33
17.	Mizoram	50998	7.85	25.98	20.24	16.43	263	88940	31.53
18.	Nagaland	27884	13.08	15.96	9.10	14.58	128	115331	24.31
19.	Orissa	1394169	799.34	890.19	783.80	733.47	51521	1096711	405.23
20.	Punjab	31648	15.57	38.39	34.46	25.00	1328	49690	19.15
21.	Rajasthan	1175172	998.87	856.17	780.41	693.06	22049	2170460	1678.38
22.	Sikkim	4107	2.42	4.57	6.92	2.62	158	19664	8.6
23.	Tamil Nadu	683481	182.79	252.11	184.09	151.64	6719	1234818	645.25
24.	Tripura	74335	50.13	49.78	27.55	45.08	4982	423724	181.05
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2573245	822.91	1028.71	569.15	779.67	75500	4096408	1363.05
26.	Uttaranchal	134312	40.6	71.05	44.71	48.50	7253	189263	80.34
27.	West Bengal	3083757	440.08	630.23	388.69	394.63	43061	3843335	968.77
28.	Andaman and								
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli								
30.	Daman and Diu								
31.	Goa								
32.	Lakshadweep								
33.	Pondicherry								
34.	Chandigarh								
TOTAL:		21016099	9050.56	12073.56	8640.86	8823.36	835360	33889122	14359.22

2007-08						2008-09			
Funds available in (Rs. crore)	Central release in (Rs. crore)	Expenditure in (Rs. crore)	Total works	No. of households provided employment	Person-days of employment generated (In lakhs)	Funds available In crore	Central release In crore	Expenditure In crore	Total works
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2293.21	1371.05	2083.75	475648	5699557	2735.45	3706.70	3219.10	2963.90	670693
3.72	12.65	3.04	549	59221	25.71	41.46	29.49	23.55	1294
806.10	521.75	549.15	11855	1877393	751.07	1365.57	958.72	953.80	17098
1523.89	467.08	1052.23	86740	3822484	991.75	2187.86	1388.19	1316.48	105603
1517.56	1144.16	1401.83	102355	2270415	1243.18	2005.91	1664.49	1434.48	100451
126.80	59.16	81.84	21604	850691	213.07	281.27	164.19	196.15	46657
58.02	48.41	52.35	2831	162932	69.11	164.16	136.57	109.88	6314
161.50	127.54	125.65	19262	445713	205.28	501.25	409.75	332.28	45556
89.95	70.71	42.00	6806	199166	78.80	152.90	104.73	87.72	13060
1254.68	650.69	1062.54	159057	1576348	749.97	2263.37	1805.80	1341.72	160302
436.72	252.98	236.51	26180	896212	287.64	661.57	398.51	357.87	56538
99.74	69.01	83.37	15278	692015	153.75	297.72	198.87	224.55	54505
3288.48	2602.80	2891.73	341529	5207665	2946.87	5074.82	4061.12	3551.67	525888
497.83	29.24	189.07	13281	906297	419.85	615.36	187.56	356.65	25076
64.15	61.84	62.76	2893	381109	285.62	397.35	365.41	320.90	11093
63.90	59.19	50.91	4990	224263	86.31	109.76	78.03	89.49	7081
45.95	33.43	42.01	1411	172775	125.82	174.26	151.94	164.56	2896
25.72	44.00	23.98	790	296689	202.70	289.21	268.06	272.31	6029
810.99	536.96	579.57	64304	1105429	403.75	1122.33	878.44	599.34	95030
50.27	29.72	30.04	2286	147336	39.89	114.93	67.75	72.05	5250
1440.70	1056.00	1477.34	63238	6373093	4829.55	7245.34	6521.57	6164.40	236192
14.32	6.30	11.86	514	52006	26.34	62.13	40.97	41.49	1196
701.14	516.09	516.42	18509	3288796	1203.59	1794.59	1401.27	1004.06	38862
218.50	170.16	208.60	60245	549022	351.12	519.43	460.37	490.77	59258
2227.26	1665.90	1898.25	147867	4336466	2278.39	4706.93	3933.90	3582.82	307180
153.20	110.04	95.75	10971	298741	104.33	155.66	101.16	135.79	20179
1331.49	882.63	1004.35	127330	3025854	786.61	1334.75	922.75	940.38	100063
	1.35	0.00		5975	1.00	15.58	7.03	3.28	140
	0.45	0.00		1919	0.48	0.46	0.45	0.01	18
	0.90	0.00		0	0.00	0.22	0.22	0.00	0
	1.14	0.00		0	0.00	6.84	6.18	2.39	0
	0.45	0.00		3024	1.82	4.35	2.62	1.79	371
	0.45	0.00		12264	1.64	9.69	4.19	1.36	314
	0.45	0.00		0	0.00	0.20	0.20	0.00	0
19305.81	12604.68	15856.59	178323	44940870	21600.57	37483.94	29939.60	27137.88	2720187

Centre State interaction regarding NREGS

3477. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has directed the States to ensure transparency and efficiency in effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and other schemes for the benefits of rural population;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued and whether the State Governments have sent representation to the Central Government to plug the loopholes in the various rural development schemes; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to ensure transparency and effective implementation of NREGS, the following measures have been under-taken:—

(i) A comprehensive Web-based MIS www.nrega.nic.in has been implemented which places all data in public domain. States have been asked to put all Muster Rolls (MR) on the web site of NREGA and make on-line reporting of the MRs verified and works inspected at block and district level.

(ii) Payment of wages to NREGA workers to be made through their accounts in Banks/Post Offices.

(iii) States have been directed to conduct social audit under NREGA.

The Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring of all its programmes, including NREGA, to achieve the programme objectives and maximize funds utilisation. The monitoring tools are District-wise data management, periodical progress reports, Area Officer scheme, Utilisation Certificate/Audit Reports, review by Union Ministers, Performance Review Committee (PRC), National Level Monitors (NLM) and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State and District level. The Ministry has adopted five pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) people's participation, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring of rural development programmes.

The Ministry has not received any representations from the State Governments with regard to plugging of loopholes in various rural development schemes.

Issuance of job cards

3478. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge difference between the numbers of families to whom job cards have been issued and the number of families who have demanded employment under NREGS since inception;

(b) if so, the steps taken to analyse this trend;

(c) the corrective action taken in the matter and for guaranteed employment of 100 days to family;

(d) the details of the States where not even a single family could complete 100 days of employment; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A job card issued to a household under NREGA is valid for a period of 5 years. Job card is issued to a household if one or more adult members of the household apply for it. Mere issuance of a job card, however, does not entitle the household for an employment under the Act. The adult members of the household who volunteer to do un-skilled manual work have to apply for work in writing. A job card holder may exercise his right for 100 days of guaranteed employment under NREGA any time during a financial year. Further, while it is mandatory for a job seeker under NREGA to have a job card, it is not mandatory for a job card holder to take up employment under NREGA in a particular financial year.

(c) Intensive IEC activities have been undertaken to generate greater awareness among rural households about their legal rights under the Act. It has been emphasized upon the States to employ dedicated staff in the implementing agencies. Salary of such dedicated staff is met out of the administrative expenditure admissible under the Act. States have been directed to ensure that adequate number of works are available to meet the labour demand.

(d) As per the implementation status reports received from the State Governments, number of household completed 100 days of employment during 2006-07 has been reported as NIL by Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Similarly, State Government of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland have reported that no household completed 100 days of employment during 2007-08. For the year 2008-09, Union Territory of Puducherry has only reported that no household could complete 100 days of employment.

(e) NREGA is demand based. Employment is provided to the adult members of a registered household on demand subject to a maximum of 100 days per household in a Financial Year. Workers are free to avail any other employment opportunity available to them.

Rural Employment Scheme in Maharashtra

3479. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY) and Sampoorna Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are being implemented in Maharashtra; and

(b) the details of the achievement made since the last three years, and the finance allocated to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is implementing the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in the All States/UTs including Maharashtra. (except Delhi and Chandigarh). The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in phased manner in Maharashtra. 12 Districts were subsumed in NREGA from 2nd Feb., 2006, 6 districts from 1.4.2007 and entire rural districts of Maharashtra have been subsumed in NREGA from 1.4.2008.

(b) The details of central allocation, SHGs formed and total No. of Swarozgaris assisted for the last three years in respect of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and the status of funds allocated, funds released and persondays generated under SGRY during 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the Maharashtra State are as under:—

SGSY Scheme

Year	Financial (Rs. in lacs)					Physical (in Nos)	
	Central allocation	Central releases	Total credit disbursed	Total subsidy disbursed	Total investment	SHGs formed	Total Swarozgaris assisted
2006-2007	8784.83	8740.87	14442.78	8109.2	22551.98	20765	84707
2007-2008	13405.01	13117.90	21599.63	11285.02	32884.65	29678	119344
2008-2009	15848.40	15730.36	26368.24	13260.2	39628.44	30975	154647

SGRY Scheme

(in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Financial year	Funds allocated	Funds released	Person days generated
1.	2006-07	25703.73	31832.03	412.54
2.	2007-08	16922.17	16188.33	203.12

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

†3480. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that member incharge of rural development in the Planning Commission has given new suggestions about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of those suggestions and the likely benefits in the implementation of these suggestions; and

(c) the reaction of Government regarding implementation of these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NREGS projects in Orissa

3481. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Orissa till July, 2009, during the last two years, District-wise;

(b) the total expenditure earmarked for these projects; and

(c) the details of the funds utilized, so far, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) NREGA is demand based. Central Government releases funds to the State on the basis of labour demand. District-wise number of works taken up in Orissa under NREGS and funds utilized by the State during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (as per latest available report) are given in Statement-I, II and III respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Works/Activities (Financial Year 2007-08)

Districts	Rural connectivity	Flood control and protection	Water conservation and water harvesting	Drought Proofing (Afforestation and Plantation)	Micro irrigation works	Works on individuals lands	Renovation of traditional water bodies	Land development	Any other activity approved by MRD	Total Works	Total Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bolangir	1769	10	856	43	0	125	250	1	77	3131	2042.35
Boudh	440	2	195	2	0	0	0	0	0	639	839.06
Deogarh	622	35	363	71	0	0	45	0	0	1136	1249.48
Dhenkanal	670	31	451	29	0	0	0	0	0	1181	1305.58
Gajapati	622	0	722	126	22	0	105	38	0	1635	2020.76
Ganjam	4762	17	2461	10	6	10	315	3	106	7690	6312.20
Jharsuguda	278	1	721	59	6	0	168	0	0	1233	1602.05
Kalahandi	2610	0	2183	88	8	0	280	0	0	5169	3890.40
Kandhamal	2061	20	1254	42	2	49	58	20	0	3506	3091.75
Kendujhar	965	2	406	0	0	0	27	0	79	1479	1965.48
Koraput	896	35	2100	14	0	110	6	101	0	3262	2732.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Malkangiri	132	26	3212	69	86	25	15	0	0	3565	3288.16
Mayurbhanj	1224	0	7449	21	121	0	462	0	0	9277	5818.66
Nabarangapur	1209	15	868	397	0	56	11	0	257	2763	1741.59
Nuapada	1241	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1241	2176.86
Rayagada	0	0	3136	0	0	0	0	0	0	3136	2847.73
Sambalpur	598	10	1381	9	1	0	99	7	0	2105	2157.49
Sonepur	723	7	315	153	0	0	2	0	6	1206	2331.36
Sundargarh	778	23	6288	11	9	29	43	0	52	7233	2912.05
Angul	494	3	17	0	2	54	1	0	2	573	1195.57
Baleshwar	674	12	1	0	1	0	202	0	177	1067	2069.64
Bargarh	456	454	150	0	0	0	98	0	268	1426	2014.25
Bhadrak	95	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	1	139	1112.92
Jajpur	435	3	54	1	4	0	8	1	6	512	1238.57
TOTAL :	23754	706	34626	1145	268	408	2195	171	1031	64304	57956.91

Statement-II

Works/Activities (Financial Year 2007-08)

Districts	Rural connectivity	Flood control and protection	Water conservation and water harvesting	Drought Proofing (Afforestation and Plantation)	Micro irrigation works	Works on individuals lands	Renovation of traditional water bodies	Land development	Any other activity approved by MRD	Total Works	Total Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bolangir	2367	18	1151	181	0	552	2525	3	200	5886	2466.42
Boudh	371	14	80	12	0	141	323	0	0	941	946.38
Deogarh	805	6	135	19	54	118	479	0	63	1679	936.94
Dhenkanal	1357	23	29	83	1	65	687	1	22	2268	1191.20
Gajapati	2484	51	283	70	38	0	402	2	456	3786	2211.04
Ganjam	3931	19	639	144	37	37	2836	4	219	7866	7420.35
Jharsuguda	437	3	233	78	1	2	249	4	67	1074	1145.27
Kalahandi	2578	2	697	95	5	0	1607	0	40	5024	2420.72
Kandhamal	1868	20	108	44	21	14	813	0	73	2961	2199.57
Kendujhar	1522	3	111	4	3	546	558	0	99	2846	2344.24
Koraput	1864	33	351	384	161	1074	355	0	2	4224	3028.46
Malkangiri	621	1	477	101	11	55	683	0	432	2381	1934.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mayurbhanj	4603	31	3318	67	137	1558	7945	16	89	17764	8327.59
Nabarangapur	1117	12	696	423	2	8	1355	0	304	3917	2506.25
Nuapada	1575	6	1993	14	0	182	620	5	0	4395	2333.43
Rayagada	2538	114	913	4	116	179	594	1	171	4630	3769.23
Sambalpur	969	8	238	1	4	413	579	0	25	2236	1968.99
Sonepur	795	6	93	301	1	0	431	1	13	1641	1761.12
Sundargarh	2211	5	2141	365	3	285	2424	6	25	7465	2182.39
Angul	516	2	7	35	13	628	496	2	30	1729	1234.96
Baleshwar	698	24	57	4	10	63	351	1	7	1215	1740.84
Bargarh	817	0	44	3	15	11	265	17	557	1729	1135.67
Bhadrak	931	12	894	1	30	0	258	6	0	2132	1817.65
Jajpur	2524	16	109	5	57	284	1005	35	23	4058	2125.70
Cuttack	225	1	61	21	8	31	234	2	31	614	403.07
Jagatsinghapur	11	0	47	0	4	0	84	0	19	165	166.39
Kendrapara	39	1	3	0	1	0	17	1	0	62	83.29
Khordha	34	0	3	0	0	21	126	0	1	185	88.91
Nayagarh	71	0	79	0	0	0	29	1	0	120	109.28
Puri	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	37	34.29
TOTAL :	39879	431	14920	2459	733	6266	27266	108	2968	95030	59933.81

Statement-III

Works/Activities (Financial Year 2009-10)

Districts	Rural connectivity	Flood control and protection	Water conservation and water harvesting	Drought Proofing (Afforestation and Plantation)	Micro irrigation works	Works on individuals lands	Renovation of traditional water bodies	Land development	Any other activity approved by MRD	Total Works	Total Expenditure (in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bolangir	3517	26	2845	317	0	1672	2016	5	541	10939	459.82
Boudh	503	47	266	35	0	942	554	0	0	2347	147.37
Deogarh	927	8	176	22	127	727	612	0	77	2676	52.86
Dhenkanal	1692	37	46	141	21	129	1050	1	28	3145	167.22
Gajapati	2709	34	590	124	64	1	649	7	647	4825	243.71
Ganjam	4906	21	1280	205	73	96	5231	10	338	12160	1704.38
Jharsuguda	581	3	538	126	2	3	421	6	79	1759	264.68
Kalahandi	3428	3	1567	437	8	1	4948	3	71	10466	147.77
Kandhamal	2547	27	666	53	51	192	2429	0	257	6222	199.82
Kendujhar	2201	5	297	13	13	2898	929	0	146	6502	347.86
Koraput	1315	33	1035	402	254	1263	601	1	4	4908	542.03
Malkangiri	514	10	490	72	11	55	713	8	487	2349	91.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mayurbhanj	4465	31	3869	78	150	2246	8165	16	93	19113	2325.27
Nabarangapur	1351	22	2884	560	12	13	2050	0	510	7402	974.24
Nuapada	2113	7	927	86	3	1002	830	30	93	5091	111.03
Rayagada	3800	199	1985	10	237	235	1577	1	247	8291	934.22
Sambalpur	1395	16	609	4	6	657	923	0	49	3659	401.47
Sonepur	1314	10	1578	3102	20	4	1176	10	44	7258	370.00
Sundargarh	2540	4	3199	599	8	337	2351	7	77	9122	146.21
Angul	716	6	26	180	40	2715	1144	8	48	4883	242.78
Baleshwar	1585	53	92	14	19	633	843	4	28	3271	228.87
Bargarh	1089	0	159	14	62	43	459	185	2086	4097	315.46
Bhadrak	1804	17	79	15	135	744	443	25	88	3350	382.91
Jajpur	2243	16	222	4	61	428	1165	40	36	4215	270.63
Cuttack	330	1	68	22	10	40	359	2	34	866	238.04
Jagatsinghapur	160	2	243	73	15	245	491	3	148	1380	167.63
Kendrapara	268	11	16	3	29	0	149	23	28	527	57.13
Khordha	301	1	37	272	17	926	477	11	10	2052	75.29
Nayagarh	177	0	44	1	2	0	114	1	9	348	72.55
Puri	46	0	13	2	0	0	672	1	8	742	31.41
TOTAL :	50537	650	25846	6986	1450	18236	43541	408	6311	153965	11714.33

Hundred days progress

3482. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the 100 Days Programme of his Ministry;
- (b) what other programmes will be taken up after 100 days period; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure full utilization of current year's Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Hon'ble President of India in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009 mentioned increasing transparency and public accountability of national Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) by enforcing social audit and ensuring grievance redressal by setting up district level ombudsman, as one of the measures for which the Government will initiate steps within the next 100 days.

(b) The President's Speech has not specifically mentioned programmes beyond 100 days for the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) The Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring of its programmes to achieve the programme objectives and to ensure full utilization of funds. The Monitoring tools are District-wise Data Management, Periodical Progress Reports/Returns, Area Officers Schemes, Utilisation Certificate/Audit Reports, review by Union Ministers, Performance Review Committee (PRC), National Level Monitors (NLM) and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (V&MCs) at State and District Level. The Ministry has adopted five pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) people's partnership, (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring of rural development programmes to ensure maximum utilization of current year's budget.

Payment of NREGS wages in naxal affected regions

3483. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of banks or post offices in several naxal-affected areas, people are unable to get their wages paid under NREGS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering any other alternative so that workers could get their pending wages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government is also considering to increase wages paid under NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) State Government of Chhattisgarh made a reference to the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry examined the matter and a temporary relaxation has been given for making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices in respect of Katakalyan, Kuakunda and Orcha blocks of districts of Dantewada and Bastar of Chhattisgarh keeping in view severe naxalite problem and outreach of Banks and Post Offices in this area.

(c) and (d) In case the State Governments face insurmountable difficulties in making wage payment to NREGA workers through Banks/Post offices and brings it to the notice of the Ministry, the Central Government may permit it to make wage payment in cash so that there is no hindrance in fulfillment of the objectives of the Act.

(e) The matter is under consideration of this Ministry.

Coverage of TSC in the country

3484. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages covered under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);
- (b) how many villages have earned Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation;
- (c) the roadmap for achievement of the dream of total sanitation in rural India by 2012; and
- (d) the achievements made as regards total sanitation in the country during 2008, the International Year of Sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) district is considered as a unit for the purpose of sanctioning projects. As present 593 districts have already been covered with projects under TSC. All the Gram Panchayats of the districts are supposed to have been covered under the project.

(b) Till the year 2008, 18019 Gram Panchayats have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar for being free of open defecation.

(c) Upscaling of the TSC has been taken up with the following initiatives to achieve total sanitation in rural India by 2012:—

- Launching of the incentive scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar to encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take up sanitation promotion to achieve open defecation free status.
- The unit cost structure of the construction of individual household latrines has been increased to Rs. 2500 (Rs. 3000 for hilly and difficult areas) from the earlier Rs. 1500.
- Community contributions for construction of school and Anganwadi toilets have been removed and Centre and State share is fixed at 70:30.

- The component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management was included in TSC projects in 2006 for providing upto 10% of the district's project cost under the scheme for this purpose.
- In order to promote sanitation among APL households who do not get incentives under TSC, a revolving fund of Rs. 50 lakh subject to a ceiling of 5% of total project cost to each district has been earmarked for giving loan to APL members of self-help groups/cooperative societies for construction of toilets.
- Taking up Information, Education and Communication campaign and capacity building programmes.

(d) The achievements under TSC from 1st January, 2008 to 31 December, 2008, *i.e.* International Year of Sanitation is as under:—

Construction of Individual Household Toilets	:	1,18,16,635
School Toilets	:	2,62,212
Sanitary complex	:	3,161
Balwadi Toilets	:	76,788

During 2008, the Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-III) was organized in New Delhi to develop a regional agenda on sanitation.

Modifying works under NREGA

3485. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the guidelines for selecting the projects for NREGA schemes do not provide suitable works for all sections of working people like women, young boys and girls possessing school education;

(b) whether the present projects do not suit persons of older groups also; and

(c) whether Government is going to formulate projects suiting agriculture, small industries, horticulture and the like?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment per household in a year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Adult members of a registered rural household may demand employment under the Act irrespective of their age and educational qualification.

(c) Works to be taken up under NREGA have been listed in para 1 of Schedule-I of the Act. Permissible works under NREGA are supportive of agriculture and horticulture.

Drinking water supply in Andhra Pradesh

3486. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is involving gram panchayats in providing safe water in the agency areas;

- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether there is any transparency in the schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total outcome of these schemes, State-wise, especially in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7883 piped water schemes have been completed in Andhra Pradesh and handed over to Gram Panchayats for operation and maintenance during the last three years. Of these, 3290 were handed over in 2006-07, 3205 in 2007-08 and 1388 in 2008-09.

(c) and (d) For greater transparency, Gram Panchayats are involved in every stage of the scheme such as pre-planning, planning and execution of the schemes.

(e) The State has a total of 47,839 piped water schemes as on 01.04.2009. 1113 such schemes in the East Godavari District and 2002 schemes in West Godavari District have been handed over to Gram Panchayats in the last three years.

Wages to women workers under NREGS

3487. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to pay equal wages to women for equal work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), across the country as a measure for empowering women;
- (b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Under NREGA, equal wages are payable to men and women workers. Para 34 of Schedule-II of the Act provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Roads under NREGS in SC/ST areas in Andhra Pradesh

3488. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to take up roads under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the SC/ST inhabited areas in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time set to complete these projects; and
- (d) if not, by when such proposals will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) NREGA applies to the rural areas of the country irrespective of their inhabitants. 200 districts of the country, including 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh (AP) were covered under NREGA in the first phase from 2.2.2006; 130 districts including 6 districts of AP were added in the second phase during 2007-08 and all the remaining districts which included 3 districts of AP were covered under the Act from 1.4.2008. Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access is a permissible activity under the Act. Total number of rural connectivity works taken up under NREGA in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Total rural connectivity works taken up in the country	Total rural connectivity works taken up in Andhra Pradesh
2006-07	180049	501
2007-08	308091	5914
2008-09	491044	19923

Incomplete works in a financial year spill over to the next financial year for providing employment to the household who demand for employment under NREGA.

Target for rural water supply

‡3489. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages deprived of drinking water facility in the country as on March, 2009;
- (b) whether Government plans to complete the target of providing drinking water/rural water supply to all villages by the year 2011;
- (c) whether any plan has been formulated in this regard; and
- (d) the number of villages where rural water supply programme will be implemented in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the expenditure to be incurred per year thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (c) Under Bharat Nirman, of which rural drinking water is one of the components and conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure, Government of India had set a target of coverage of 55,067 uncovered habitations and 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and addressing 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations.

The targets till 2011 have been fixed on the basis of progress reported by each State and are as follows:—

- (i) Against 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered during the Bharat Nirman period, 54,433 habitations have been covered by June, 2009. The remaining habitations are proposed to be covered by 2011.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) The target of 3,31,604 slipped-back habitations has been exceeded. The habitations slip back due to many reasons such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, etc. The figures for slipped back habitations are therefore dynamic. The increased focus on sustainability in the guidelines will minimise/and the phenomenon of slipping back of habitations.
- (iii) Of the 2,16,968 quality affected habitations, in case of 50,167 habitations potable water is being supplied through completed projects. The remaining habitations targeted under Bharat Nirman and subsequent new habitations are being tackled through projects either ongoing or approved and to be started shortly. An effort will be made to complete these projects by 2011.
- (d) The targets for 2009-10 for coverage of habitations have been fixed in consultation with the States and a State-wise Statement is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*). The targets for coverage are fixed annually depending on the performance of each State and available budgetary allocations. Hence targets for 2010-11 and 2011-12 have not been fixed now.

Statement

*Target for coverage of Habitations under Rural Water Supply
Programme during 2009-10*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Uncovered	Slipped-back	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		8500	8500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		2400	2400
3.	Assam		23000	23000
4.	Bihar		44015	44015
5.	Chhattisgarh		3500	3500
6.	Goa		0	0
7.	Gujarat		1396	1396
8.	Haryana		950	950
9.	Himachal Pradesh		5000	5000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		4700	4700
11.	Jharkhand		1552	1552
12.	Karnataka		13000	13000
13.	Kerala		395	395
14.	Madhya Pradesh		4500	4500

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra		8605	8605
16.	Manipur		730	730
17.	Meghalaya		500	500
18.	Mizoram		300	300
19.	Nagaland		200	200
20.	Orissa		0	0
21.	Punjab	296	1506	1802
22.	Rajasthan	406	10523	10929
23.	Sikkim		300	300
24.	Tamil Nadu		7000	7000
25.	Tripura		3132	3132
26.	Uttar Pradesh		2000	2000
27.	Uttarakhand	46	1164	1210
28.	West Bengal		9093	9093
29.	Andaman and Nicobar		42	42
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			0
31.	Daman and Diu			0
32.	Delhi			0
33.	Lakshadweep			0
34.	Puducherry			0
35.	Chandigarh			0
TOTAL :		748	158003	158751

Swajaldhara in Maharashtra

†3490. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra to the Central Government under 'Swajaldhara' scheme during the last three years and the demand of funds made; and

(b) the details of proposals approved by the Centre and the funds granted to Maharashtra?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) Only in the year 2002-03, project proposals were obtained from the nodal agencies of States/UTs and cleared by Government of India under Swajaldhara scheme. Balance proposals which had been received in the Government of India and could not be considered in the year 2002-03, were returned to respective State Governments for consideration on priority as per the Swajaldhara Guidelines issued in June, 2003 within the allocated amount communicated to the State for the year 2003-04. All projects during 2003-04 and subsequent years were approved by the respective District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM). As such, no application from district/State level, including Maharashtra has been submitted to the Central Government. No fund has also been released to Maharashtra for new proposals in the last three years.

Monitoring of works under PMGSY

3491. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entrusted any department or agency to monitor the quality of construction work and materials used on roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in North Eastern States including Backward Districts as well as criteria fixed in this regard with specific target for completion of work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has any plan of repairing roads within 2-3 years of its completion constructed under PMGSY and damaged by floods and heavy traffic movement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that projects executed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) conform to the prescribed quality standards programme guidelines envisage three tier quality monitoring mechanism. The first two tiers of the Quality Control Structure are overseen by the State Quality Coordinators, appointed by the State Governments. The first tier of quality monitoring mechanism is in-house quality control at the level of the executing agencies. Field laboratories are established by the Contractors and mandatory tests on the quality of material and workmanship are conducted under the supervision of Programme Implementation Units (PIUs). Quality Control Handbooks have been prescribed and test records are maintained by the PIUs in the prescribed Quality Control registers. The second tier provides for quality monitoring by the State Governments through independent State Quality Monitors (SQMs). SQMs are deployed for ensuring that quality related issues are properly being attended to by the first tier. The Third tier of this arrangement consists of quality monitoring of works through random inspections by independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs).

As per PMGSY Programme Guidelines, PMGSY projects are to be completed within a period of 9 working months from the date of issue of the work order. In case the period for execution is likely to be adversely affected by monsoon or other seasonal factors, the time period for execution may be extended but shall not exceed 12 calendar months. In respect of Hill States where the work is executed in two stages, the time limit upto 18 calendar months has been permitted for completion of Stage-I works and 9 to 12 months for Stage-II works. Time period of 18-24 months has been permitted for completion of cross drainage works exceeding 25 metre length, depending on site conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As per PMGSY Programme guidelines, PMGSY projects are required to be covered by 5 year maintenance contracts, to be entered into along with the construction contract, with the same contractor in accordance with Standard Bidding Document for regular routine maintenance. Funds to service these contracts are to be budgeted and to be provided by the State Government. Special repairs necessitated on account of flood damages are, however, required to be carried out by the State Government with their own funds and the assistance that may be available under calamity relief and reconstruction.

Rural Employment Schemes in the country

3492. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural employment schemes approved and being operated by the Central Government; and

(b) the details of targets and achievements pertaining to these schemes during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing two major rural employment schemes, namely, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) for generating wage employment and Swarnajyanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for generating self employment.

(b) NREGA provides a legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Number of days of employment availed by a household depends on the number of days of employment demanded by the household. The SGSY has been conceived as a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment like organization of rural poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, training, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure development, financial assistance through bank credit and subsidy, marketing support, etc.. NREGA is demand based and has no targets. State-wise achievements under NREGA during the last three years are given in Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise targets and achievements under SGSY during the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Achievements under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

(In lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		No. of house-holds provided employment	Person-days of employment generated	No. of house-holds provided employment	Person-days of employment generated	No. of house-holds provided employment	Person-days of employment generated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.61	678.77	48.04	2010.28	57.00	2735.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.17	4.53	0.04	2.79	0.59	25.71
3.	Assam	7.92	572.92	14.02	487.61	18.77	751.07
4.	Bihar	16.89	596.87	38.59	843.03	38.22	991.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	12.57	700.21	22.85	1316.11	22.70	1243.18
6.	Gujarat	2.26	100.48	2.91	90.06	8.51	213.07
7.	Haryana	0.51	24.12	0.71	35.76	1.63	69.11
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.64	29.90	2.71	97.53	4.46	205.28
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.21	32.30	1.17	36.80	1.99	78.80
10.	Jharkhand	13.94	520.47	16.80	747.54	15.76	749.97
11.	Karnataka	5.45	222.01	5.50	197.78	8.96	287.64
12.	Kerala	0.99	20.48	1.85	60.75	6.92	153.75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	28.66	1971.77	43.47	2753.01	52.08	2946.97
14.	Maharashtra	3.53	159.28	4.75	184.86	9.06	419.85
15.	Manipur	0.19	18.57	1.13	48.32	3.81	285.62
16.	Meghalaya	0.97	24.22	1.06	41.33	2.24	86.31
17.	Mizoram	0.51	7.85	0.89	31.53	1.72	125.82
18.	Nagaland	0.28	13.08	1.15	24.31	2.97	202.70
19.	Orissa	13.94	799.34	10.97	405.23	11.05	403.75
20.	Punjab	0.32	15.57	0.50	19.15	1.47	39.89
21.	Rajasthan	11.75	998.87	21.70	1678.38	63.73	4829.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Sikkim	0.04	2.42	0.20	8.60	0.52	26.34
23.	Tamil Nadu	6.83	182.79	12.35	645.25	32.89	1203.59
24.	Tripura	0.74	50.13	4.24	181.05	5.49	351.12
25.	Uttar Pradesh	25.73	822.91	40.96	1363.05	43.36	2278.39
26.	Uttaranchal	1.34	40.60	1.89	80.34	2.99	104.33
27.	West Bengal	30.84	440.08	38.43	968.77	30.26	786.61
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	0.06	1.00
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.48
30.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	0.03	1.82
31.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	0.12	1.64
TOTAL :		209.83	9050.54	338.88	14359.22	449.38	21600.57

Statement-II

Targets and achievements under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Total No. of Swarozgaris assisted		Total No. of Swarozgaris assisted		Total No. of Swarozgaris assisted	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57921	638843	71390	263615	93601	188837
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3023	1878	3962	1599	4883	774
3.	Assam	78544	67587	102960	100261	126875	142728
4.	Bihar	137805	109350	169832	100159	222669	127226
5.	Chhattisgarh	30592	33669	37715	44914	49449	46542
6.	Goa	546	711	596	735	1102	592
7.	Gujarat	21803	27237	26873	45189	35233	41728
8.	Haryana	12827	14158	15810	19891	20728	20639
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5402	5905	6658	7764	8729	11863
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6686	8219	8240	6818	10804	6990

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	51939	69077	64035	77168	83957	83103
12.	Karnataka	43739	46407	53910	95409	70682	99950
13.	Kerala	19625	22401	24189	39683	31715	43784
14.	Madhya Pradesh	65584	59781	80826	73091	105972	99200
15.	Maharashtra	86461	84707	106567	119344	139730	154647
16.	Manipur	5266	3560	6902	3144	8509	3640
17.	Meghalaya	5899	3328	7733	3419	9529	2195
18.	Mizoram	1365	11856	1789	5830	2205	8748
19.	Nagaland	4047	3273	5305	2259	6537	3205
20.	Orissa	66250	68687	81656	87171	107051	126206
21.	Punjab	6234	10532	7683	15402	10074	13109
22.	Rajasthan	33212	38445	40936	50351	53671	58495
23.	Sikkim	1511	1397	1981	1718	2441	1689
24.	Tamil Nadu	51215	53509	63125	152907	82764	113097
25.	Tripura	9507	9551	12463	13672	15357	23847
26.	Uttar Pradesh	198389	257577	244500	292105	320567	319568
27.	Uttaranchal	10426	10564	12873	13482	16877	18044
28.	West Bengal	73624	28251	90744	60736	118976	99905
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	205	108	149	195	165	243
30.	Daman and Diu	205	0	149	0	165	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	205	23	149	0	165	24
32.	Lakshadweep	205	42	149	177	165	0
33.	Pondicherry	205	1293	894	1087	1323	1257
TOTAL :		1090468	1691926	1352745	1699295	1762670	1861875

Pending funds for IWDP and DPAP

†3493. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Watershed Development Project of Chhattisgarh instalments of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Integrated Watersheds Development Programme (IWDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) are pending; and

(b) if so, the status of their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI): (a) and (b) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) are being implemented in Chhattisgarh on watershed basis in accordance with the Watershed Guidelines. Under these programmes, funds are released to ZPs/DRDAs in 5 to 7 installments over the project period of five years. The first installment is *suo-moto* release with the sanction of new project. The programmes being demand driven, subsequent installments are released, subject to availability of budget allocation, on receipt of specific proposal from the State Government/Z.Ps/DRDAs along with requisite supporting documents/information such as Utilisation Certificate, Audited Statement of Accounts, Quarterly physical and financial progress reports, etc.

Under IWDP, no proposal for demand of funds for any project is pending in the Department of Land Resources. Under DPAP, six proposals involving an amount of Rs. 4.92 crores are under process for release of funds. Because of deficiencies, nine proposals involving an amount of Rs. 5.58 crores have been referred back to the State Government and the concerned Zilla Panchayats (ZPs)/DRDAs for clarification/compliance.

Lands for Bhoodan Dalit participants

3494. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give lands to the Dalits who participated in Bhoodan Movement in some States especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not giving the lands to Dalits who participated in Bhoodan Movement especially in agency areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of State list (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of land reforms programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. The State Government have, *inter-alia*, been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government wasteland and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor.

As per the information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of the land ceiling laws, as on 31.12.2008, an area of 69.99 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.44 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.46 lakh acres has been distributed to 56.37 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, as on 31.12.2008, 16.67 lakh acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

'Distribution of wasteland to the landless' has been included in the restructured Twenty Point Programme, 2006 (TPP-2006) of the Government of India which became operational on 1.4.2007. As per information received from the States/UTs, 3.04 lakh hectares of wasteland was distributed during 2007-08 and 1.03 lakh hectares during April, 2008 to January, 2009.

As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has no proposal at present to give lands to the Dalits who participated in Bhoodan Movement. However, 0.54 lakh acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed to 25335 Scheduled Castes and 0.34 lakh acres to 12986 Scheduled Tribes by the Andhra Pradesh Bhoodan Yojana Board. In addition, the State Government has assigned 48.50 lakh acres Government lands to 33.90 lakhs landless poor including Dalits.

Setting up of Haats in Andhra Pradesh

3495. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for setting up Haats in rural areas under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) the total number of village Haats set up in Andhra Pradesh till date under SGSY and the people benefited by these Haats district-wise; and

(c) the total number of new Haats proposed to be opened in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Ministry of Rural Development has recently issued Guidelines for setting up of Haats are various levels with the objective to create better marketing facilities for the rural poor artisans for selling their products throughout the year. The basic structure/facilities which may be provided at the village haats are open raised platforms/covered platforms, toilets (separate facilities for women and men), during water facility, drains, garbage pits/corner, office blocks, warehouse for storage (small), boundary wall/fence, parking space, etc. The Haats at the District level and in the State capital will have stalls, food courts, ATM centre and dormitory for swarozgaris. 70% of space in these Haats will be allotted to SGSY beneficiaries and 30% of space will be allowed to be given to others who will pay suitable charges/fees. As per the Guidelines, Ministry of Rural Development will provide funds upto Rs. 15 lakhs for creation of Village Haats, upto Rs. 1.5 crores for a district level Haat and upto Rs. 3.00 crores for

a Haat at the State capital. These funds are shared between Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 while in case of Centre and North Eastern States, the funds are shared in the ratio of 90:10.

(b) During the financial year 2008-09, Ministry of Rural Development released funds amounting to Rs. 371.25 lakhs to all 22 DRDAs of Andhra Pradesh for creation of 66 village haats (3 village haats per DRDA) on pilot basis. These village Haats are yet to be set up which are expected to promote marketing of products at village level and will benefit the rural artisans.

(c) No proposal for creation of new Haats has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh this year.

Road connectivity under Bharat Nirman Yojana

3496. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Bharat Nirman Yojana for 2005-2009, the target set for providing road connectivity to 66,900 eligible habitations was later downsized to 59,216 habitations;

(b) whether even this downsized target was not achieved with only 35 per cent of the habitations given road connectivity;

(c) whether due to funds scarcity, Government proposes to adopt private-public partnership for building rural roads;

(d) whether many sugar mills have come up with offers of upgrading rural roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As per data provided by the State Governments, initially 66,802 habitations were identified for providing all weather road connectivity under the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman during 2005-2009. After the initial targets of 66,802 habitations were intimated to the States, ground verification was carried out by the State Governments in order to assess the actual number of habitations eligible for coverage under Bharat Nirman. Based on the ground verification by the State Governments, 54,648 habitations have been identified for provision of road connectivity under Bharat Nirman.

(b) Upto March, 2009, 31924 habitations have been provided road connectivity under Bharat Nirman. As such, 58 percent of eligible habitations have been given road connectivity under Bharat Nirman by March, 2009.

(c) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry to adopt private-public partnership for building rural roads under Bharat Nirman.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of the reply given to (d) above.

Target for drinking water facilities

3497. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL

SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has fixed any target to provide drinking water facilities to all the habitations in rural areas of the country by year 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has reviewed/proposes to review the progress made by the States under Drinking Water Schemes particularly in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details of amount allocated and utilized under various rural drinking water supply schemes during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (c) Under Bharat Nirman, of which rural drinking water is one of the components and conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure, Government of India had set a target of coverage of 55,067 uncovered habitations and 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and addressing 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations. The progress made by States including Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Punjab is reviewed at regular intervals, through written reports, meetings and field visits. The targets till 2011 have been fixed on the basis of such reviews and are as follows:—

- (i) Against 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered during the Bharat Nirman period, 54,433 habitations have been covered by June, 2009. The remaining habitations are proposed to be covered by 2011.
- (ii) The target of 3,31,604 slipped-back habitations has been exceeded. The habitations slip back due to many reasons such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, etc. The figures for slipped back habitations are therefore dynamic. The increased focus on sustainability in the guidelines will minimise/end the phenomenon of slipping back of habitations.
- (iii) Of the 2,16,968 quality affected habitations, in case of 50,167 habitations potable water is being supplied through completed projects. The remaining habitations targeted under Bharat Nirman and subsequent new habitations are being tackled through projects either ongoing or approved and to be started shortly. An effort will be made to complete these projects by 2011.

(d) A statement showing State-wise details of amount allocated and utilized under Accelerated Rural Work Supply Programme (ARWSP), renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) from 01.04.2009 for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Release and Utilisation under ARWSP during last three years

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20084.08	27649.64	29530.00	38840.72	39453.00	39805.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10299.00	10333.20	11241.00	12130.67	14612.00	6341.48
3.	Assam	17369.00	18104.16	18959.00	11726.22	24644.00	26539.80
4.	Bihar	18571.00	13681.84	27937.00	16580.54	42538.00	16474.16
5.	Chhattisgarh	6549.00	7237.00	9595.00	10415.54	13042.00	10537.33
6.	Goa	253.00	147.88	331.00	230.99	398.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	13161.56	12166.76	20589.00	21911.79	3144.00	14526.00
8.	Haryana	6045.63	6341.02	9341.00	10953.87	11729.00	11729.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9706.86	15632.68	11746.00	13245.19	14151.00	13863.47
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	26324.79	27092.31	32992.00	36140.83	39786.00	22885.99
11.	Jharkhand	7261.00	4115.15	11388.00	11751.10	16067.00	8033.00
12.	Karnataka	19502.40	24590.65	27851.00	28656.79	47719.00	46081.33
13.	Kerala	6216.00	7471.95	8293.00	8346.25	1033.00	9713.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18797.00	16798.24	25162.00	26755.60	37047.00	27856.08
15.	Maharashtra	36152.00	34870.89	40440.00	37838.33	57257.00	60396.20
16.	Manipur	3379.00	3234.95	3859.00	3470.73	5016.00	3725.67
17.	Meghalaya	4073.00	4569.51	4446.00	5661.16	5779.00	7451.25
18.	Mizoram	2920.00	4381.79	3188.00	3015.73	4144.00	4615.86
19.	Nagaland	2998.00	2857.52	3272.00	2738.62	4253.00	3919.29
20.	Orissa	10332.00	9954.61	16885.00	23360.27	29868.00	16813.05
21.	Punjab	4098.00	4111.48	5291.00	4027.59	8656.00	6672.80
22.	Rajasthan	41489.68	51477.91	60672.00	61966.80	97013.00	97182.66
23.	Sikkim	1229.00	1596.40	1342.00	1536.20	1745.00	851.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	12057.00	16111.32	19090.00	19090.00	24182.00	14546.85
25.	Tripura	3613.00	3681.54	3943.00	5430.45	5125.00	5484.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Uttar Pradesh	27990.00	33073.82	40151.00	42113.56	53974.00	61344.30
27.	Uttaranchal	7523.00	5916.69	8930.00	11414.46	10758.00	5486.68
28.	West Bengal	15806.00	14454.73	19137.00	23054.59	38939.00	37162.25
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.73	0.00	0.00	472.18	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.92	0.00	37.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	13.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	31.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Lakshadweep	3.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Pondicherry	38.72	0.00	31.25	0.00	0.00	17.00
35.	Chandigarh	5.46	0.00				
TOTAL :		353900.00	381655.64	475701.00	492876.77	689672.00	581056.14

Brahmaputra Waterways

3498. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Brahmaputra Waterways which has been declared as National Waterways;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make this project at par with International Standard; and

(c) the status of 'Dhulori' port as on March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Stretch of River Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km) was declared as a National Waterway in 1988. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is developing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure namely navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids for day/night navigation on this waterway. Navigational channel with least available depth of 2.0 m from Dhubri to Dibrugarh (798 km) and 1.5 m for Dibrugarh to Sadiya (123 km) is being maintained for about 330 days in a year; low level RCC jetty has been constructed at Pandu, a high level jetty is under construction. Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tejpur, Silghat, Jamuguri, Neamati and Dibrugarh; one container crane, 5 floating cranes and 2 shore cranes have been provided, day navigation marks are maintained in the entire waterway and 24 hours navigational aids have also been provided between Dhubri and Neamati. (629 km). Through

routes under Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India and Bangladesh this National Waterway is connected with Haldia and Kolkata ports. The infrastructure is up-graded from time to time based on demand.

(c) There is no port or place with the name of Dhulori of this National Waterway. However, Dhubri town in Assam is situated on this waterway and IWAI has provided one floating pontoon with crane for mechanical handling of cargo at Dhubri. The floating pontoon with bamboo approach jetty is operational at Dhubri also.

Modernization of major ports in Tamil Nadu

3499. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to modernize the major ports in Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated therefor, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per ongoing National Maritime Development Programme, the Government has planned to modernize all the major ports of the country including the major ports located in Tamil Nadu. This programme, *inter-alia*, includes deepening of channels, construction/upgradation of new berths/terminals through public private participation, mechanization of cargo handling facilities including replacement of old equipments, rail road connectivity.

During Eleventh Five Year Plan, the funds allocated to Chennai, Tuticorin and Ennore Ports are Rs. 1254.79 crores, Rs. 1448.20 crores and Rs. 1277.74 crores respectively.

Illegal import of banned materials

3500. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that banned materials are illegally imported into our country;
- (b) if so, the details of the banned materials imported illegally including arms, rocket shells, medicines, bombs and electronic waste at various ports during each of the last three years and the current year, port-wise;
- (c) the action taken to check such violations;
- (d) whether Government proposes to install scanners at all ports to ensure detection of these items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Port-wise details of the banned materials imported illegally at various ports during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:—

Years	Details of all Major Ports
2009-10 (upto June)	Nil
2008-09	Nil
2007-08	Nil
2006-07	At Cochin Port Trust in Kerala an imported consignment had been declared to contain 810 cartons of chappals and furniture in one 40 feet containers seized by the customs. Out of these 810 cartons, 37 cartons were found to contain arms (49 air-pistol and 37 air-guns). The consignment was seized on 9.1.2007 and is presently lying at the customs warehouse.

(c) Not applicable as the provisions related to illegal imports are dealt by Customs Department under Import Export Policy.

(d) and (e) Two scanners (one Stationary and one mobile) for scanning of containers for arms and ammunition have been installed at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and are operational since June, 2005. Two scanners in each of Mumbai, Chennai, Tuticorin and Kandla Ports are proposed to be installed by Department of Revenue.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MOUs (2009-10) between the Government of India and various companies

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Shipping, Road, Transport and Highways) and the Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 597/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Shipping) and the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL) for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 598/15/09]

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) IN THE CHAIR]

Outcome Budget (2009-10) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget for the year 2009-10 in respect of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 665/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) Notification S.O. 593 (E), dated the 2nd March, 2009, constituting a India Design Council under the National Design Policy, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 518/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development

II. Report and Accounts (2002-03/2003-04/2004-05/2005-06/2006-2007/2007-08) of various Institutes/Universities/Institutions and other educational bodies and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I lay on the Table:

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification No.C-187/A-3/VC-08, dated the 9th February, 2008, publishing the First Ordinance of the University of Allahabad, under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the University of Allahabad Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 729/15/09]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification G.S.R. 280(E), dated the 23rd April, 2009, publishing the First Statutes for all National Institutes of Technology, under sub-section (1) of Section 26 of the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 640/15/09]

- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification S.O. 2666 (E), dated the 17th November, 2008, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R 488 (E), dated the 27th June, 2008, under sub-section (3) of Section 34 of the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 641/15/09]

- (iv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification S.O. 1604 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, publishing the Central Universities (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2009, under sub-section 2 of Section 42 of the Central Universities Act, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 638/15/09]

- II. (i) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (4) of Section 22 of the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007:-

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 681/15/09]

- (ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 and sub-section (4) of Section 32 of the Nagaland University Act, 1989:-

(a) Thirteenth Annual Report of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 607/15/09]

(c) Annual Accounts of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2004-05 and the Audit Report thereon.

(d) Annual Accounts of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2005-06 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 607/15/09]

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (i) and (ii) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 605/15/09]

- (iii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 33 of the Rajiv Gandhi University Act, 2006:-

(a) Annual Report of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 634/15/09]

- (iv) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 33 of the Tripura University Act, 2006:-
- (a) Annual Report of the Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, Tripura, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 635/15/09]

- (v) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 17 of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004:-
- (a) Annual Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Memorandum of Action taken on the recommendations of the above Commission in its Annual Report for the year 2007-08.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 603/15/09]

- (vi) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 18 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956:-
- (a) Annual Report of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Commission.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 602/15/09]

(vii) (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) Annual Report and Accounts of the Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed. CIL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 637/15/09]

(viii) (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts, under sub-section (4) of Section 29 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985.

(2) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 632/15/09]

(ix) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

(a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 606/15/09]

(x) (a) Annual Report of the Indian School of Mines University (ISMU), Dhanbad, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Indian School of Mines University (ISMU), Dhanbad, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 611/15/09]

(xi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Human Resource Development Department, Gangtok, Sikkim, in respect of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2007-08 together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 610/15/09]

- (xii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education, Jaipur, for the year 2005-06, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (c) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports.
- (d) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 608/15/09]

- (xiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, in respect of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), for the year 2002-03, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 628/15/09]

- (xiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2002-03, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 620/15/09]

- (xv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, in respect of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), for the year 2003-04, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 615/15/09]

- (xvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2003-04, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 621/15/09]

- (xvii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, in respect of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), for the year 2004-05, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 616/15/09]

- (xviii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2004-05, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 622/15/09]

- (xix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2005-06, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 623/15/09]

- (xx) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 624/15/09]

- (xxi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad), Hyderabad, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 625/15/09]

- (xxii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 631/15/09]

- (xxiii) Statement giving the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Manipur University, for the year 2007-08, within the stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 730/15/09]

- (xxiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar Mahila Samakhya Society, Patna, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 626/15/09]

- (xxv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 613/15/09]

- (xxvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 614/15/09]

- (xxvii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society, Secunderabad, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 617/15/09]

- (xxviii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society, Ranchi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 618/15/09]

- (xxix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Society, Ranchi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 619/15/09]

- (xxx) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Assam Mahila Samata Society, Guwahati, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 627/15/09]

- (xxxi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Uttarakhand Mahila Samakhya Society, Dehradun, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 612/15/09]

- (xxxii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Vidyapeetha.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 601/15/09]

- (xxxiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Patna, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 630/15/09]

- (xxxiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 629/15/09]

- (xxxv) (a) Annual Accounts of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.

- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 633/15/09]

- (xxxvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 636/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance.

II. Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I lay on the Table:-

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) Notification G.S.R 510 (E), dated the 8th July, 2009, publishing the Redressal of Public Grievances (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 591/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (5) of Section 19 and sub-section (5) of Section 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981:-

- (a) Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Report on the Performance of the Export-Import Bank of India for the period 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 683/15/09]

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; please. Order, please. Order, please. Order. Order. Brindaji, please order. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, again.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 517 (E), dated the 13th July, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. 308 (E), dated the 24th May, 2006, together with Explanatory Memorandum on the Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 592/15/09]

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No; this is not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Mr. Rajeev Shukla, Mr. Praful Patel, please. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; don't talk there. Yes, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh.

**MoUs (2009-10) between the Government of India and
various companies**

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers:-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 669/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the Triveni Structural Limited (TSL), for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 671/15/09]

**STATEMENT ON QUARTERLY REVIEW UNDER FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT ACT**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Quarterly review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget during the third Quarter of the financial year 2008-09, as required under Section 7 (1) of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Order, please. There is a lot of noise. Yes, now, Report of the Committee on Petitions.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to present the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Report (in English and Hindi) on Action taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Thirtieth Report on the petition praying for financial assistance to veteran and renowned artists living in indigent condition.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-fifth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee of Privileges on the alleged manhandling and ill treatment meted out to Dr. Ejaz Ali, Member, Rajya Sabha by the Delhi Police personnel.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to University and Higher Education.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Calling Attention. Shri D. Raja.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The situation arising out of the large scale loss of jobs due to retrenchment and closure of industries including industries in the IT Sector as a result of global economic slowdown and recession and Government's reaction thereto

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the situation arising out of the large scale loss of jobs due to retrenchment and closure of industries including industries in the IT Sector as a result of global economic slowdown and recession and Government's reaction thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we have not received the copy of the statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is being circulated.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Sir, the impact of global slowdown on the Indian economy has been felt since the middle of 2008. Keeping in view the importance and multi-faceted nature of the challenge, the Ministry of Labour and Employment convened the 42nd Session of Indian Labour Conference, which epitomizes the process of tripartite consultation, in February, 2009. An agenda Item on 'Global Financial Crisis — its effect viz., large-scale downsizing, lay-offs, wage cut and job losses, etc.' was discussed by the Conference in this sitting. Measures suggested by the Conference to fight global slowdown include urgent steps to stimulate domestic demand, greater investment in infrastructure and housing, and strict implementation of labour laws.

To counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown on the Indian economy, Government of India provided three focussed fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief and increased expenditure on public projects while the RBI took a number of monetary-easing and liquidity enhancing steps in order to boost domestic demand. These measures have helped in keeping the Indian economy on growth trajectory, though at a moderate level when compared with the performance of the recent past.

As is evident from the Budget for the year 2009-10 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, the Government has continued with the policies aimed at boosting demand, generating employment and creating infrastructure in rural and urban areas through measures such as enhancing the exemption limit in personal income tax, eliminating the surcharge on personal income tax, raising the deduction limit under section 80-DD in respect of maintenance of a dependent who is a person with severe disability, and increased public expenditure, especially on social sector programmes. These measures are also likely to act as a safety net for the vulnerable sections of society including the workers who may have lost their jobs as a result of economic slowdown.

To boost construction activity, which generates substantial employment in the economy, interest rate subsidy has been offered for housing loan borrowers from the lower and middle-income groups. In addition, individual Ministries and Departments have also taken steps to counter the adverse effects of global slowdown on the Indian economy. These include interest subvention of two per cent to export intensive sectors, that is, textiles (including handlooms), handicrafts, leather, gems and jewellery, marine products and SMEs; additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore for the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF); and putting in place a high level monitoring mechanism so that immediate further corrective measures can be taken as may be required.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, puts restriction on lay-offs and retrenchment and provides protection to the workmen in case of lay-off, retrenchment and closure of establishments. Moreover, Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana through the ESI Corporation which provides unemployment allowance for up to one year to those insured employees who have put in five years of service and have been rendered jobless due to retrenchment, closure of factories or permanent disability due to non-employment injury.

Our Ministry is closely monitoring the situation. The State Governments have also been advised to make their industrial conciliation machinery more effective and sensitive to ensure industrial peace and implement labour laws in an appropriate manner so that the interest of the workmen is protected.

I share the concerns of the Hon. Members on the matter and assure the House that our Government is taking all possible steps to successfully address this challenge. However, I

welcome the suggestions of the Hon. Members to successfully handle the situation which has arisen due to the current global economic slowdown.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, at the outset, I am sorry to state that the Government is under-estimating the grave situation that has emerged due to the global melt down or due to the recession. I do not think that the response by the Government is adequate to meet the challenges of the situation. The Government need not be so pessimistic and take it as an opportunity to take certain drastic measures. Firstly, I must point out that the neo-liberal economic paradigm of development has proved to be disastrous, and in the Indian context it is all the more necessary that Government reviews its policies and takes mid-course corrections of these economic policies which are proved to be really disastrous, particularly for the working people and toiling people. The situation is very challenging. India's most important challenge lies in the area of job creation, particularly for the young population that is at the emergence of growth. The World Bank estimates that every one per cent decline in the growth rate in the developing countries traps an additional 20 million people in poverty. India would need to respond to this slowdown by creating jobs in urban and rural spaces, and by providing vocational training and skill-development programmes for the unemployed rural and urban youth. Sir, our hon. Minister must be aware that there is a survey conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment which states that in the last quarter of 2008, five lakh workers lost their jobs. The survey was based on a fairly large sample size across sectors such as textiles, automobiles, gems and jewellery, metals, mining, construction, transport, BPO and Information Technology sectors. Employment in these sectors went down from 16.2 million during September 2008 to 15.7 million during December 2008. Further in the manufacturing contract category of workers, employment declined in all the sectors. It is in your own Ministry's survey. Having said this, Sir, I think that Government's response is not adequate. According to the other surveys, one million jobs were lost in 2008. In almost all sectors, hiring has been slowed down by 30 per cent to 50 per cent in the worst-affected sectors. Seven lakh jobs have been lost in textiles and Government sector alone. Fifty one per cent of the jobs were shelved in the automobiles sector. Lay-offs have become the order of the day. In real estate sector, I must point out, where billionaires were made out of millionaires in the last five years, 78 per cent of the planned hiring was affected. Lay-off is a daily routine in the hospitality industry. Our Minister is also sitting here. Due to financial melt down, severe joblessness has been emerged. Fifty per cent of the expected jobs were slashed. In retail sector, with a boom at one point of time, \$ 150 billion got nipped in the bud.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

IT and software is one of the sectors hard hit because India is one of the major outsourcing destinations of the West. Sixty per cent of the business is dependent on the United States of America and the European Union. Here, it is very much needed to take note of what President Obama has said. He has said that he would provide jobs in Buffalo, not Bangalore. It is a very

important statement made by the American President. Export target of \$ 60 billion was eluding them. More lay-offs are expected. There is also joblessness in the engineering and small-scale industries and 51 per cent of the jobs have taken a hit already. I am touching this issue. Even the Secretary of Commerce Ministry admitted that one million jobs have been lost since April, 2009. So, having given all these facts, now, I come to the Government's response. Our Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in the last Indian Labour Conference in February, 2009, put forward a proposal of reduced wages to protect the jobs. That was the suggestion made by the Finance Minister. Our Government sees the crisis exclusively of private corporate sector liquidity and profitability. Therefore, range of steps - regulation in FDI and FII, tax concessions, export subsidies, forcing public sector banks to prop up share prices by purchasing, boosting demand for real estate by forcing public sector banks to make loans cheap, reducing price of aviation turbine fuel, etc. - have been announced. Here also, the Government claims that it has made three financial stimulus packages. But, how were these stimulus packages used in the interest of working people? I will come to this a little later.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No little later because there are eleven other speakers also.

SHRI D. RAJA: My pointed query is that several short-term and long-term remedial measures were recommended by the Indian Labour Conference held in February, 2009. But, none of them has been implemented. Recently, a tripartite Expert Group, facilitated by ILO, Delhi, also gave a comprehensive report on three specifically affected sectors - construction, textiles, and gems and jewellery - besides general recommendations providing for short-term and long-term measures and these are yet to see the light of the day. Now, Sir, I would come to some immediate remedies to face the situation. I think, there should be no bail-out rescue programme to the employers or corporates without ensuring that there will be no retrenchment and no wage cut of the workers. (*Time-bell rings*) Secondly, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act should be universalised and urban employment guarantee Act should be enacted and provision should be made for providing for 180 days of employment. The Government can consider all these things. Sir, increasing the scope of PDS without the restriction or coverage based on Poverty Line. All stimulus packages need to focus on employment retention and creation of employment opportunities. Stimulus packages should be sector specific, area specific. It is no use announcing general stimulus packages. You must be very specific. Extending benefits to vulnerable workers, informal sector workers is critical. Immediate relief packages must be given to the affected groups. Extend social insurance protection to all affected workers whether they are officially Below Poverty Line or above the poverty line. (*Time-bell rings*) I am completing, Sir. Recognise workforce engaged in ICDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, ASHA, girl teachers, Shiksha Mitra and so on and bring them under the statutory minimum wage and social security.

Sir, you have to immediately strengthen the National Policy on skill development. Sir, you will have to reassess and make effective the Migrant Workers Act. You will also have to revise minimum wage rate for both the urban and agricultural workers and ensure its strict implementation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please conclude. Already, you have taken enough time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I am completing. It is my last sentence. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resolve the issue of non-registration of workers, which is one of the major constraints...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All that can be made available to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, it is my last sentence. Resolve the issue of non-registration of workers which is one of the major constraints in the implementation of welfare schemes.

Sir, I understand that in totality, whatever the Government is doing is not adequate to face the challenges of the situation. As far as macro level issues are concerned, I appeal to the Government to review the policies pursued by the Government and make suitable amendments. Sir, the neo-liberal paradigm has proved to be disastrous. On other micro-level issues, I have suggested many things. It is up to the Government. The Government should not be pessimistic. It should have confidence in the workforce, the working people of the country. They are the builders of our economy; they are the creators of wealth of our economy. So, please safeguard the interests of the workers. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Mohammed Amin. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, Tapan's name is there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Mr. Tapan's name is there. But it is not party-wise. Now, Shri R.C. Singh. I would like to again remind the hon. Members that it is 'Calling Attention'. So, please seek clarifications only, no speeches. ...*(Interruptions)*... क्लैरिफिकेशन्स चेयर ही रेग्युलेट करती है। बोलने की जरूरत नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, बिना भूमिका बनाए हिंदुस्तान में कोई क्लैरिफिकेशन हो ही नहीं सकता है।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं, अभी भूमिका के लिए समय नहीं है। ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to stop at one p.m.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the trade union leaders are there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Here, there is no distinction like this. All are Members of this House. There is no distinction between Members and trade union leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, they are fighting for the causes. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are working class representatives. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... आर.सी. सिंह जी, अपना क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए। Please. Please.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, मैं बहुत शॉर्ट में ही जानना चाहूंगा। सरकार ने भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर वैश्विक मंदी के नकारात्मक प्रभाव को दूर करने के लिए तीन stimulus packages दिए थे, जिनमें कुछ रिलीफ दी गई थी और वह रिलीफ प्राइवेट सेक्टर और कॉरपोरेट हाउसेज़ को दी गई। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह रिलीफ देने के बाद कितने जॉब create हुए हैं, इसका कोई assessment सरकार के पास है?

दूसरी बात मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि कंस्ट्रक्शन एरिया में जहां बड़ी मात्रा में रोज़गार का सृजन हो सकता है, लेबर को काम मिल सकता है, सरकार ने lower और middle income groups के लिए हाउसिंग लोन देने की बात कही थी, interest rate पर सबसिडी देने की बात कही थी। इस rebate से उन labourers को कैसे मदद मिल सकती है, इसके बारे में सरकार का क्या विचार है, वह हम जानना चाहते हैं। महोदय, जो small और home industries हैं, उनको सरकार किस तरीके से रिलीफ देने की बात सोचती है या क्या व्यवस्था है, वह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ। साथ ही इसके परिणामस्वरूप क्या रोज़गार का सृजन हो सकता है, सरकार से यह बात मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, मैं इस सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि ESI के माध्यम से वह श्रमिक कल्याण योजना को लागू कर रही है, जिसके द्वारा retrenchment, closure of factories, lay-offs आदि से जो लोग अपने jobs खो चुके हैं.... उनको unemployment allowance दिया जाएगा। लेकिन यहां पर एक problem है कि जो worker पांच साल से उस factory में काम कर रहा होगा, सिर्फ उसी को यह लाभ मिलेगा। क्या यह मियाद कम करके एक साल से भी कम की जा सकती है जिससे एक साल से कम काम करने वाले या contract workers के रूप में काम करने वाले लोगों को इसमें रिलीफ मिल सके? इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या धारणा है, क्या विचार है और सरकार इस पर क्या कर रही है?...*(समय की घंटी)*... सर, मेरा तीसरा प्वाइंट है कि United National Conference on Trade and Development ने यह बताया कि 12 लाख वर्कर्स अपनी जॉब खो चुके हैं। textile workers, जो सबसे ज्यादा jobs provide करते हैं, उसमें पांच लाख वर्कर्स अपनी jobs खो चुके हैं। इसी प्रकार diamond और jewellery industry में तीन लाख से ज्यादा लोग jobs खो चुके हैं और लगभग 70 से ज्यादा लोग आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि इनके ऊपर सरकार का कोई ध्यान नहीं गया है कि इनको कैसे रिलीफ पहुंचाया जा सकता है या stimulus package से उनको क्या लाभ मिल सकता है? इसके बारे में मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, आज private sector की हालत बहुत खराब है। private sector की बात छोड़ दीजिए, public sector में भी हालत अच्छी नहीं है। सर, 48th Survey of the Public Enterprises के अनुसार 44 हजार वर्कर्स पिछले दिनों अपनी नौकरियां खो चुके हैं। अगर आप इस पर ध्यान देंगे कि 1980 से 2007 के बीच जो सबसे lowest category के वर्कर्स हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: अब हो गया। श्री एन.के. सिंह। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

एक माननीय सदस्य: वे केवल क्लैरिफिकेशंस पूछ रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't plead for another Member because you will be encroaching on somebody's rights.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: मैं केवल प्वाइंट्स दे रहा हूँ। 2007-08 में 12 लाख 58 लोग public sector में रह गए हैं यानी इसमें 6 लाख की कमी आयी है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All that has been spoken by your leader.

श्री आर.सी.सिंह: हो सकता है। चौथा सवाल यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि IT sector में professionals की जो बुरी हालत हुई है, उससे इस sector के कितने वर्कर्स प्रभावित हुए हैं और उनको rehabilitate करने के लिए मंत्री महोदय क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं? धन्यवाद।

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, I have three basic clarifications to seek from the hon. Minister. First is on prevarication of data and conflicting data on total amount of unemployment which has been created and the backlog which we have been carrying. Sir, I see this because, for instance, the data given by a recent publication of the UNCTAD suggests a very high level of job loss in the last three months. The sample survey of the Ministry has a very thin sample, also suggesting a very high degree of job loss. For instance, the data of the International Labour Organisation has one kind of projection in which the job losses are much higher than is admitted by the Ministry. So, my first request is: Can we have a more reliable, authentic data on (a) the extent of unemployment; (b) the accentuation of unemployment on account of economic slow down; and (c) the amount of unemployment generated as a result of more and more people coming?

My second small, little clarification is that in the light of the growing volume of unemployment is the Government considering a social security scheme for the urban poor; and in what kind of timeframe is that scheme being contemplated?

My third point is that whereas we have an economic policy, we don't have the national employment policy. This is because whereas growth is necessary for employment, growth is not in a sufficient condition for generation of adequate number of jobs looking at the variations in the employment coefficient of different sectors. So, instead of bailing out, for instance, illustratively speaking, Sir, the airlines and so on, will the Government think of getting a package to those segments of the economy which have been highly labour intensive and which have been very adversely affected on account of the economic melt down?

Finally, Sir, before I end, I will say that the extent of skill inculcation and vocational training which is being given in the various initiatives of the Prime Minister amount, if all goes well, to a miniscule two million people as compared to perhaps 50 million people who require this kind of succour and relief. So what kind of a scaling-up is needed which will make a deep dent on the extent of growing unemployment?

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, recession can be described as a decline in a country's GDP for two or more consecutive quarters in a year.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek clarifications.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Yes, Sir. Recession in the West, especially in the US, is directly affecting India. Because we used to get a lot of work outsourced from the US only. This has resulted in reduced export, which is up to 22 per cent. The FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations) has predicted job loss of more than one crore. But it is not mentioned here.

The Minister has stated that effective measures are being taken through the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to put restriction on lay-offs. More than one crore people are likely to lose their jobs. The decrease in production is 10-50 per cent. This is predicted by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry). It is contrary to the Statement made by the Minister. They say that lay-off is continuing. There is cut in promotions, compensations and perks to employees. No new recruitment is taking place. Also, no new projects are being taken up.

At this juncture, the Government has to give tax reduction. The Minister has enumerated whatever has already been given through the Budget like relief for export sector, individual tax relief, etc.

I would like the Minister to especially focus on creating more jobs, boosting manufacturing sector thereby increasing exports, and attracting builders by reducing unrealistic price prevailing here. Thank you, Sir.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal): Sir, it has been stated in the statement that the Government has taken measures for boosting demand and generating employment. But it is a generalised statement. I would like to know the specific data in support of the statement. I believe that this is a generalised statement and it is not based on facts. The picture is completely different.

Secondly, as per the recent data, released by the Ministry of Commerce, it is stated that for the consecutive nine months, the export to the US and other European countries, which are the major markets for India, has declined by 27.7 per cent, while the import has declined by 29.3 per cent indicating fall in domestic consumption. What is the Minister's answer to this? There is decline in export trend and decline in import trend. How can we overcome it, and what are the specific measures that the Government has taken so far, should be clarified.

Thirdly, it may be a matter of suggestion. Due to extensive job loss, whether the Government is prepared to extend NREGA for urban unemployed people. That can be a positive counteracting force to this problem. But the Government has not made any proposal. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to extend it to urban people who are increasingly losing jobs.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I will take just three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Clarifications only.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, I will take a couple of minutes. Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is outrageous. The plight is miserable, and the action is non-existent. We say that this is an extraordinary situation. And this situation requires extraordinary solution.

So, I have three specific queries based upon the experience of the last one year. Sir, the statement says that Section 80-DD of the Income-Tax Act is an enabling provision for helping out and NREGA is the answer. It talks about the social security net. This is ridiculous. There are

more than 100 suicides and there is more pressure. Ten lakh skilled workers, twenty lakh semi-skilled workers and twenty lakh unskilled workers from across the board industries have lost their jobs. This is a serious situation. And, what are you promising now? As my colleague was saying, out of Employees State Insurance Act, you are going to give some compensation. The Act says that you must pay 50 per cent of the salary for six months. Irrespective of whether somebody is covered under ESIA or not, everybody who has lost the job needs help. My query is: Is the Government ready to give subsistence allowance? Secondly, the ESIA must be extended for 18 months or two years. Is the Government ready for that? Thirdly, the big problem of middle class who have lost their jobs is that they are burdened with EMIs for housing loans and other things. You must stop those EMIs. Unless you ask the banks and the financial institutions for not pressing for EMIs, at least, for one year or 18 months, they will not be able to get any help. Is the Government ready to do these three things?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Hema Malini. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, it is not according to parties. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Subbarami Reddy, it is according to the list we have prepared. It is not on the basis of timings. ...*(Interruptions)*... She is a retiring Member. Please listen carefully.

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI (Nominated): Honourable Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on global recession. After this, I would like to make my farewell speech since this is going to be the last day for me. I hope, I will be given time for that. The current recession is the result of reduction in the demand of products in the global market. Recession in the West, especially the United States, is a very bad news for our country. Our companies in India have most outsourcing deals from the US. Even our exports to the US have increased over the years. Indian companies with big ticket deals in the US would see their profit margins shrinking. There is a decline in the employment market due to the recession in the West. There has been a significant drop in the new hiring which is a cause of great concern for us. Some companies have laid off their employees and there have been cuts in promotions, compensation and perks of the employees. Companies in the private sector and Government sector are hesitant to take up new projects. And they are working on existing projects only. The textile, garment and handicraft industry are worse affected. There has also been a decline in the tourist inflow lately. The real estate has also a problem of tight liquidity situations, where the developers are finding it hard to raise finances.

IT industries, financial sectors, real estate owners, car industry, investment banking and other industries as well are confronting heavy loss due to the downfall of global economy. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) found that faced with the global recession, inventories industries like garment, gems, textiles, chemicals and jewellery had cut production by 10 to 50 per cent. How to tackle the global slump? Obama says, 'Our economy is shrinking, unemployment rolls are growing, businesses and families can't get credit

and small businesses can't secure the loans. They need to create jobs and get their products to market.' With the stakes this high, we can't afford to get trapped in the same old partisan gridlock.

Sir, the following measures can be adopted to tackle the recession: Tax cuts are generally the first step that any Government should take during slump; the Government should hike its spending to create more jobs and boost the manufacturing sectors in the country; the Government should also take steps to help the private sector to come out of the crisis; and the Government should try to increase the export against the initial export target.

The way out for builders is to reduce the unrealistic prices of property to bring back the buyers into the market and thus raise the finances for incomplete projects that they are developing. The falling rupee against the dollar will bring a boost in the export industry, though the buyers may be scarce in the west. The decline in oil prices has a positive impact on the importers.

Hundred per cent transparency should be maintained in public distribution. We need to have faster mechanisms for implementation of the policies. The Government should take up more responsibility in bringing more awareness about the micro finance system in the rural areas. The Government should monitor utilisation of allocated Budget for various sectors like defence, farming and other core sectors. The media and entertainment industry should also play an important role in the revival of the Indian economy. The unfortunate part is that India, which is endowed with rich culture and a glorious entertainment industry, with an enviable global reach, has never put in a concerted national effort to gather the billions that the Hollywood does.

These are my few observations and humble suggestions. I hope all parties come together, leaving aside their differences, in quickly reviving the Indian economy. Thank you so much.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I will be only seeking clarifications and nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: So, you kindly allow me to seek all clarifications that I want.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am starting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: All the clarifications I want to seek. I am sure that I will be within time. I would like to compliment the hon. Labour Minister for he has not tried to make a quantitative assessment of how many people lost their jobs due to global recession because no figure is given here, although my colleague, Shri N.K. Singh, has stressed upon the necessity of

quantifying it. But sometimes quantification becomes difficult. It boils itself down to a ridiculous position as the Economic Survey has identified that six lakh people have lost their jobs due to recession, which is a ridiculous survey.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I think, a much more ground-level close scrutiny is required to quantify the extent of loss and the composition of the workforce where job has been lost. A number of suggestions, things and steps have been mentioned in the statement made by the hon. Minister. But to make those measures really effective and to reach the workers, certain basic conditions have to be ensured.

The hon. Minister has referred to the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference where this global crisis has been discussed. At the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference certain unanimous suggestions have been made by all the three parties, the Government, the employers and the trade unions, together. One of the important unanimous recommendations is to extend the Employment Guarantee Scheme to the urban areas. It was recommended in February, 2009. I don't expect that, in August, you will be implementing it fully. But kindly let us know — this is a clarification — the steps taken by the Labour Ministry to implement that most crucial unanimous recommendation of the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference which has been referred to by the hon. Minister in his statement. The first question is regarding the implementation of that.

Secondly, the statement says that the Government has continued the policy aimed at boosting the demand. A number of policies have been mentioned. Along with that, it is also mentioned that the exemption limit of income tax has been increased by Rs.10,000. I do not understand this. When you look at the composition of the workforce, the number of persons losing jobs in the export-oriented sector...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Kumar Sen, there are more explanations than clarifications.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Has the Minister made an assessment as to how many of them are covered by his exemption limit of income tax? So, I think, this kind of statement is unwarranted; the problem is deeper. Thirdly, the hon. Minister has also mentioned about measures taken, under the Labour Laws, for providing reliefs to those who have lost their jobs. Now, that includes the ESI Corporations' provision for providing unemployment relief. Would he kindly enlighten us with the figures? From October, 2008, up till September, 2009, how many persons, who have lost their jobs because of the impact of recession, have been given these benefits under the ESI? Would he please give us the figures? I am a grassroot trade union activist, and I can tell you that as per the estimates, the number of people, lost jobs in the export-oriented units, is more than 3 million...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already taken more time.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Ninety per cent of them are not covered by the ESI. So, how many people have been given relief? And, would the hon. Minister kindly verify the statement, made by me, that 90 per cent of the workers in the affected area, who have lost their jobs, are not covered by ESI at all?

My last point is about the stimulus package that is being spoken about. The stimulus package, issued before the Budget, was about Rs. 1,85,000 crores. What our experience has been is that the employers could arrest the decline of the bottomline by using the stimulus package. But it has not helped in restoring the employment lost. So, my clarification from the hon. Minister is this. Would he kindly consider — of course, his Ministry alone cannot consider it; the whole Government has to consider it — linking their stimulus package, in order to come out of recession, with the conditionality of protection of employment? Otherwise, stimulus package, funded out of public exchequer, will help only a handful of employers, but the Aam Aadmi will stand neglected; they will lose their jobs and will reel under poverty and impoverished conditions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy. I know, you are a management student. Please be brief.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I will, certainly, go by your word, and confine myself within the time limit.

The sum and substance of observations of my colleagues is that this global recession, or, global economic crisis, has got a cascading effect across the world, not only in India but also in every part of the world. But our financial Pandits in India, including the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Prime Minister and others, were able to say that it has got only a marginal effect. But, as per the information given by the Managing Director of the International Monetary fund, it will have a negative effect throughout the world...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Convert it into questions for clarifications.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: While seeking clarifications, I want to give a small backdrop. In other words, the effect on industrial sector, the effect of employment, is cascading. This is the way our friends are able to tell us today. For the information of the House, I would just say that the industrial growth has come down...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly don't provide extra inputs now. You seek clarifications on the statement.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, as far as employment is concerned, you may kindly note that the layoffs, firing and hiring, salary cuts, etc., are taking place left and right. The leading companies have laid off five per cent of the workforce, and in the textile industry, seven lakh jobs have been lost...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not seeking clarifications on the statement. You are giving certain new information to the Minister. You can write to him.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, what is the total job loss? Sir, to magnify the problem, I am saying...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you have given me two minutes. I would certainly finish within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall ask the reporters to stop taking notes after two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The total number of jobs lost in the industrial sector is 1.6 million in 2008-09 and 1.30 million in the next year. There is so much job loss. The Minister has read out a statement and said that he is seized of the matter and is taking enough steps. Having read the statement where he has cited various measures, I would like to ask him whether the measures taken by him are adequate and effective. According to me, it is more on paper and is not going to be a reality. On the other hand, the industrial management knows how to manipulate the laws, how to tackle the Labour department and how to violate the Industrial Disputes Act. There are lay-offs, there are suspensions and employees are being thrown out all over. What is the machinery you have got? You say that you have taken enough measures, but it is on paper. In my opinion, the measures that you have mentioned here must be implemented.

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट का प्रभाव पूरे देश पर पड़ा है। इसके तहत नौकरियों में कटौती हुई, काम बन्द हुए, उद्योग-धंधे बन्द हुए, लाखों लोग बेरोजगार हुए और जो रोजगार के अवसर थे, वे बहुत तेजी के साथ कम हुए। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है और उन्होंने जो उपाय बताने का काम किया है, वह संतोषजनक नहीं है। इस आर्थिक मंदी से निबटने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा जो उपाय किए जा रहे हैं, वे भी बहुत घातक हैं। सर, विश्व बैंक की एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि विकासशील देशों की आर्थिक विकास दर इस साल 1.6 प्रतिशत तक गिर सकती है। इसका मतलब है कि इस देश में लाखों लोग गरीबी के शिकार हो जाएंगे।

सर, जहाँ तक आईटी सेक्टर का सवाल है, आईटी सेक्टर पहले प्रति तिमाही 9 प्रतिशत रोजगार देता था और इस आर्थिक मंदी का असर यह हो गया है कि यह जो 9 प्रतिशत प्रति तिमाही रोजगार देने का काम करता था, आज वह घट कर 2.3 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

श्री उपसभापति: आप अपना clarification पूछिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: सर, मैं उस पर आ रहा हूँ।

भारतीय वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार पिछले साल अगस्त से अक्टूबर महीने के बीच निर्यात आधारित कम्पनियों ने 65 हजार से ज्यादा लोगों की नौकरियाँ ले ली। यह सर्वेक्षण केवल 121 कम्पनियों पर किया गया है। अगर इसको पूरे देश के पैमाने पर देखा जाए, तो कम-से-कम 10 लाख लोगों की नौकरियाँ गई हैं। पूरे देश के अन्दर आर्थिक मंदी के कारण जो नौकरियाँ गई हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी के पास या तो इसका कोई डाटा नहीं है या उन्होंने जान-बूझ कर इस तथ्य को, इस डाटा को छिपाने का काम किया है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जो clarifications पूछना चाहता हूँ, उनमें पहला यह है कि मंदी का जो दौर है, यदि यह लम्बा चला, तो भारत सरकार इससे कैसे निबटेगी? मेरा दूसरा clarification यह है कि मंदी से निबटने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं और बेरोजगार हुए लोगों के लिए रोजगार के क्या उपाय किए जाएंगे?

मेरा तीसरा clarification यह है कि आधारभूत ढाँचे की विफलता के अलावा अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी अर्थव्यवस्था के विस्तार में जो गिरावट है, उसको कैसे दुरुस्त किया जाएगा? आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I wish to seek only two clarifications. One is that the statement that has been given is a bit misleading. You say that you are protecting employees from retrenchment and lay-offs. But what happens to the contract employees? I come from Mumbai and I can tell you, in most of the commercial and industrial establishments, jobs ranging from those of security guards to peons, account keepers and cashiers have been outsourced and they are being done by contract employees. These employees are not covered under your Labour Act. How does the Government protect the interests of these employees?

Secondly, we are talking about recession in India and its impact. But the recession is global, and all the Members here would appreciate the fact that many Indians who had gone to foreign countries for jobs, are losing their jobs and coming back. So, what guarantee does the Government give for that? These are skilled people; they are highly educated people. They are coming back to India. I think it is our moral responsibility to ensure that the interests of those people are also protected. Does the Government have any instrument by which their rights and their interests are protected?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister states that the Government is closely monitoring the situation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not called you.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, nothing is there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: They have not indicated here as to how they would come out of this situation. What are the specific measures they are going to take in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On that, let somebody seek the clarification.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Government is only monitoring the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? I have not called you.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, why is this casual attitude of the Government on this issue?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. But, what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this shows the casual attitude of the Government on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no; please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your Member could have pointed it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am unable to understand all this. It was going on smoothly. Members were seeking clarifications on the statement. I have not prevented anybody, who has given his name, from seeking clarifications on the statement. And, suddenly, if you get up and say all this, then, what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. If there is any serious lacuna in it, you can mention it at the end. Mr. Raja spoke on this issue, and other Members also spoke. Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Government has taken it as a challenge to face this unprecedented crisis which has arisen all over the world. So, I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for having taken a lot of pains to implement so many measures to overcome the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister on this point. The major point is, now, in any corporate body or company, about 25 to 30 per cent labour force is being retrenched or being laid off. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to take more pains to see that the people who are retrenched — they are about 25 to 30 per cent of the system — should be looked after properly. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have just sought one clarification from the hon. Minister. Sir, I request you to give me two minutes more to seek clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have taken so much time. I would take only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You go ahead. I am not saying anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I am very much interested in the poor labour who is laid off or retrenched. It comprises of 25 to 30 per cent of the total strength of a company. The Government must take care of these people.

Sir, my second point is this. As per the 42nd Session of the National Labour Conference, the Government has taken so many measures to tackle the situation. It has been mentioned in the statement that the Government has taken a number of steps to tackle it. But, here I would like to say one thing. As far as public investment is concerned, we must concentrate on micro, small and medium scale industries which will give immediate results. Because of this slowdown and crisis, the major industries which are affected are textiles, steel, power, etc. But, you can get immediate results, if you focus on micro, small and medium scale industries. How? This can be done by directing the financial institutions and banks to give priority to these industries. They give loan only to the big people and big enterprises. They don't give loan to micro, small and medium scale industries. So, I request the entire House to fight for the cause of the micro, small and medium scale industries so that they are helped.

1.00 P.M.

Sir, my last point is, the Government is very much committed to solve this problem. They give so many stimuli to encourage exports; they give excise duty exemption, etc. They give many facilities for promotion of exports. Here, I would like to say that stimulus worth more than Rs. 2,00,000 have been given. Now, the Government must focus on the point that whenever a facility is given to an exporter or an enterprise, he must be cautioned that he should not retrench the employees. If he does it and retrenches his employees, then, he should not be eligible for all these facilities. (*Time-bell rings*) Sir, though I am the last speaker, I am given the least time. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while welcoming the statement given by the hon. Minister, I would like to say that it is not adequate. I would just confine myself to the State from where he also hails, and Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, you are also from the State of Karnataka. Sir, Bangalore is known for the public sector units. More than 50 public sector units are operating in Bangalore, especially the major public sector units like HMT, ITI, BEL, BEML, BHEL, HAL, etc. Sir, Bangalore had almost one lakh labour force just 25 years back, and, now, it has almost come down to 10,000.

I can understand losing of jobs because of recession. But, especially in the Public Sector Undertakings of Karnataka, people are losing jobs right from 1991, after the beginning of liberalisation. Sir, I entirely agree with Mr. Raja; before bailing out any private sector, the Government should come out to bail out these Public Sector Undertakings which are the root cause for development of any private sector in Bangalore, especially the information technology, bio-technology and all.

Sir, it is the wrong policy of the Government, some times, which has made the Public Sector Undertakings lose business or go into the red. For example, Sir, SAIL has got a unit, VISL (Vishweshwarayya Iron and Steel Limited), which is one of the oldest units in Karnataka, had to close because they could not get captive mines whereas the private sector is getting from right, left and centre; they are taking mines. But, the Government sector is not getting mines, and it is a shame. Mr. Jairam Ramesh is also here. The Government should take some steps so that the Public Sector Undertakings get some mines. The other major sectors like the Indian Telephone Industries, which is one of the pioneer institutes, has survived for 60 years; nowhere in the world the telecom industries are making losses, but, unfortunately, the telecommunications industry in India is making losses; it is very unfortunate. It had a workforce of 21,000 employees and it has come down to almost 3,000 now. There was a labour union in ITI, it represented the Central Government to merge ITI into BSNL; it has got huge assets. Almost Rs. 10,000 crores worth assets ITI has.

As far as HMT is concerned, Sir, it has got units all over the country. I feel, Railways should take some of its products through HMT so that they could build rail coaches and the loss-making units can easily make profits.

Sir, the Public Sector has not failed. The people who run the Public Sector Undertakings have made it fail. So, the Government should bail out the Public Sector and steps should be taken for the safety and security of the Public Sector Undertakings. Sir, this is my suggestion.

श्री नंदी येल्लेया (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में 20 साल पहले एक Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme थी, क्योंकि वर्कर्स को रिटायरमेंट के बाद अपना मकान खाली करना पड़ता था। उस वक्त मैं Municipal Corporator था। यह आज से 20 साल पहले की बात है। मैं भारत सरकार से, श्रम मंत्री जी से, यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ...(व्यवधान)... सुन लीजिए, सर। आपको तो मालूम ही है कि आज मकान construct करना लगभग impossible है। जमीन भी महँगी है। इसीलिए हम चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार की ओर से अगर एक Subsidised Housing Scheme बनाकर hire-purchase के आधार पर उनको मकान दिया जाए तो उनके लिए लाभदायक होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the concerns expressed by other Members. I would like to ask only one question to the hon. Minister. Due to various packages and other things, which the Government has initiated because of a strong political leadership, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Switzerland-based International Institute of Management Development has ranked India at the 13th position while Brazil's is 22, the UK's is 34, Russia's is 34, China's is 18 and the US's is 28. I would like to know whether the schemes would be improved to bring India within the top 10.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the export industries which have been affected by this, a large number of women have been employed in these industries and they have been very severely impacted and affected. We have got, Sir, so many memoranda from women whose every livelihood has been snatched away and it has been affecting their families also. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister—of course, he has not even mentioned about the workers, leave alone the number of women workers who have been affected—can he give a categorical assurance in this House that as far as the retrenched workers are concerned, the Government will immediately come up with a package of foodgrains, of educational facilities for the children of those living around those export zones who have been severely affected and who are now out of schools.

Thirdly, Sir, will he ensure that these workers are rehabilitated through Government employment schemes?

श्री उपसभापति: एक मिनट से आधा मिनट भी ज्यादा नहीं होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी (आंध्र प्रदेश): सर, मैं एक ही मिनट लूँगा। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, Micro, Small and Medium Industries Development के लिए सरकार ने एक फंड बनाया है, एक ट्रस्ट बनाया है, जिसके तहत Nationalized banks द्वारा Micro, Small and Medium Industries को without any collateral लोन दिया जाना चाहिए। एक करोड़ रुपये तक का लोन without any collateral दिया जाना चाहिए। अगर इस स्कीम को ठीक प्रकार से लागू किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे देश में कई नई इंडस्ट्रीज आएंगी और देश में unemployment की जो समस्या है, इससे वह हल हो सकती है।

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. Whatever I say it arises from the statement of the hon. Minister. The fiscal stimulus etc. that he has referred to, in spite of what my friend, Mr. Sen said, they were good, they will help in creating jobs. But, Sir, now there is nothing, which the Government can do, the Finance Ministry or otherwise, which can create more jobs. What the statement says, Sir, and what I have heard here is to, if at all, prevent losing jobs. 'Strict implementation of labour laws', also the statement says. Prevent this, prevent that, that is good; Sir, but people are losing jobs. Everybody is telling that you said that you have lost ten lakhs jobs. What is happening to your loss? This will go on, Sir, because of your strict labour laws. I know what I am going to say, Sir, is not politically acceptable, but I would say especially about the organised sector. You do something, Mr. Labour Minister, to create jobs and for creating jobs you have to relax some labour legislation and contract labour legislation, then we in the organised sector who give much higher wages ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: It is conflict of interests. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is creating jobs. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, they keep talking and when others say something, they do not like. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have our right to express our views. We in the organised sector...*(Interruptions)*... I am seeking for a clarification, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will the Minister look at the possibility of relaxing labour laws?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: How can he ask that labour laws be scrapped? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: The UPA had hinted in its earlier regime and had a survey...*(Interruptions)*... They are interrupting me. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not like this, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... My voice is being muffled in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not their majority. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, why should they muffle all that I have said? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am seeking my clarifications from the hon. Minister whether he will relax some of the labour laws because it will increase employment in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is only internal conflict of interests. Yes, Mr. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिये।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: सर, आज इस सदन में चर्चा के लिए जो Calling Attention आई है, उस पर बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों, खासकर श्री डी. राजा जी, श्री आर.सी. सिंह और श्री एन.के. सिंह ने चर्चा की हैं। इस चर्चा में इस सदन के कम से कम 17-18 माननीय सदस्यों ने भाग लिया है, जिनमें श्रीमती वसन्ती स्टान्ली, डा. वरुण मुखर्जी, श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर, श्रीमती हेमा मालिनी, श्री तपन कुमार सेन जी, डा. के. मलयसामी जी, श्री नन्द किशोर यादव जी, श्री भारतकुमार राऊत जी और डा. टी. सुब्बाराजी रेड्डी जी, शायद वह चले गये ...*(व्यवधान)*... श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी, श्री नंदी येल्लैया जी, श्री बी.एस. ज्ञानादिशिखन जी, श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी, श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी जी और श्री राहुल बजाज जी शामिल हैं। इन माननीय सदस्यों ने इस

कॉलिंग अटेंशन के विषय पर चर्चा की है और अपने विचार इस सदन में रखे हैं। मुझे बहुत कुछ नहीं कहना है, क्योंकि मैंने अपने बहुत से विचार कॉलिंग अटेंशन के नोटिस के उत्तर में दे दिए हैं, फिर भी इस सदन

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो पी०जे० कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

में श्री डी. राजा जी ने चन्द सवालात् हमारे सामने रखे हैं। लेकिन, उन्होंने जो आंकड़े लेबर ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट से बताए हैं, वे सारे आंकड़े ठीक नहीं हैं। जो दूसरे सर्वे की रिपोर्ट है, उसमें भी यह बताया गया है कि उसमें इम्प्लूवमेंट है। लेकिन, हमको किसी न किसी आधार पर बात करनी चाहिए, चाहे वह लेबर ब्यूरो के statistics के आधार पर हो, चाहे इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट के ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI D. RAJA: There is a book supplied to all the Members of Rajya Sabha called 'Global Economic Crisis'. I quoted from page 31. These are your own figures. If you challenge the figures...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, I am not challenging. तो किसी न किसी आधार पर ही हम बात करते हैं। जो पहला सर्वे हुआ, अक्तूबर से दिसम्बर तक, तीन महीने का, उसके आधार पर आपने बात की है, चर्चा की है, लेकिन फिर जनवरी से लेकर मार्च तक जो सैकिंड सर्वे की रिपोर्ट आई, उसमें इम्प्लूवमेंट है, अब जो थर्ड सर्वे की रिपोर्ट आई है, उसमें फिर थोड़ी सी कमी है। यानी, इसका मतलब यह है कि कहीं बढ़ रहा है, कहीं घट रहा है और इस महीने में, जुलाई में फिर थोड़ा इम्प्लूवमेंट है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि employment बढ़ता ही गया, क्योंकि तीन या चार साल पहले जिस तेजी से या परसेंटेज से यह बढ़ा, उस परसेंटेज से नहीं बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन थोड़ी सी इम्प्लूवमेंट दिखाई दे रही है। अब इसको किस तरह से और इम्प्लूव करना है, किस ढंग से employment generation करना है, यह हम सबके सामने एक बहुत बड़ी चिंता का विषय है और इसीलिए सारे माननीय सदस्य बहुत कंसर्नड हैं और गवर्नमेंट, खासकर हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने बहुत सी योजनाएं इस वर्ष के बजट में रखी हैं, चाहे वह first stimulative incentive हो, सैकिंड हो या थर्ड हो और recent budget में भी उन्होंने जो बहुत से concessions दिए हैं, ये सारी चीजें उन्होंने employment generation को बढ़ावा देने के लिए की हैं। कई मैम्बर्स यह भी कह सकते हैं कि इससे employer को ही benefit होता है या अभी हमारे ट्रेड यूनियन के नेता ने कहा कि इससे कोई फायदा नहीं है, individual को अगर आप income tax exemption देते हैं तो क्या फायदा है वहां। ठीक है, इन exemptions से अगर किसी की income बढ़ती है तो उसकी purchasing power भी बढ़ती है। जब purchasing power बढ़ती है, तो naturally market में चीजों की demand बढ़ती है, demand बढ़ती है, तो production भी बढ़ता है, ये सारी चीजें आपको मालूम हैं, इसलिए मैं इनके बारे में बताना नहीं चाहता हूं। माननीय सदस्य राजा जी ने जो फिगर्स बताए हैं, उसी आधार पर मैं बोल रहा हूं कि जिस तेजी से employment घट रहा था, वह रुक गया है और जून महीने में इसमें थोड़ी सी और तब्दीली आई है। इसके लिए हम सब लोग कोशिश कर रहे हैं, फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है, इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है, रूरल डेवलपमेंट डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है। इसीलिए हमने budget allocation में infrastructure, rural development, शहरी योजनाओं, Self Help Groups की मदद करने का प्रावधान रखा है, इसका यही मतलब है कि more and more employment generate हो और लोगों को काम मिले। हो सकता है कि organized sector में हम at a time सबको rehabilitate नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन काफी लोगों को कर सकते हैं। हमारे ट्रेड यूनियन नेता ने यह कहा कि राजीव गांधी श्रमिक कल्याण योजना से कितना लाभ हुआ है? श्री तपन कुमार सेन जी ने यह बात हमारे सामने उठाई थी। मैं आपको आंकड़े देना चाहता हूं। हो सकता है कि ज्यादा लोगों को इसका फायदा न मिला हो, लेकिन यह जो योजना है, यह employees की मदद करने के लिए है और उनकी जो मुश्किलात हैं, उनको दूर करने के लिए हमने यह योजना बनाई है। इसका फायदा हर ट्रेड यूनियन को उठाना चाहिए, हर मजदूर को उठाना चाहिए और हमें इसके बारे में consciousness create करनी चाहिए।

[श्री सभापति पीठासीन हुए]

वर्ष 2005 में इस योजना का लाभ केवल 100 लोगों को मिला और 11 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च किए गए, 2006 में 885 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 112.890 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए, 2007 में 748 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 135.58 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए, 2008 में 419 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और इस पर 57.34 लाख रुपए खर्च हुए, मई, 2009 तक 184 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 24.16 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए। इस तरह कुल मिलाकर इन 5 सालों में अभी तक 2,336 beneficiaries हैं और 3 करोड़, 41 लाख रुपए इस योजना पर खर्च किए गए। यह बहुत बड़ा amount भी नहीं है और जो dimension हम देखते हैं, उसको देखने के बाद, उतने लोगों ने इसका फायदा नहीं उठाया। हमको जरूर यह कोशिश करनी पड़ेगी कि जो एक स्कीम है - राजीव गांधी श्रमिक कल्याण योजना, इसका फायदा सभी कर्मचारियों को उठाना चाहिए और जो Social Security Scheme है, हमें इसका पूरा फायदा लेना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही यह कहा गया है कि 2 फरवरी को यहां पर एक Indian Labor Conference हुई, उसमें जो निर्णय लिए गए, उन निर्णयों को सरकार ने implement नहीं किया या लेबर डिपार्टमेंट ने उसके बारे में ध्यान नहीं दिया। लेकिन मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने इसके बारे में सोचकर बहुत से कदम उठाए हैं। उनमें एक short term strategy है और दूसरा long term strategy है। Short Term Strategy में strict implementation of Labour Law क्या होता है? राहुल बजाज जी अभी बोले कि Labour Law को liberalise किया जाए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि liberalise के बजाए अगर Employer ही थोड़ा सा सोच-समझकर इसके बारे में कोई कदम उठाएंगे, तो इससे हम दोनों की समस्या हल हो जाएगी। आज जो Labour Laws हैं, उनको बहुत से लोग implement नहीं करते हैं। इसी को implement करने के लिए ही एक मशीनरी है। जब हम इसको implement करने जाते हैं तो बहुत से लोगों अर्थात् Employers का यह आरोप है कि अब इंस्पेक्टर राज हो गया है। हर जगह इंस्पेक्टर है। अगर आप सभी लोग सच्चाई जानना चाहते हैं और इस हाउस को Labour Law के बारे में बताना है, तो वह यह है कि Labour Law के पीछे उतना फोर्स नहीं है, जितना फोर्स पुलिस एक्ट में या आई.पी.सी. में या सी.आर.पी.सी. में है। इन सभी में जितना फोर्स होता है, जिसके कारण डर होता है, उतना फोर्स Labour Law में नहीं है। हम जितने भी Labour Law implement करते हैं, वह Labour Department सबको हाथ जोड़कर ही implement करती है। इधर एक तरफ Employer, दूसरी तरफ Employees और तीसरी तरफ गवर्नमेंट है। Tri-Partite को छोड़कर आज तक हमने कोई काम नहीं किया है और आप सबको विश्वास में लेकर ही हम आगे बढ़ते हैं। इसलिए उसको liberalise करना या उसमें छूट देने का सवाल ही नहीं पैदा होता है। हमारे पास जो कानून हैं, अगर हम उन कानूनों को ठीक ढंग से इस्तेमाल करते हैं, तो उसमें लेबर की भी भलाई है और Employers की भी भलाई है। मैं इसमें एक comparative statement देना चाहता हूँ, जो Indian Labour Conference में लिए गए निर्णयों और उन पर हुए एक्शन से संबंधित है। पहला Short Term Strategy में यह है : The quarterly assessment survey, relating to impact on employment on account of slowdown, should be carried out in all the sectors, including unorganised sectors. यह एक निर्णय था। इस पर एक्शन क्या हुआ? इस पर हमने यह एक्शन लिया। The Labour Bureau is carrying out quarterly survey. जिसका अभी राजा जी ने जिक्र किया और दूसरा सर्वे की रिपोर्ट भी आई है, साथ ही थर्ड क्वार्टरली रिपोर्ट भी आई है। The results for survey, made during October-December 2008, indicates loss of jobs; whereas, the second survey, for the period from January to March, 2009, indicates that employment situation has slightly improved. यह एक्शन है। दूसरा है, Strict implementation of labour laws for layout, retrenchment, closure, etc. should be followed. Any change in the working conditions, in those units affected by slowdown, should be decided

through mutual consent between employers and employees. इसका एक्शन हमने इस प्रकार से लिया है। The State Labour Departments were advised to monitor the situation in their respective States to ensure effective implementation of labour laws. The Central Government also takes action whenever specific instances of violation are reported. आप तो जानते हैं कि जहां कहीं भी सौ के ऊपर employees काम करते हैं और अगर वहां retrench होता है या closure होता है, तो वही लोग हमको intimate करते हैं या नोटिस देते हैं कि हम close कर रहे हैं। उसी के बारे में हमको मालूमात होता है। लेकिन दूसरे जो भी less than hundred हैं, तो उनके पूरे मालूमात स्टेट में ही होते हैं, या इसके बारे में ज्यादा information जल्दी नहीं मिलती। वह State के थू ही हमें कलेक्ट करनी पड़ती है और बहुत से States इसके बारे में they do not care, or, they do not intimate the State Governments in time. उससे क्या होता है कि इसमें हमें right statistics या ठीक ढंग से जो statistics मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है और उसमें खामियां होती हैं।

तीसरा, the small and medium traditional export-oriented units should be provided credit at concessional rate of interest by banks and other financial institutions. यह भी यहां पर raise किया गया। तो इसके बारे में तो बजट में 1, 2, 3 और 4 तक जो stimulus packages were declared to assist the export-oriented units by providing liberal credit and rebates in excise, इन सारी चीजों पर इस सदन में चर्चा हुई है और बजट के समय इसके बारे में बहुत से सदस्यों ने अपने विचार रखे हैं। अब मैं long-term strategies की बात करता हूं, जो निर्णय आई.एल.सी. (इंडियन लेबर कॉन्फ्रेंस) में लिया गया है। Investment in infrastructure, power, transport, development of urban and rural houses should be increased. यह सजेशन था, तो इसके बारे में तो अभी बजट में higher allocation हुआ है, housing में higher allocation हुआ है, rural development में higher allocation हुआ है, roads and bridges में higher allocation हुआ है, railways के लिए specially Rs. 15,000 crores दिया गया है, ऐसे infrastructure build up करने के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा सरकार ने इसमें invest किया है। और जो आपके सजेशन्स हैं, हर सजेशन को हमने ध्यान में रखते हुए ही ये योजनाएं बनाई हैं।

एक और बात, more importance to agro-based industries should be given in view of the large population being dependent on agriculture. तो इसके बारे में agro-based industries are being encouraged. Investment in agriculture sector is also increased. आप जानते हैं कि एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट को ज्यादा से ज्यादा allocation इस बार दिया गया है। उस वक्त जो निर्णय हमने लिया था 'that more importance should be given to agro-based industries'; तो इसमें उसका care यह ले सकता है।

Lastly, steps should be taken to stimulate the domestic demand so that consumers' spending is encouraged. The stimulus package by the Ministry of Finance provides for changes in direct taxes and relaxation of norms for banks to increase the availability of money. The cut in excise was also meant to increase local demand. तो Indian Labour Conference में जो बहस हुई, जो चर्चा हुई, उसके बारे में गवर्नमेंट ने कोई गौर नहीं किया, कोई विचार नहीं किया यह कहने का, या यह जो allegation है, यह टोटली false है। This is far from truth. Sir, these are the points I have stated before the House and ये चार-पांच steps हमने लिए हैं और जो भी विचार हैं, जो कुछ भी सलाहें हमारे सामने आई हैं, बहुत से मान्यवर नेताओं और मैम्बर्स ने अपने अच्छे सुझाव दिए हैं। जो अच्छे सुझाव हैं, उनको हम definitely examined करेंगे और उनको किस ढंग से, अगर लेबर डिपार्टमेंट उसको नहीं कर सकता, तो किसी और डिपार्टमेंट से इंप्लीमेंट कराएंगे, क्योंकि बहुत सी चीजें heavy industries, medium and small industries के तहत हैं, तो उनको भी हम सलाह देंगे कि यहां के मैम्बर्स के जो सजेशन्स हैं, उनको जितना हो सके, हम अनुष्ठान में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे।

डेवलपमेंट के बारे में बहुत सी योजनाएं हमारे सामने हैं। मैं उनके बारे में ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता, सभी को इन योजनाओं के बारे में मालूम है - चाहे वह स्वर्ण जयंती शहरी रोजगार योजना हो, चाहे National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme हो - ये सारी योजनाएं लेबर को ज्यादा से ज्यादा employment generate देने के लिए ही बनायी गयी हैं। महोदय, skill development के बारे में माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा। इसके संबंध में आईटीआईज़ को upgrade किया जा रहा है। हम बहुत सी आईटीआईज़ को पब्लिक और प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप में करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा हम Skill Development Initiative Scheme को भी ला रहे हैं। Nearly, Rs. 500 crores is kept to take up this Skill Upgradation Programme effectively. जहां कहीं भी job losses हो रहे हैं, उनके संबंध में exact figure तो नहीं मिलती, लेकिन हम इस संबंध में कोशिश कर रहे हैं - चाहे BIFR से हो, Heavy Industry से हो या Small Industry हो या labour bureau हो - सारी फ़िगर्स लेकर जितना हो सकेगा, उस संबंध में हम कोशिश करेंगे कि job losses को कम कर सकें। इसके अलावा Social Security for Urban Poor के बारे में एन.के. सिंह जी ने कहा कि जैसे रूरल एरिया में गवर्नमेंट National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme लाई है, उसी ढंग से शहर में भी करना चाहिए। यह जो मुद्दा है, इसके बारे में फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट व संबंधित विभाग सोचेगा क्योंकि यह मामला इतना बड़ा है, क्योंकि financially कितना बोझ वे उठा सकते हैं, इसके बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूं। आपकी जो इच्छा है, आप जो चाहते हैं, लेबर्स के संबंध में हमारी भी वही इच्छा है। खास कर unorganised sectors के लिए भी गवर्नमेंट कोशिश कर रही है, जैसे राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना है, वह टेकअप हो रही है। आज कम से कम 53 लाख स्मार्ट कार्ड्स हैं लेकिन बहुत सी ऐसी स्टेट्स हैं जो उनको ले नहीं रही हैं। They are not owning it and this is a very sad affair. जब तक हर स्टेट इसके बारे में कोशिश नहीं करेगी, हर स्टेट इसका फायदा उठाने की कोशिश नहीं करेगी तो employees को या unorganised workers को इसका फायदा नहीं होगा। एक फैमिली को 30,000 रुपए सालाना अगर मिलता है, उसके स्वास्थ्य के लिए, उसकी हेल्थ की केयर के लिए, तो इसका फायदा उठाना चाहिए। इसके लिए मैं अपील करता हूं, through the House, that all Members should also take interest in such programmes. जो initiative सरकार ने लिया है, उसका लाभ जरूर हमारे सदस्य उठाएं और देश में इसका ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रचार करेंगे, ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूं। महोदय, बहुत से सजेशंस आए हैं, समय कम होने की वजह से मैं ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूं। मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि बाकी सारे सजेशंस, जो माननीय सदस्यों ने दिए हैं, उनको ध्यान में रखते हुए हम अगला कदम उठाएंगे।

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: सर, एक क्लैरीफिकेशन है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarifications, please.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri George Fernandes (Bihar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock,

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Reply to the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I want to ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will allow you after the Minister's reply. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I also want to ask. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You will also be allowed after the Minister's reply. Then it will be easier for you to ask questions. ...(*Interruptions*)... We have already announced yesterday that discussion is over. Let us not violate the practice. I will allow both of you.

DISCUSSION ON WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, yesterday we had a long discussion for about four hours in which twenty Members of Parliament participated. In the discussion many Members of Parliament made very pointed and practical suggestions. कुछ सांसदों ने बहस को आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक दृष्टिकोण देने का प्रयास किया है, मैं उसका भी जवाब दूंगा। Let me confine myself to some of the main points that were made yesterday. I have taken detailed notes, and I will be responding to each of the Members of Parliament individually because they raised a lot of specific issues. From the four hours of discussion, I was able to cull out nine big issues cutting across the party lines that came forward as relating to the functioning of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The first issue relates to the Budget 2009-10 of this year. The second issue relates to environment in which questions on pollution, environmental appraisal, coastal zone, wetlands, rivers, lakes, the Ganga and the Yamuna were raised. The third issue relates to forestry where issues relating to CAMPA, tribal rights bill, forests management, timber *mafias* and so on and so forth were raised. The fourth issue relates to climate change. The fifth issue relates to the wildlife protection and wildlife management. The sixth major issue on which many hon. Members spoke about relates to Himalayan glaciers and what is happening to our water security on account of the developments in the Himalayan glaciers. The seventh issue relates to the role of judiciary in environmental management. My colleague from Goa said that only 25 per cent I have control over what I do and 75 per cent is that of the judiciary. The eighth issue relates to environmental awareness and education and how to spread environmental awareness and education. Finally, there were a large number of State level issues. Hon. Members talked about *patthar pradushan* in Uttar Pradesh. Out of twenty Members of Parliament, four were from Orissa.

The single largest contingent yesterday was from Orissa. They raised questions on illegal mining. There were some Members from Tamil Nadu who raised the questions on elephant and the protection of the Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu. There were questions on Bhopal. What is

happening to the toxic waste in Bhopal? There were questions on the Commonwealth Games Village in Delhi. And, there was my friend from Darjeeling who raised the issue of biodiversity in Darjeeling. So, these were the nine big issues that we discussed yesterday, and, Sir, I will try to, without your having pressed the time-bell which you are very fond of, I know...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am very fond of you also.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, he is getting too many compliments.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I must convey to the hon. Member — my erstwhile coalition partner, and now estranged coalition partner — that today is my 66th day in this job. I am still going through a honeymoon period.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: He is the only Minister on honeymoon.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I am sure in the next couple of months, there won't be any bouquets. There will only be brickbats because this is really a thankless job.

The first question is on the Budget. Sir, it is true that every Ministry feels that it does not get enough money from the Finance Ministry. But, I have never believed that we should allow the Budget numbers to determine what we are going to do. We are living in an era of resource constraints; we are living in an era where there are competing demands, and the big challenge before any Minister is to ensure, is to lobby for more money, but ensure that whatever money you get is utilised to the maximum extent possible. Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that in the last 25 years, ever since I have been following Budget debates, I have not come across a Budget that has been so kind to Environment and Forests as this Budget. Now, I come to expenditure Budget and I would make a request to the hon. Members not to focus only on the Plan Budget. You must look at the total Budget because this distinction between the Plan and non-Plan is largely an artificial distinction. You should look at the total allocation that a sector gets and if you look at the expenditure Budget on page 69, you will see that the allocation for Environment and Forests has gone up from Rs.1770 crores last year to Rs.2130 crores this year. This is an increase of about 25 per cent...*(Interruptions)*... It is because of the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. The increase is 25 per cent. Former Finance Secretary is here and he knows that getting a 25 per cent increase for any sector in one year is somewhat difficult from the most hardnosed of the Finance Ministers. We have got a very good budgetary allocation increase this year. But, Sir, this is not all. Because hidden in another page in this Budget, which will often be overlooked by all Members of Parliament except by those who see every fine print, every page of, on page 87, there is an allocation of Rs.500 crores of additional Central assistance to the State Governments for regenerating and restoring forest cover. Sir, I will make an honest admission. I also did not know about this scheme. But, because for 25 years, I have been used to reading Budget documents, once I started reading, I came across this Budget item

and then I discovered that this was because the Prime Minister was concerned that the stimulus package did not have a green element. The stimulus package was going only to hard sectors - cement, steel, aluminium, gems and jewellery, leather - and he was very concerned that we must use this stimulus for ecological and environmental purposes as well and, that is why, Rs. 500 crores is allocated this year as additional Central assistance to be given to the State Governments for restoring and regenerating the forest cover.

Not only this, Sir, if you read the Budget Speech, you will find that there are two specific proposals, which are not contained in these Budget documents, and, which you would miss if you have not read the Budget Speech properly. The Finance Minister has made a special one-time allocation of Rs. 100 crores for the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education for modernisation of all the research laboratories under the ICFRE, and, in addition to this, he has given a special one-time allocation of Rs. 15 crores to the Botanical Survey of India, which was started in 1787 in Kolkata, and, to the Zoological Survey of India, which was started, I think, in 1916-17, which is also in Kolkata. The fact that these two institutions are in Kolkata is coincidental. I think, the Finance Minister was convinced of the need that these great institutions require to be renewed. In addition to this, the Geological Survey of India also has got a special allocation of Rs. 15 crores, and, I may tell Mr. Venkaiah Naidu that this institution is also based in Kolkata.

The Finance Minister has been extraordinarily generous to the forestry and environment sector. While there is always room for more money, I would say that beginning 2009-2010, I feel that we are making a departure from previous years, and, we are getting substantial allocations from the Budget for some of our programmes.

I will address the issue of sub-allocation as I go along while replying to the discussion. On the Budget issue, I would like to assure the hon. Members that while there is room for increased resources for key programmes — which I will explain as I go on — I think, overall, the Government this year has made a decisive and determined effort to increase resources, and, in a tough fiscal environment, where it is not easy to give more money, the Finance Minister has actually seen to it that the environment and forestry sector gets increased resources.

I hope, Sir, this momentum will be continued with and when the next Budget is presented in February, some of the resources which have not been forthcoming this year will actually be forthcoming in that Budget.

Now, Sir, here, I am unhappy with this Budget. I am unhappy that we have not been able to get more money for cleaning our rivers and our lakes. It is true that this Budget makes a special allocation of Rs. 250 crores for the river *Ganga*. We had set up a National Ganga River Basin Authority, and, this time, this Budget has given an initial allocation of Rs. 250 crores.

कोश्यारी जी, आप जानते हैं कि उत्तराखंड में लोहारी नागपाला के बाद जो वाद-विवाद खड़ा हुआ था, उसके बाद कई लोग प्रधानमंत्री से मिले और तब अक्टूबर के महीने में प्रधानमंत्री ने निर्णय लिया था कि यह

प्राधिकरण बनेगा। इस प्राधिकरण के गठन का ऐलान हो चुका है और शीघ्र ही, इसी महीने में प्राधिकरण की पहली बैठक बुलाई जाएगी। खुशी की बात यह है कि यह प्राधिकरण सिर्फ कागजी प्राधिकरण नहीं है। इस प्राधिकरण के लिए 250 crores रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। हम लोगों ने अलग-अलग संस्थाओं से प्रोजेक्ट्स मांगे हैं। ऐसे 29 प्रस्ताव बेसिन मैनेजमेंट प्लान तैयार करने के लिए आए हैं। अगले दो-तीन महीने में हम इसका सिलेक्शन करेंगे ताकि गंगा बेसिन में नया तरीका अपनाएं। मैं विस्तार से बताना चाहूंगा कि हम क्या परिवर्तन लाना चाहते हैं।

So, I am not very happy as we have not been able to increase our resources for rivers other than the Ganga. Although the National River Conservation Programme is meant to clean 37 rivers, the fact of the matter is that if you look at all the rivers in our country, they are in a pathetic state. They are in very poor state. All the Members of Parliament have raised this issue. I would like to see more money for the River Conservation Programme other than Ganga.

I am also quite unhappy with the meagre allocation, and some Members of Parliament also said yesterday, for lakes. Lakes are very important because lakes are not only ecological bodies, but in many parts of the country, lakes are also sources of drinking water and irrigation. We have a bare allocation of about Rs. 45 crores or thereabouts for 57 lakes in the country. Just to give you an example of what it means to clean a lake, we are spending Rs. 300 crores to clean the Dal Lake alone, which is the most prestigious project of our Ministry; and it is already running two years behind the schedule. So, in the next Budget, I would certainly expect the Finance Minister to listen to all the MPs and make a very substantial increase in the allocation for river conservation, the river cleaning and the lake cleaning programme which I feel have assumed great importance in the years to come. सर, पर्यावरण के मामले में जो दूसरा मुद्दा उठा था, कई लोगों ने कहा कि जिस ढंग से हम पर्यावरण का clearance देते हैं, उसमें पारदर्शिता नहीं है, हम कई ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट्स को clearance देते हैं, जिनको हमें clearance नहीं देना चाहिए था, हमने जो प्रणाली अपनाई है, वह सही प्रणाली नहीं है और कई ऐसे मुद्दे उठे थे। हमारे वामपंथी मित्र राजा साहब ने coastal zone के बारे में भी कई प्रश्न उठाए थे। मैं इनमें से हरेक के बारे में थोड़ा-सा जिक्र करूंगा।

सर, pollution के बारे में जो कहा गया था, it is true that we have standards. We have very tough standards in our country. We have laws against water pollution which were passed in the 70s. We have the Environment Protection Act of 1986 which was enacted following the horrendous Bhopal tragedy of 1984. We have Control of Air Pollution Act. So, we have excellent laws. Our standards are also very substantially rigid. Unfortunately, Sir, I have to accept that the monitoring of compliance to these standards leaves a lot to be desired. We do not have adequate institutional capacity to carry out this compliance and very often, Sir, it is the Judiciary who steps in and monitors compliance on our behalf. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. It is the job of the Government to monitor to what extent environmental standards are actually being implemented. The current institutional structure that we have, a Central Pollution Control Board at the Centre and State Pollution Control Board in the States, is woefully inadequate, both from the financial point of view and from the professional point of view, to carry out this onerous task. Therefore, Sir, I would like to take the House into confidence. We are in the process of finalising the establishment of a National Environmental Protection Authority empowered by the

Environment Protection Act of 1986, which is one of the recommendations of the Dr. Maitreyan's Standing Committee also. This Environment Protection Authority would have the responsibility of ensuring that the environmental standards that we have set for ourselves under various laws are actually being implemented and being monitored for compliance. Over time, we will have State Environment Protection Authorities. It is my hope that by the end of this year, a national-level Environment Protection Authority would be in place. This would be independent. This would be professional. This would be a science-based authority. This would have an arm's length relationship with the Ministry. The Ministry will not have any responsibility for actually monitoring. It would be the job of this regulator, this authority which would be suitably empowered by the Environment Protection Act to ensure that these standards are actually being implemented.

Sir, one more thing I want to say is that after I came to this Ministry, I tried to assess for myself what are the critical environmental hotspots in the country because we are sitting on many Bhopals. We have to admit that there are many parts of our country where the environmental situation has reached alarming crisis proportions. Now, Sir, through the Central Pollution Control Board, we have identified 24 critically-polluted areas in the country. These are: Angul Talcher in Orissa, Ankleshwar in Gujarat, Bhadravathi in Karnataka, Chembur in Maharashtra, Dhanbad in Jharkhand, Digboi in Assam, Durgapur in West Bengal, Greater Cochin, Howrah, Jodhpur, Korba, Manali, Govindgarh, Najafgarh, Nagda, North Arcot, Pali, Parwanoo, Singrauli, Tarapur, Vapi, Visakhapatnam. Vellore for its tanneries.

These are 24 critical environmental hotspots. We are now trying to focus into these areas and to ensure that in the next couple of years through a mixture of interventions like setting up common effluent treatment plants, bringing in new technology, etc., we will be able to manage environmental situation in these areas.

One point was raised yesterday. And I do admit that there are many parts of the country where pollution — air pollution and water pollution — has reached an alarming situation and we have to intervene sooner rather than later.

Sir, the other thing that I want to mention in the context of environment is that on Friday, I introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha — that will come to the Rajya Sabha as well — to establish a National Green Tribunal.

Sir, this is a major step forward. It follows the 186th Report of the Law Commission. It follows certain decisions given by the Supreme Court of India. What we are hoping to do, through the National Green Tribunal, is to set up a system of environmental courts in order to bring an approach which will be more professional, more informed, more technical, and judicious in decision-making on substantial cases of environment, on laws relating to environment and forests.

The Bill has been introduced. It will go to the Standing Committee and I hope that by the winter session of Parliament, we will have a National Green Tribunal. I believe that the establishment of a National Green Tribunal would be a very major step to establishing the credibility and integrity of the environmental management process.

Sir, last comment on environmental appraisal, this argument has often been made that our appraisal system is not transparent. Sir, over a period of time, we have tried to bring in notifications. We have tried to bring in modifications in the way environmental appraisal is done. In the last month, I issued a series of instructions to ensure that whatever we do in so far as environmental appraisal is concerned is available in the public domain. Today, any Member of Parliament or any citizen of India can go to the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and get full information on where his or her project is; what is its status of clearance; what the issues are; why it is pending; and what is the schedule as far as clearance is concerned. I think this amount of transparency that we need to bring in is very, very important.

We are also insisting now that every year, every project proponent submit an environmental audit or an environmental statement which is being made mandatory. It is provided by the Environment (Protection) Act. I am not doing anything new. I am only implementing the provisions of the Act that Parliament passed almost 23 years ago. Why we did not do it for the past 23 years, I think is a separate issue.

I think that we have adequate powers under the Environment (Protection) Act to enforce transparency, to enforce a degree of accountability as far as environmental standards are concerned. I believe in the next few months, we will be able to bring about results in this area.

Sir, on coastal management issue, I would like to assure the hon. Members that on July 22, this year, Coastal Management Zone Notification, 2008, has been allowed to lapse. It is no longer in operation. It is history now. I would like to reassure the former Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology that his recommendation in this regard has been followed 100 per cent. What we are now doing is that we have put up the Report of the Swaminathan Committee on our website. Now anybody can use it.

We have said that CMZ 2008 will lapse. Whatever modifications we want to bring about will be brought about in CRZ 1991. There are special cases like Goa where eight thousand violations have taken place. We have to determine how many of them are genuine fishermen and how many of them are so-called fishermen. Our objective is to ensure livelihood and habitation security of fishermen and their families — not of five-star hotels, not of Government servants, not of politicians, but, of fishermen and their families. The CRZ 1991 will be changed to protect their livelihood security.

Sir, there are also issues related to Mumbai which have been raised and I would like to categorically state that in Mumbai, whatever changes we are bringing about in CRZ 1991 will facilitate low income housing for economically weaker sections. It will not provide security

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for beachfront houses; it will not provide security for weekend homes or resorts; but, it will provide security for Government-financed housing schemes for economically weaker sections of the society. This report is available on the website. I am myself going to Goa, Cochin, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai. In five places, I am going to have consultations in the next month with fishermen and their organisations and by the end of September ...*(Interruptions)*... we will ensure that CRZ 1991 will be amended in a manner that protects fishermen and their families. Sir, I am also on record as having said, and I reiterate it, that I am examining the feasibility of bringing forward a Fishermen Rights Protection Bill like the Tribal Rights Bill. If it is feasible to bring it in the Winter Session of Parliament, I will make every effort to do so. I have already spoken to Dr. Swaminathan and some other colleagues. They are helping me in this regard. I would appeal for the cooperation of all Members to get this Bill passed at its very earliest.

Sir, let me now move on to the third issue on forestry. Sir, on forestry, the Standing Committee had made certain recommendations on Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority, called CAMPA. For seven years, Sir, this matter lay in the Supreme Court. For seven long years, there was a deadlock. Rs.11000 crores is lying in bank accounts on account of CAMPA. The big States for CAMPA are Chhattisgarh with Rs.1448 crores, almost Rs.1500 crores; Orissa with almost Rs.1500 crores; Andhra Pradesh with almost Rs.1000 crores; Uttarakhand with almost Rs.1000 crores. These are the four big States that account for almost fifty per cent of the CAMPA money. So, what have we done?

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Sir, I want to reassure Mr. Raja that all that we have done is, implement what the Standing Committee had recommended. We have decentralised CAMPA. I have written to all the Chief Ministers. We have set State-level CAMPA guidelines. The only role for the Central Government is to have a Central Advisory Council for monitoring, of which I am the Chairman — the Minister is the Chairman, not I. The entire responsibility for implementing CAMPA is that of the State Governments. It's not with the Centre. We have decentralised it. In fact, I am now being criticised that we have decentralised it too much. But, anyway, in our country, we have to navigate and find a middle path always. I want to reassure you that it is not my intention to hold on to this money. And, in response to the concern that you have raised, the Supreme Court has said that in the first year, you release ten per cent of Rs.11000 crores, that is, roughly about Rs.1000 crores. But, let me reassure Mr. Raja that if in the next six to eight months all States set up CAMPA authorities, all States open bank accounts and all States have the systems in place, the entire money will be transferred. You don't have to wait for five years. This is my reading of the Supreme Court decision. I have discussed it with various legal experts. Five years is the maximum limit. Five years is, perhaps, the Supreme Court's perception of how long it takes for

the Government to take a decision. I am convinced that in the next few months — I give myself 9-12 months — if all the States come on board, this entire amount of Rs. 11,000 crores becomes available to the State Governments for forestation. But I want to tell one thing to the hon. Members that in the revised guidelines there is no room for using this money for plantations. The biggest scam in this country is plantation. We all know this. Plantation केवल कागज़ पर ही चलते हैं, असलियत में कोई plantation नहीं होता। That is why it is for forests. It is only for protection and regeneration of natural forests. It is not for eucalyptus; it is not for poplar; it is not for acacia; it is not for mono-culture plantations. It is for regenerating and restoring natural forest cover. Mr. Maitreya may not like this. But I depend upon you and all other Members of Parliament to ensure that this money is not misused for plantation purposes and that this money is used only for forestry regeneration. Only if that is done will the objective of CAMPA be fulfilled.

Sir, there was a lot of discussion on the Tribal Rights Act. I want to say something on the Tribal Rights Act. The nodal Ministry for Tribal Rights Act is not the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. We have only a tangential role; it is not a primary role. But I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that, just last night, we have issued an advisory guideline to all the State Governments, for the first time, after the passage of the Tribal Rights Act. This guideline is available on our website. I will share it with the hon. Members. What this guideline says is that all clearances under the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 will be considered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests only after all the processes of Tribal Rights Act have been gone through by the State Governments. What this means is that only after claims have been settled, only if the Gram Sabha has actually ensured that pattas have been given out, as per the process in the Tribal Rights Act, will the Ministry of Environment and Forests consider applications under the Forest Conservation Act. This is a huge ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, just one minute. Will it be with retrospective effect from December, 2005?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I will come to that. I will address this issue whether it is retrospective or prospective. As of yesterday, as of last night, we have left open the issue whether it should be with retrospective effect because that opens an entirely different set of issues which I will come to later when the hon. Member, undoubtedly, will seek clarification from me. But what I want to say today is that the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the forestry establishment, has taken a gigantic step forward. Remember that the forestry sector was not exactly friendly to the Tribal Rights Bill. In fact, the reason why it was taken away from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and given to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was that the perception of the foresters was not keen on this Bill. In fact, stay orders were obtained by retired

foresters in some States, particularly, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. Right now, the stay order has been lifted only in Andhra Pradesh. There is still a stay order in Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

But let me give the hon. Members a broad picture of what this Tribal Rights Act means for forestry. Sir, if you look at the website of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs — I seem to be missing those papers right now — the total number of claims that have been filed so far under the Tribal Rights Act is about 21 lakh. That means 2.1 million claims have been filed. It is the expectation, it is the analysis, of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, that no more than 50 per cent of these claims will actually pass muster through the Gram Sabha and the processes that are embodied in the Tribal Rights Act. So, we are talking of a maximum number of claims of about one million. The average size of the *patta* is about 2 hectares. Assuming that each one of the 1 million claims is actually settled, we are talking of a total area, that is going to be settled, of the Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Tribes, who have livelihood security depending upon the forests, of about 2 million hectares. In a total forest area of 65-66 billion hectares, the total land area, that is being settled for forest dwellers, is about 2 million hectares. It is not such a large number, as it was made out to be initially. And this is because the provisions in the Tribal Rights Act require that you fulfil many conditions; you have to fulfil 2005 conditions; you have to fulfil 2007 conditions and you have to show that livelihood security is dependent on the forest areas. So, I would only urge upon the hon. Members to give, what we have started, a little more time. This is a new area that we are entering into as far as the forestry sector is concerned. Now, all applications, that will come for mining in forest areas will not only be accompanied by the usual forestry clearances, but they will have to be accompanied by evidence that the provisions of the Tribal Rights Act have been gone through. Let me give you an example of this. For the unit at Nyomgiri, which was mentioned yesterday by Shri Rudra Narayan Pany, who is not here now, my Ministry has given this 'in principle' approval. They have got the environmental clearance; they have got the 'in principle' forestry clearance. Now, I am not happy with the words 'in principle' forestry clearance. I would like clearance to be clearance. It is either clearance or rejection. Give me a little more time, and I will get rid of this animal called 'in principle forest approval'. It is not a good animal to have. As long as we have it, I have to live with it. We have given 'in principle' clearance approval for the Vedanta Bauxite Mining at Nyomgiri. Now, had the Tribal Rights Act been in place, the chances are that this project would never have been cleared in the first place, and they would not have got even the 'in principle' approval. But these are all issues that will be dealt with as we get experience with this Act. The President's Address says that all Title Deeds will be handed out by the end of this year. This is a commitment that our Government has made, that in respect of all 21 lakh claims, that are in place, which are verified, *pattas* will be given by the end of this year. Now, the major States, which are remaining, are

Tamil Nadu, where the stay order has not been lifted and Orissa, where a stay order, is still prevalent. We hope that very soon, the stay order, in these two States, also gets lifted, and the Tribal Rights Act becomes a reality as far as these States also are concerned.

There were a large number of questions raised on forestry management, on making our forestry sector a more modern institution. I am pleased to say that just last week, the Union Cabinet gave its approval to two very big schemes for the forestry sector. This is a Rs.600 crore scheme, for forest management, building forestry infrastructure, for creating institutions, both at the Centre, and, more importantly, at the States in local levels, to give forestry the wherewithal to deal with new challenges, etc. And, another scheme, that was approved for the Eleventh Five Year Plan was a Rs. 365 crore scheme for capacity building in the forestry sector, which is training of the Forest Guards, the Forest Rangers, the DFO, the people at the cutting edge, who are involved in the day to day management of the forestry sector. So, I am conscious of the fact that forestry, in India, has a 100-year old history, and we have a good story to tell as far as forestry is concerned. Not many countries in the world have so much of an area under forestry, as India has. And, I will explain it when I talk about climate change. This is a very big positive thing for India that we have so much of forests which are acting as absorbers of carbon. And it is my belief that with the increased money, that is being put into the forestry sector, after decades of neglect, the forestry establishment will also rise to the occasion and will become much more pro-active. I admit, today, the image of the forestry sector leaves a lot to be desired.

The forest officer is seen to be corrupt; is seen to be meddling with tribal livelihoods. Very few people have good words to say about Government servants in general; but within Government, the forestry sector, perhaps, ranks very low on the totem pole. I am determined to improve the image of the forestry sector. I have taken a large number of steps. We will improve working conditions of forest guards, forest officers and forest rangers. We are suffering from staff where the average age is over 50 years; we need to get younger people. We need to motivate them. We need to create more incentives for them. And I think all this is part of the process of rejuvenating the forestry sector. I think the process has begun.

The fourth issue, on which Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy was very eloquent, was of climate change. कल इन्होंने जलवायु परिवर्तन के बारे में काफी विस्तार से बहस की और उनका यह मानना था कि Major Economists Forum (MEF) में जो समझौता हुआ है, समझौता नहीं, बल्कि जो बयान लिखा हुआ है, जिसमें हमारे प्रधान मंत्री भी शामिल थे। उसमें लिखा गया है कि हम लोग सब प्रयास करेंगे कि सन् 2050 तक जलवायु के तापमान में जो परिवर्तन आएगी, वह दो डिग्री सेंटीग्रेड तक सीमित रहेगी। वह हमारे लिए एक compromise है, हमारा जो traditional position रहा है, उससे हम हटे हैं। मेरे और प्रधान मंत्री जी के बीच में भी कुछ अंतर्विरोध है। मैं माननीय सदस्यों को कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर वह Major Economists Forum के स्टेटमेंट पढ़ेंगे, तो पाएंगे कि उसमें कई बातों का जिक्र हुआ है। उसमें इक्विटी का जिक्र हुआ है, विकसित देशों की क्या जिम्मेदारियां हैं, उसका भी जिक्र हुआ है और विकासशील देशों की क्या जिम्मेदारियां हैं, उसका भी जिक्र हुआ है। यदि आप उसके एक sentence को लेकर कहें कि यही MEF स्टेटमेंट का अर्थ है, तो मैं

समझता हूँ कि यह इसका गलत interpretation दिया जा रहा है। मैं मानता हूँ और स्वीकार करता हूँ कि पहली बार यह दो डिग्री सेंटीग्रेट की बात हिन्दुस्तान के किसी official वक्तव्य में स्वीकार की गई है। जैसा कि प्रधान मंत्री ने लोक सभा में कहा कि इसका यह अर्थ नहीं है कि हमारा जो traditional position रहा है कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग की जिम्मेदारी हमारी नहीं है, ग्लोबल वार्मिंग की जिम्मेदारी developed countries की है और हम अपनी आर्थिक विकास में बंदिश नहीं लगा सकते हैं, यह हमारा position रहा है और यह position रहेगा, क्योंकि हमारा जो negotiation हो रहा है, वह MEF के माध्यम से नहीं हो रहा है, बल्कि हमारा जो negotiation चल रहा है, वह संयुक्त राष्ट्र की Framework Convention on Climate Change के अंतर्गत चल रहा है। अभी दस तारीख को बर्न में फिर एक सम्मेलन शुरू हो रहा है। मैं जानता हूँ कि इसका जिक्र होगा, पर आप यकीन मानिए कि हम अडिग हैं, प्रधान मंत्री भी अडिग हैं। कल रात में भी प्रधान मंत्री की Climate Council की मीटिंग हुई थी। उसमें भी यह बात दोहराई गई कि हमारा क्या रवैया होना चाहिए, हमको क्या position लेना चाहिए और उसमें कोई बदलाव नहीं आया है, परंतु एक ऐसा इंटरनेशनल opinion बना है कि वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार अगर तापमान दो डिग्री सेंटीग्रेट से ज्यादा होता है, तो वह हमारे लिए खतरा होगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने क्या कहा है? प्रधान मंत्री ने यह नहीं कहा है कि हमारा यह negotiable proceeding रहेगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने यह नहीं कहा है कि यह हमारा सिद्धांत है। प्रधान मंत्री ने एक बयान में अपनी स्वीकृति दी है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि वैज्ञानिक opinion है कि यह दो डिग्री सेंटीग्रेट तक वृद्धि सीमित होनी चाहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, वैज्ञानिकों का ऐसा मानना है कि तापमान में एक डिग्री सेंटीग्रेट की वृद्धि होने से 17 परसेंट गेहूँ का उत्पादन कम हो जाता है।

श्री जयराम रमेश: यह एक होना चाहिए या डेढ़ होना चाहिए या दो होना चाहिए, इस पर अलग बात हो सकती है, पर यह दो डिग्री सेंटीग्रेट की बात Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change की रिपोर्ट से निकली है। मैं आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ कि आप इस पर इतना जोर मत दीजिए। MEF के बयान में और कई चीजें हैं। हमारे Climate Change के सिद्धांत में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं आया है। मैं बार-बार कह रहा हूँ कि हमारा जो नेशनल एक्शन प्लान है, हम उसी राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना के तहत चलेंगे। हमारे सामने बड़ी चुनौती है और यह बात सही है कि हम पर दबाव आया है। यह सही है कि अमेरिका जैसे देश में अभी एक माहौल पैदा किया जा रहा है कि चोर हिन्दुस्तान है।

हमारा कोई कुसूर नहीं है, पर हिन्दुस्तान और चीन जैसे देशों के कारण ग्लोबल वार्मिंग हो रही है - यह माहौल पैदा हो रहा है। एक और माहौल पैदा हो रहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान को क्यों हक देना चाहिए, जबकि हिन्दुस्तान में आप आबादी पर कोई नियंत्रण नहीं लाए। आप हर साल डेढ़ करोड़ लोग पैदा करते हैं, तो आपको यह free ride क्यों मिले? ऐसा भी एक माहौल है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (बिहार): हर साल डेढ़ करोड़ लोग पैदा नहीं होते हैं।

श्री जयराम रमेश: रूडी जी, हर साल हमारे देश में डेढ़ करोड़ लोग पैदा होते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... तो ये सब खतरे हमारे सामने हैं। मैं खतरों को मिनिमाइज़ नहीं करना चाहता हूँ पर कृपया प्रधान मंत्री का जो स्टैंड था MEF में, उसको आप गलत twist मत दीजिए। सरकार में कोई अंतर्विरोध नहीं है। बातचीत चलती है, हमारी आपस में बातचीत चली थी कि इस दो डिग्री के मायने क्या हैं? इसका हम पर क्या असर होगा? इससे हम कैसे निपटेंगे? क्योंकि जैसा कि मैंने स्वीकार किया कि पहली बार एक बयान में यह आया है और यह हमारे सामने है और यह वास्तविकता है कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री इसमें शामिल थे, पर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत: इसीलिए तो हम विरोध कर रहे हैं उसका!

श्री जयराम रमेश: आप बिलकुल विरोध कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

DR. V. MAITEYAN (Tamil Nadu): If that is the case, on Friday, on Indian submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, you yourself had predicted that problems could arise because of the Declaration which the Prime Minister has accepted.

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैंने कहा कि चुनौती है। मैंने कहा कि हमारे लिए एक चुनौती है। मैंने और कुछ नहीं कहा।...(व्यवधान)... और प्रधान मंत्री भी स्वीकार करते हैं कि वह चुनौती है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : यही तो बात है। चुनौती तो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने पैदा की है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has not concluded. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैंने conclude नहीं किया है।...(व्यवधान)... एक तो मैं बता दूँ कि MEF का एग्रीमेंट नहीं है। MEF का कोई एग्रीमेंट नहीं था। MEF का एक declaration है, एक बयान है। हजारों declarations बनते रहते हैं, हजारों declaration हो जाते हैं। देखिए, आपकी चिंता जो है, वह वास्तविक है। आपके मन में जो शक पैदा हुआ है, वह वास्तविक है और मेरा कर्तव्य है कि ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: You also accepted it. That is why I said it.

श्री जयराम रमेश: मेरा कर्तव्य है इस शक को हटाना। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि यह हमारे सामने चुनौती है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: और हम कह रहे हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री ने यह चुनौती पैदा की है।

श्री जयराम रमेश: नहीं, नहीं, मैं वह स्वीकार नहीं करता हूँ।...(व्यवधान)... देखिए, हिंदुस्तान...(व्यवधान)... संसार में हम एकमात्र देश नहीं हैं। अलग-अलग देशों के साथ बातचीत हमें करनी है। अलग-अलग देशों के साथ हम संबंध बनाए रखते हैं और हम भी कहते हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री ने बहुत कुछ कहा है, जो मीडिया में नहीं आया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने ओबामा जी को कहा था कि अगर आप क्लाइमेट चेंज की बात करते हैं, तो टेक्नालॉजी ट्रांसफर की जरूरत है। अगर आप intellectual property rights से बंदिश करेंगे, तो हमें टेक्नालॉजी नहीं मिलेगी। यह सब उन्होंने कहा है, तो उसमें मैं नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्लाइमेट चेंज पर हमारी पोजिशन बिलकुल साफ है और निरंतर साफ रही है। कोई बदलाव नहीं आया है और किसी भी सांसद को कोई शक नहीं होना चाहिए, Copenhagen में हम कोई समझौता स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे जो हमारे आर्थिक विकास के रास्ते में बंदिश हो। मैं आपको साफ ...(व्यवधान)... इससे आपको...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं कोश्यारी जी, देखिए, अभी two and a half hours का Short Duration Discussion भी है और Price rise important subject है, इसलिए let the Minister conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री भगत सिंह कोश्यारी (झारखंड): सर, एक मिनट....

श्री उपसभापति: कोश्यारी जी, ऐसे बीच-बीच में मंत्री जी कैसे क्लैरिफिकेशन देंगे?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री भगत सिंह कोश्यारी: नहीं, declaration नहीं। मंत्री जी, इतना अच्छा बोल रहे हैं, उनका declaration नहीं है। मेरे पास एक कागज है, हो सकता है यह गलत हो, इसलिए मैं इसको दिखा रहा हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : उन्होंने declaration ही कहा है। वह एग्रीमेंट नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : सर, मेरा एक ही प्रश्न है कि आने वाली सभी वार्ताओं के लिए जो भी पृष्ठभूमि होगी, वह 2 degree centigrade पर, उस पूरे मानक पर ही अब आगे की वार्ता भविष्य में होगी या नहीं और वही मानक स्थापित हुआ है या नहीं, यह आप कृपया सदन को स्पष्ट बताएं।

श्री जयराम रमेश : सर, मैं आपको बिलकुल आश्वासन दे सकता हूँ। आज सुबह ही साढ़े नौ बजे जो हमारी negotiating team Bonn जा रही है उनके साथ मेरी लम्बी बातचीत हुई है और इस 2 degrees

centigrade का जिक्र बिल्कुल हुआ ही नहीं है। मैं आपको आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी टीम Bonn जा रही है, हमारे लोग जा रहे हैं, वहाँ पर 10 तारीख से लेकर 14 तारीख तक चार दिन की बैठक होगी, negotiating text पर negotiations हो रही हैं। हमने कभी दो degrees का जिक्र नहीं किया है। हमारा जो स्टैंड है, वह बिल्कुल वही रहेगा। हम लोग Bonn में एक और मुद्दा उठाएंगे कि जो प्रयास WTO के माध्यम से किया जा रहा है, ट्रेड और क्लाइमेट के बीच में तालमेल बनाने के लिए, हम बिल्कुल इसका विरोध करेंगे। हमने एक पैराग्राफ भी ड्राफ्ट किया है। इस पैराग्राफ की मंजूरी मैंने आज सुबह दी है और इस पैराग्राफ को, negotiating text में हम प्रयास करेंगे, Bonn में लाने के लिए। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि 20 या 21 तारीख को मैं चीन जाऊंगा। चीन के साथ हम कैसे हमारी पोजिशन coordinate कर सकें, उस पर हम बातचीत और आगे बढ़ाएंगे। इसके अलावा मैं ब्राजील जाऊंगा, साउथ अफ्रीका जाऊंगा। इसलिए अगर हम सब मिलकर, एक होकर एक पोजिशन लें तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जो दबाव हम पर आएगा, उसको हम बिल्कुल सह सकेंगे। लेकिन अगर हम लोग ही होंसला हार जाएं और हम लोग ही कहें कि हम लोग हार गए, 2 degrees स्वीकार का लिया तो यह सही नहीं है। इसलिए आप थोड़ा ठंडे दिमाग से काम लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कई एमपीज तो कहते हैं कि यह 2 per cent है - यह 2 degrees है। कुछ लोग कहते हैं, 2 per cent है और कुछ लोग कहते हैं, 2 degrees. पहले तो मैं यह कह दूँ कि यह 2 degrees है। इस प्रकार 2 degrees की वृद्धि की जो बात हो रही है, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा में कहा है कि यह एक inspirational उद्देश्य है। यह कोई target नहीं है, यह negotiation का कोई संदेश नहीं है, यह एक inspirational goal है। हमें चिंतित होना चाहिए, क्योंकि जलवायु परिवर्तन का हम पर भी बुरा असर हो सकता है। इस प्रकार climate change पर मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो कुछ हम climate change के तहत कर रहे हैं, चाहे राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना हो या हमारे forestry sector का क्या योगदान carbon sink के लिए होगा। मैं रूडी साहब को एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस दस तारीख को मैं देहरादून में जा रहा हूँ और पहली बार हम लोगों ने...**(व्यवधान)**... If the hon. Member can have a little patience, I would like to finish fast. ...**(Interruptions)**... Sir, I would also like to inform the Members that there is a proposal I have made to the Government that some hon. Members also should accompany me to Copenhagen. ...**(Interruptions)**... We are actively considering the proposal to take some Members of Parliament to Copenhagen. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: You were saying something about carbon sink.

श्री उपसभापति: लगता है कि मैम्बर्स को price rise में कोई इंटरेस्ट नहीं है।...**(व्यवधान)**... इसके बाद price rise पर डिस्कशन है, वह भी आपके लिए important है।

श्री जयराम रमेश : सर, carbon sink के बारे में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ।...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं केवल 15 मिनट और बोलूंगा। मैं पहली बार 10 तारीख को देहरादून जा रहा हूँ, योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष मेरे साथ आ रहे हैं। हम लोगों ने पहली बार अध्ययन किया है कि हमारे forestry cover का carbon sink में क्या योगदान है, कितना कार्बन यह absorb कर रहा है। सांसदों को जानकर खुशी होगी कि हमने negotiations में प्रस्ताव डाला है कि भारत जैसे देशों को forestry cover के लिए क्रेडिट मिलना चाहिए। ब्राजील जैसे देश Amazon में deforestation रोकने के लिए credit चाहते हैं और हम लोग हमारे forestry cover बढ़ाने के लिए credit चाहते हैं। मैं आज यहां बताना चाहता हूँ कि उस विश्लेषण का नतीजा यह निकला है कि आज हमारा जो forestry cover है, 65 million hectares, वह हर साल, दस परसेंट हमारा जो greenhouse gas emissions हैं, उसको absorb करता है। अगर हम और आगे बढ़ाएं, अगर हमारी फोरेस्ट्री कवर को और आगे बढ़ाएं, तो आप देखिए तथा अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि हम और कितना ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिशन एबजॉर्व कर सकते हैं। यह दुनिया नहीं जानती है, हिलेरी क्लिंटन को पता नहीं था कि हमारे देश में इतना ज्यादा फोरेस्ट एरिया है।

हमें पब्लिक एजुकेशन करने की जरूरत है, हम लोगों को इंटरनेशनल कम्युनिटी को कहना चाहिए कि हिन्दुस्तान में फोरेस्ट्री में इतना काम हो रहा है और फोरेस्ट्री का एक नतीजा यह होगा कि ग्रीनहाउस गैस के संदर्भ में हमें एक क्रेडिट भी मिल सकता है, क्योंकि ज्यादातर कार्बन सिंक एबजॉर्ब हो सकता है। मैं आपको एक और जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ। कल मेरी इंडियन स्पेस रिसर्च आर्गनाइजेशन के चेयरमैन माधव नायर और उनके पूर्व अध्यक्ष कस्तूरी रंगन साहब जो अभी योजना आयोग के सदस्य हैं, उनके साथ लम्बी बात हुई है। आपको जानकर यह खुशी होगी कि हम लोग अभी इस बात पर विचार कर रहे हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान स्वयं अपना उपग्रह छोड़े, जो ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिशन मॉनिटर कर सके। यह पहली बार ऐसा होगा और इस पर बातचीत चल रही है। हमारा अनुमान है कि इसमें दो साल लगेगा और करीब तीन सौ करोड़ का खर्चा होगा। इस पर अभी और विचार-विमर्श होना है। परन्तु प्राइमफेसी इनीसिएली इन लोगों ने कहा है कि अच्छा एरिया है और हिन्दुस्तान को न केवल अपने ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिशन, परन्तु सारे एशियन कांटीनेंट में जो ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिट हो रहा है, उसका भी मॉनिटरिंग हमारे सेटलाइट के द्वारा हो सकता है। आज सिर्फ जापान और यूरोप ने सेटलाइट छोड़ा है तथा और किसी देश ने कोई ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिशन मॉनिटरिंग के लिए सेटलाइट नहीं छोड़ा है। यह भी हम करना चाहते हैं। यह सब क्या दर्शाता है। यह दर्शाता है कि क्लाइमेट चेंज में हमारी पोजिशन डिफेंसिव नहीं है, हम बिल्कुल इसमें बेकसूर हैं, हम प्रोएक्टिव स्टैंड लेना चाहते हैं, हम कंट्रीब्यूट करना चाहते हैं, हमें समझौते की जरूरत है। अगर समझौता नहीं होगा तो अमेरिका जैसे देश ग्रीनहाउस गैस एमिट करते रहेंगे और उसका बुरा असर हमारे जैसे देशों पर पड़ेगा। तो हमारे हित में है कि कॉपनहेगन में एक सकारात्मक एग्रीमेंट पर हस्ताक्षर हो। पर हम उस एग्रीमेंट को स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे, जहां बंदिश लगाई जाए, किसी तरह से प्रत्यक्ष बंदिश या अप्रत्यक्ष बंदिश हो, दोनों तरह की बंदिश हमें बिल्कुल अस्वीकार्य हैं, यह मैं बिल्कुल साफ कर देना चाहता हूँ।

सर, जो पांचवां मुद्दा उठा था, वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन और मेनेजमेंट के बारे में, कई सदस्यों ने कहा था कि हमारे जो कानून हैं, ये सही ढंग से लागू नहीं हो रहे हैं, हमारे चन्दन मित्र साहब ने भी पहले कहा था कि अगर हम संसार चन्द्र को एक नमूना बनाएं तो उसका संदेश सारे हिन्दुस्तान में जाएगा, पर हमारे भी हाथ बंधे हुए हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि हमारा कानून बहुत इतना मजबूत नहीं है जितना होना चाहिए था और हमारा जूडिशियल सिस्टम भी बहुत धीरे-धीरे चलता है। एक मशहूर फिल्म अभिनेता का केस सालों से चल रहा है, आप जानते हैं, मैं उसका नाम नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ। एक पूर्व क्रिकेट कप्तान के खिलाफ भी एक केस चल रहा है, उनका भी नाम मैं नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ, पर उनके खिलाफ भी केस चल रहा है। तो सालों-साल केस चलता रहता है। पर, मैं...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव: आप जोर इस बात पर दे रहे हैं कि मैं नाम उनका नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ।

श्री जयराम रमेश: नहीं, सब लोग उनको जानते हैं। पर मैं स्वीकार करता हूँ कि वाइल्ड लाइफ मेनेजमेंट और प्रोटेक्शन कानून में भारी मात्रा में परिवर्तन लाने की जरूरत है। मैं आपको यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि विंटर सेशन में कम्प्रहेंसिव अमेंडमेंट टू दि वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट हम लाएंगे और दो साल पहले वाइल्ड लाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो का स्थापन हुआ था। यह बात सही है कि इस साल उसको सिर्फ मुश्किल से तीन करोड़ मिले हैं। परन्तु डा. चन्दन मित्र को जानकर खुशी होगी कि पिछले चार दिनों में हमने इसको और चार करोड़ बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया है और एक बहुत बड़ा पर्सपेक्टिव प्लान हम बना रहे हैं, ताकि रीजनल ऑफिसों हों और वाइल्ड लाइफ क्राइम कंट्रोल ब्यूरो में करीब हजार लोगों की भर्ती होने की जरूरत है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जो आज जैसे प्रोजेक्ट टाइगरों में poaching का जो खतरा है, वह तभी हम सही कर पाएंगे जब हमारे पास एक सख्त और मजबूत कानून होगा।

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: कानून तो बहुत सख्त है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam, let me finish. That is your perception. Unless we are able to have stronger laws and unless we are able to enforce these laws better, we will not be able to protect our diversity or our wildlife.

डा. चन्दन मित्र (नाम-निर्देशित): सर, जब हम यहां कालिंग अटेंशन मोशन पर बहस कर रहे थे, तब फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट्स बनाने के लिए सुझाव दिए गए थे। उस समय आपने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि इस मामले में आप विचार करेंगे, मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपने इस पर विचार किया है?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, as I mentioned during the Calling Attention Motion, I have spoken to the *amicus curiae* and I have consulted the Supreme Court and I have consulted a large spectrum of legal opinion on what type of amendments to bring about and what type of courts to set up, to ensure that speedier justice is meted out in cases like that of Sansar Chand, which are part of national and international network and I hope to be able to come back in the Winter Session of Parliament with comprehensive amendments to the Wildlife Act. Sir, on 'Project Tiger', I do not have to say anything because we have had a Calling Attention Motion. I do want to say that, seeing the manner in which the hon. Member is exercised by my comments on Wildlife crime, I consider local communities the best protectors of Wildlife and bio-diversity habitats and that is why, we have begun an experiment at Corbett with recruiting local *Gujjar* communities as social protection forces. Permission for this has already been sanctioned. The proposal is being finalised and wherever wildlife habitats are there, local communities can be recruited as part of a social protection force. We would give them priority. We don't want a police or a commando approach to protecting tiger reserves or wild life habitats. We want a people-friendly approach and I believe, having seen what has happened in Corbett, we can make a beginning at Corbett, and, if it is successful in Corbett, also in other places where you have tribal communities, particularly, living in the buffer zone of these wildlife areas; they can be used far more effectively than to have more laws and bring more police areas. But this is an area, which needs a little bit of careful attention, and I have already assured the hon. Members, in the Calling Attention, that we will try this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, how much time will you take more?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I have three more points. I will finish very quickly.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, let him speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot go by what you say. I have to go by the agenda before me.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I will be very brief. Sir, there was some talk on the Himalayan Glaciers that Himalayan Glaciers would disappear by the year 2030, by the year 2040. I would like the hon. Members to be little careful in what they read on the Himalayan Glaciers. There are different views on the Himalayan Glaciers. There are some glaciers that are retreating. There are some glaciers that are advancing. In some glaciers, the rate of retreat, now, is lower than what it was 20 years ago, like the Gangotri Glacier. Sir, I am making a statement for which I have been criticised in the international Press. But I do not mind saying this on the Floor of the House that there is no robust scientific evidence to show that climate change is causing the retreat of the Himalayan Glaciers at such an alarming pace. But, when I made this statement somewhere, the international Press jumped upon me, but seeing the weight of scientific opinion, in India Indian

scientists believe that while it is true that there is firm evidence to show that Himalayan Glaciers are retreating, whether it is part of a natural, cyclical process or whether it is because of global warming still remains to be established. But we are studying; we are putting a team together. We have a National Cryosphere Programme. कोश्यारी जी, कई संस्थाएं इसमें शामिल हैं, उत्तराखंड की हैं, हिमाचल प्रदेश की हैं, जम्मू और काश्मीर की हैं, सिक्किम की हैं और अरुणाचल प्रदेश की हैं। हम एक National Cryosphere Monitoring Programme की स्थापना अपने मंत्रालय में करने जा रहे हैं। हिमालियन ग्लेशियर पर जो आपने चिंता जताई है, उसका हम अध्ययन करेंगे। यह बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि आज हमें सारी जानकारी हिमालियन ग्लेशियर पर नार्वे, कनाडा, अमेरिका और फ्रांस से मिलती है और जो हमारी संस्थाएं हैं, उनसे नहीं मिलती है। हम लोग इस पर काम नहीं करते हैं। हमें जो बाहर के लोग कहते हैं कि हिमालियन ग्लेशियर पर क्या हो रहा है, उसे हम बिल्कुल सत्यमेव जयते की तरह से स्वीकार करते हैं। हमारा मकसद यह होना चाहिए कि हमारे जो वैज्ञानिक हैं, हमारी जो संस्थाएं हैं, इनकी क्षमता को हम बढ़ाएं और इसके लिए हमें जो भी कदम उठाने होंगे, वे कदम उठाएंगे और इसमें हम चूकेंगे नहीं। Sir, the seventh issue was on the judiciary that was raised by Mr. Naik. Sir, I want to say that — I think so — the Judiciary is a partner of the Executive in environmental management. I think that the judicial activism in environment came when the Executive abdicated its role. Whatever may be the reason. The executive abdicated its role and the judiciary stepped in. I feel, on balance, the judicial intervention on environmental issues has been positive, has been constructive and is, in fact, saved our forests. Had there been no judiciary, we would have had no forests, frankly. It is a very damaging admission for the Minister of Environment and Forests to make. But, having seen the reality and seeing the pressures that I am under from Chief Ministers, Central Ministers and Members of Parliament, if I might add, to be liberal with the Forest (Conservation) Act, I thank God for the judiciary. It is because of the judiciary we are able to resist the pressures from political establishments.

I feel with the National Green Tribunal, the role of the judiciary will change. We will have a different environmental approach. But, for the time being, I do not see an alternative to judicial intervention. I feel and I would like to assure the hon. Member from Goa that if the executive is transparent, if the executive is accountable, if the executive is responsive, there is no need for judicial intervention. In fact, I would like to tell Mr. Chandan Mitra, that Environment Ministry should be an ATM Ministry — Accountable and Transparent Ministry. The real ATM is Accountable and Transparent. If it is accountable and transparent, you are not required judicial crutch to stand upon.

Sir, with regard to environmental awareness and education, I would like to say that the hon. Members will be pleased to know that the Ministry of Environment and Forests is supporting 1,10,000 schools across the country for environmental education and awareness creation. This is a very small number. एक लाख दस हजार स्कूल, यह बहुत छोटा नम्बर है। We need to expand this much, much more. We are making a small beginning in creating awareness on environmental issues. But, today, I can honestly say that the public awareness on environmental issues is far

better than what it was 10 or 15 years ago. Sir, civil society is very active. NGOs are very active. I see NGOs and civil societies as partners in our progress. I do not see them as enemies or adversaries. I see them as partners. I see them playing a very constructive role in the process of environmental management and making the system much more sensitive and accountable.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What about the National Environmental Awareness Campaign? Very less funds are allocated for it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: We are giving Rs. 2,500 per school. It is a very small sum of money. It is a very small amount of money. I agree that we need to spend much more money in creating awareness on issues, both at the school level as well as the society at large.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Allocation for National Environment Awareness Campaign has to be increased. NGOs and civil societies have to be used.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I agree with you. I have absolutely no doubt. I have absolutely no difference of opinion on this. We are, in fact, using the NGOs in different parts of the country. But, we need to expand this. We have the Centre for Environment Education at Ahmedabad. We have C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation at Chennai doing all this work. I think, we need to expand this manifold.

Finally, there were a large number of State-level issues raised here by the hon. Members. सर, UP के संदर्भ में गंगा Expressway के बारे में जिक्र हुआ था। यहां पर कमाल अख्तर साहब बैठे हुए हैं और पीछे उनके दोस्त भी बैठे हुए हैं। मैं पत्थर प्रदूषण पर तो बोलूंगा नहीं, लेकिन गंगा Expressway के बारे में यह जरूर कहूंगा कि गंगा Expressway के लिए कानून तौर से राज्य सरकार को, केन्द्र सरकार से अनुमति लेने की कोई जरूरत नहीं थी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कमाल अख्तर जी, आप मेरी बात मानिए और इस पर बहस मत करिए। यदि कानूनी, narrow and technical ओर से देखा जाए, तो the State Government was fully competent not to come to the Centre for approval to construct express way on its own. परन्तु इस Expressway के कई Implications होते हैं, State level Environmental Appraisal Authority है। आपकी भावना को मद्देनजर रखते हुए, मैं State level Environmental Authority को कहूंगा कि Expressway का क्या Environmental Impact होगा, आप इसका थोड़ा अध्ययन करें। मैं आपको यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसमें किसी भी तरह के कानून का उल्लंघन नहीं हुआ है। आपने ओखला बर्ड सैंक्चुरी के बारे में बात कही है, मैंने स्वयं वहां एक अफसर को भेजा था। उस अफसर की रिपोर्ट आई है। रिपोर्ट आने के बाद उस रिपोर्ट को राज्य सरकार को भेजा है। राज्य सरकार ने अपनी टिप्पणी हमें वापस भेजी है। हम अभी उस पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं। हमारे अफसरों का मानना है कि कानून का उल्लंघन हुआ है, राज्य सरकार का मानना है कि कानून का उल्लंघन नहीं हुआ है। हम इस पर विचार करेंगे और जब कोई निर्णय निकलेगा तो मैं उससे पूरा अवगत कराऊंगा।

On the North-East, a large number of hon. Members have raised this issue. It is true that we are not doing enough for bio-diversity management in the North-East. I have particular interest and concern for the North-East. It is true that mechanically we have formula. Ten per cent of the Budget of every Ministry goes to the North-East. But that is a mechanical, arithmetic formula. The type of concern that we should have for building the bio-diversity and using the bio-diversity of the North-East in each State of the North-East has not been very evident. I want

to assure the hon. Members from the North-East and from Darjeeling also and also my friend from Bodoland that they are all sitting on the bio-diversity hotspots, they are all sitting on centres of great bio-diversity heritage. In fact, when I took a recent review of Centres of Excellence of my Ministry, I was quite surprised to find that there is no Centre of Excellence in the North-East. All our Centres of Excellence are in Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi and other parts of India, but not in the North-East. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to assure all the Members from the North-East that given the bio-diversity resources that you are possessed with, and given the huge potential that exists in that region, my Ministry would take a special interest in the programmes and the projects in the North-East, and not in the mechanical arithmetic way, but in a very substantive and significant way.

On Orissa, I have already mentioned. An issue was raised regarding illegal mining in Orissa. In the case of Niamgiri and in the case of Posco, both the projects that were mentioned yesterday, have got the environmental approval; and, they have got the in principal forest clearance. They have not got the full forest clearance. They have got 'in principal' forest clearance. So, my information to my colleagues from Orissa, if mining is taking place in Niamgiri, it is illegal. It is illegal today. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am talking of Niamgiri and Posco. These were the two cases that were mentioned yesterday. I have checked on the facts of the case. They have been given 'in principal' approval. 'In principal' does not mean sanction for mining. If they are mining today, they are in contravention of the law and they can be prosecuted. So, this is as far as Orissa is concerned.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): What about wild life?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: About wild life, I have already mentioned.

Sir, in the case of Bhopal, I want to say with all seriousness we are approaching the 25th — I won't say anniversary — year of world's most horrendous tragedy in Bhopal. It pained me what I heard in Bhopal. I have been to Bhopal. I have been to that plant some years ago. But I did not know till yesterday, and this morning, when I checked the facts of the case, that almost 350-390 tonnes of toxic waste is still there. It is a sad commentary on India that 25 years later this waste is still there and we are still no way near deciding as to how we are going to dispose of that toxic waste.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): But they are transferring it to Pritampur. Pritampur is an industrial area.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Vermaji, let me give the facts of the case. The Jabalpur High Court decided that the toxic wastes should be disposed of at a storage and disposal facility at Ankleshwar in Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat had agreed to this. But later on they said, 'No'. Now, the matter is in the Supreme Court. There is a technical committee. The two locations, which have been studied, are Ankleshwar and Pritampur; and, other locations, if we can find other locations. But the fact of the matter is ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: But Pritampur is an industrial area.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it has not been decided that it would go to Pritampur. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take my words for it — the matter is *sub judice*. But I am giving you the facts of the case. The proposal was made to send it to the disposal facility at Ankleshwar. That is not possible because of the changed circumstances of the Gujarat Government. Then, they looked at Pithampur. I have been to Pithampur myself, but I find it odd to see how we can dispose it of in Pithampur. Sir, I am sure they will look at the alternative locations, but it is high time that we give this the priority that it deserves. It is not good to have 350 - 390 tonnes of toxic waste...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I think the Union Carbide should do something. Send it back to that country.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam, the successor company to Union Carbide did make a proposal last year, but, unfortunately, it was not found acceptable. Dow, which has bought the Union Carbide, had made a proposal ...*(Interruptions)*... But I will consider your proposal for sending it back to the United States as part of the Copenhagen Agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*... But this is a serious issue; I do not want to trivialise this issue. This is a very, very serious issue and, I think, the least we can do when we are marking 25 years of this tragedy, is to find a solution to the problem of disposal of this large amount of toxic waste. Sir, I have completed all the points. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This way, you will not be able to finish this discussion. This will be going on, and there will be no price rise.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, we will be happy if there is no price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There will be no discussion on price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*... For interventions, there is a limit. It is good that there are interventions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the Minister is inviting it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After the reply of the Minister, we have to conclude somewhere.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, if he goes on speaking, there will be no price rise. So, let him speak.

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैंने विस्तार से उत्तर दिया है।

श्री उपसभापति: आपने बहुत विस्तार से उत्तर दिया है। इसके बाद किसी clarification की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी।

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैं हरेक सदस्य को ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has given a reply for one hour and twenty minutes. What else do you want?

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैं हरेक सदस्य को अलग से जवाब दूँगा ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Sir, he is really appreciable.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is writing to every person, every Member, clarifying his points. अब इससे ज्यादा क्या होना चाहिए?

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, क्रिकेट के सम्राट ने भी मुझे continue करने के लिए कहा है।

श्री उपसभापति: उनके लिए यह आसान है न।

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैं अलग-अलग सदस्यों को अलग-अलग जवाब दूँगा। इन्होंने बहुत specific issues उठाए हैं। मेरे पास इन specific issues पर जवाब देने के लिए वक्त नहीं था। मैं आभारी हूँ, शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि उन्होंने हमारे मंत्रालय की functioning में इतनी दिलचस्पी ली है। मैं बिल्कुल आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा मंत्रालय, मेरे अफसर, मैं, हम सब पूरी पारदर्शिता से काम करेंगे। आपको जो कोई भी जानकारी चाहिए, जब भी आपको जानकारी चाहिए, हमारी वेबसाइट पर मिल सकती है। अगर वेबसाइट accessible नहीं है, तो आप मुझे फोन कर सकते हैं, मैं आपको जानकारी दूँगा। हम छिपा कर कोई कानून नहीं लाने वाले हैं। हम बिल्कुल पारदर्शिता के साथ अपनी प्रणाली बनाएंगे। मैं माननीय सदस्यों से यह भी निवेदन करता हूँ कि आपके पास जो परिवर्तन के सुझाव हैं कि हमारे मंत्रालय की functioning में हम क्या सुधार ला सकते हैं, क्या परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं, मैं उसका भी स्वागत करूँगा। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूँ कि पिछले दो महीने में कोई बड़ा चमत्कार हो गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि प्रयास तो हमने शुरू किया है, वोरा जी को धन्यवाद, हमने जो प्रयास किया है, वह छोटा सा कदम है, परन्तु मैं समझता हूँ कि अगले साल आप इसका पूरा नतीजा भी देख पाएंगे। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister has assured that he is going to write to all the Members on the important points raised by them. इसके बाद कोई मौका नहीं है। दो रिक्वेस्ट्स आई हैं, which are pending since yesterday. Two minutes for each Member.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, there are two questions that I have while supporting all efforts of the Minister to undo the damage done by the declaration of two degrees accepted. While supporting that, there are just two clarifications which I want to seek.

One is, we have, what is called, the Environmental Impact Assessment Rules, 2006, and now amended in 2009, which is still up for discussion. Now, according to those who have been working in the field and studying it, these rules have, actually, liberalised many of the provisions pertaining to particularly construction activities and mining and made it easier for these people to dilute the Environmental Impact Assessment norms. Therefore, I would request the Minister to give us an assurance that, just as he is looking at so many other things, kindly look at these Rules and find out where it is diluting the provisions to ensure protection and conservation of the environment and the forests. I hope the Minister will re-look at it and give us an assurance to that effect.

The second point that I want to make is pertaining to the forests. Now, according to the Forest Rights Act as well as the Wildlife Protection Act, the identification of critical wildlife habitats cannot be done arbitrarily by the MoEF, as is being done at present. Therefore, what is required is, before you identify any particular area in the forest as a critical wildlife habitat, you

have to have a Committee set up of experts. Also involve local communities in that process to decide which particular area is an area which is a critical wildlife habitat and where men cannot coexist with wild animals. This is very much required because, otherwise, we are having relocations of tribal families in all these areas which are being arbitrarily identified. Therefore, this is a violation of the Forest Rights Act, and I hope that the Minister will turn his attention to this ...*(Time-bellings)*... and prevent the relocation of the people from tiger reserves, which are taking place. Please look into both these aspects. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already made it clear. I cannot allow; because these two requests were pending since yesterday, I am allowing them. आपको मंत्री जी लिखकर जवाब भेज देंगे and you can have a correspondence with the Minister.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: धन्यवाद, महोदय। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, जो आपने मुझे कहा कि हम आपकी बात का जवाब देंगे, आप बाद में अपनी बात बोलिएगा।

महोदय, मेरा पहला प्रश्न है, मैं छत्तीसगढ़ से हूँ और वहाँ के बंधुओं ने यह कहा है कि आपने जो नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में डिवीजन स्तर पर योजना बनाने के लिए कहा है, उसके विषय में केन्द्र से उनको पैसा मिलने में देरी होती है। आप कृपया इसको ध्यान में रखें। दूसरा, आपने जो domestic support पर 'Conservation of Funds in Special Areas' के बारे में कहा है कि उसका रेश्यो 90:10 होगा, उस संबंध में भी आप कृपया इन नक्सल प्रभावित स्पेशल एरियाज़ का, विशेषकर छत्तीसगढ़ के बस्तर जिले का ध्यान रखिएगा, जो वन से घिरा है और नक्सल प्रभावित है। मेरा अगला बिन्दु है ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, मैं बस एक मिनट और लूंगा ...*(व्यवधान)*...।

श्री उपसभापति: कितने बिन्दु हैं आपके पास? आप इसे अब डिबेट में कन्वर्ट मत कीजिए।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: मैं केवल एक मिनट में अपनी बात कहूंगा, उसका जवाब चाहे मंत्री जी मुझे बाद में दे दें। आपने सेतुसमुद्रम कैनाल पर environmental impact का assessment करवाया है, उसके बारे में यदि हम सबको भी मालूम हो जाए तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। दूसरा, अंडमान निकोबार आइलैंड्स के बारे में कैबिनेट स्तर पर आपका कोई नोट पेंडिंग पड़ा है, यदि उसके बारे में भी हमें जानकारी मिल सके तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I just want to make two very quick comments. The modifications in Notification are still under discussion. They have not been finalised. But I do want to say that on one particular element of a Notification, I myself am not in agreement with, which is a self-certification. I am not entirely convinced that we have reached a stage where we can believe in self-certification. So, I assure the hon. Member that only after the greatest of care will these Notifications be accepted finally. I want to reassure the hon. Member, there is no forced eviction of people from the 'Project Tiger' area. If, at all, there is an evidence of forced eviction, I would like to get that evidence. All relocation that is taking place, is, purely, voluntary. It is going through a democratic transparent process. I myself have been to two tiger reserves where this relocation has taken place successfully after the grant of Rs.10 lakhs as compensation. If there are examples where you feel that it has not been followed, I would certainly get those examples and I will take action on that. But, it is not...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Relocation of the habitat has to be by an expert committee.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: It is not done in an arbitrary fashion. It is done in professional, consultative manner. But, as I said, this is not the time to argue. If you have evidence to the contrary, I and my officers from the National Tiger Conservation Authority will sit with you and we will rectify matters. We want it to be a democratic and voluntary process of relocation. But we must relocate from the core areas. That is an uncompromising policy.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: It is the identification of that habitat that I am talking about.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I will get back to the Member on the Sethusamudram project. On the other issue of declaring disturbed areas, giving them a 90:10 dispensation, this I am afraid, is an issue that only the Planning Commission can pronounce on. The Special Category States are entitled to 90:10; Chhattisgarh is not a Special Category State. I may inform hon. Members, Sir, that I am in the process of putting together a programme for modernisation of forest administration with particular reference to naxalite-affected States such as Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and even parts of Maharashtra, particularly Gadchiroli and Chandrapur. A draft of that scheme has been prepared. I have shared it with the hon. Home Minister, and I hope that in the next few months, just like we have a scheme for modernisation of police administration, we will also have a programme for modernisation of forestry administration as an element of countering the naxalite problem in these five badly affected States.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the elaborate reply. Now, we shall take up discussion on continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country. Shri Shivanand Tiwari to initiate the discussion.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, I have a suggestion to make. Both these issues, that is, discussion on price rise and clarification to the statement, are similar and on the same subject; they can be taken up together. That would be better as both the matters can be disposed of together, if the hon. Minister agrees.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let hon. Members make their points and let us have the discussion.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

The situation arising out of continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर चर्चा की शुरुआत करने का मौका दिया है। यह एक ऐसा विषय है, जोकि देश की दो-तिहाई आबादी के लिए जीवन-मरण का संकट पैदा करने वाला एक मुद्दा है।

उपसभापति महोदय, आज महँगाई की यह जो हालत है, वह अचानक सुरसा की तरह मुँह बा कर हमारे सामने प्रकट नहीं हुई है। आप देखेंगे कि सरकार ने पिछले सालों में जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण संसद में पेश किये हैं, वे सर्वेक्षण ही यह बता रहे हैं कि यह महँगाई आज अचानक हमारे सामने नहीं उठ खड़ी हुई है, बल्कि पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों से महँगाई हमारे देश में लगातार बढ़ रही है। सरकार ने अप्रैल 2004-2005 का जो आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण यहाँ पेश किया था, उसके अनुसार जो उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक है, जो Consumer Price Index है, उसमें 2.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई थी। इसके बाद अप्रैल 2005-2006 में यह 5 प्रतिशत हो गई, 2006-2007 में यह 5.6 प्रतिशत हो गई, 2007-2008 में 6.67 प्रतिशत और 2008-2009 में 7.8 प्रतिशत हो गई तथा आज यह महँगाई double digit में पहुँच गई है। यह हमारा आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण कहता है। लेकिन, हमें आश्चर्य है कि हमारे देश में यह सियासत का मुद्दा नहीं बना। उपसभापति महोदय, यह भी देखा जाए कि जो UPA-I थी, यानी इसके पहले वाली जो UPA की सरकार थी, उस समय भी देश के गरीबों की हालत अच्छी नहीं थी। यह मैं अपनी ओर से नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि सरकार के सारे आँकड़े, सरकार की सारी एजेंसी इस बात की गवाही दे रही है। जैसे, मैं आपको बताना चाहूँगा कि सरकार की यह जो सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट है, यह National Sample Survey की है। उसके आधार पर UPA सरकार के पिछले पाँच वर्षों में गरीबी बढ़ी, भुखमरी बढ़ी और बेरोजगारी बढ़ी। National Sample Survey Institute के आँकड़ों का विश्लेषण करते हुए Indian Statistical Society ने कहा है कि देश में 32.5 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जा चुके हैं। पाँच वर्ष पहले जब UPA-I सत्ता में आयी थी, उस समय यह संख्या 27.5 करोड़ थी। विश्व बैंक के अनुसार गांवों में 50 परसेंट और शहरों में 38 परसेंट लोग कुपोषण के शिकार हैं। UNO के World Food Programme के अनुसार देश में 22 करोड़ लोग गरीबी और भुखमरी के शिकार हैं। ये सारे आँकड़े बता रहे थे कि UPA-I के कार्यकाल में भी जो देश का गरीब आदमी या आम आदमी है, उसकी हालत बिगड़ती गई। लेकिन, मेरे जैसे आदमी को ताज्जुब होता है कि आखिर यह सियासत का मुद्दा क्यों नहीं बना? यह राजनीति का मुद्दा क्यों नहीं बना? हमने लोक सभा का जो पिछला चुनाव लड़ा, उसमें महँगाई मुद्दा नहीं बनी, बेरोजगारी मुद्दा नहीं बनी, गरीबी मुद्दा नहीं बनी, इसका क्या कारण है?

उपसभापति महोदय, आज से 39-40 साल पहले जब हमने एक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में राजनीति की शुरुआत की थी, उस समय नारा लगाया जाता था कि 'जब तक भूखा इंसान रहेगा, धरती पर तूफान रहेगा।' भूखे इंसानों की तादाद बढ़ रही है, लेकिन नारा बंद हो गया। हम लोग नारा लगाते थे कि "कमाने वाला खायेगा, लूटने वाला जाएगा।" आज कमाने वाले लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं और लूटने वाले लोग मौज कर रहे हैं, लेकिन यह राजनीति का मुद्दा नहीं बन पा रहा है। आखिर क्या कारण है? महोदय, मैंने कभी सत्ता की राजनीति नहीं की। मैंने हमेशा anti-establishment politics की, इसलिए सत्ता की राजनीति को मैं बहुत नहीं समझता हूँ, लेकिन मैंने यह जानने का प्रयास किया कि हमारे देश की राजनीति में गरीबी, बेरोजगारी और गैर-बराबरी का जो सवाल है, आखिर क्या कारण है कि वह मुद्दा नहीं बन पा रहा है? एक जमाना था जब निचले सदन में, जब पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू देश के प्रधान मंत्री हुआ करते थे, हम लोगों के नेता डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया सदन में चुन कर आये थे। हमको ध्यान है कि जब लोहिया जी जीत कर लोक सभा में आये थे, तो 'The Statesman' ने लिखा था कि 'A Bull in China shop'. उस समय देश की गैर-बराबरी पर बहस हुई थी और "तीन आना बनाम तेरह आना" - देश का जो आम आदमी है, उसकी आमदनी तीन आना प्रति दिन है, इसको प्रधान मंत्री जी ने चुनौती दी थी और अंत में settle हुआ कि नहीं, आम आदमी की आमदनी तेरह आने प्रति दिन है। उस समय ये सारी चीजें राजनीति के मुद्दे बनते थे, लेकिन आज यह राजनीति का मुद्दा नहीं बन रहा है, क्यों? मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे देश की राजनीति पर जन-बल से ज्यादा धन-बल का प्रभाव बढ़ा है। अभी हम देख रहे थे, श्री पी. साईनाथ जी 'The Hindu' अखबार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के सम्पादक हैं, वह बहुत ही संवेदनशील आदमी हैं। जो पिछला लोक सभा चुनाव हुआ, उसका उन्होंने विश्लेषण किया और विश्लेषण करके वह इस नतीजे पर पहुँचे कि हमारे यहाँ जो 543 सांसद चुने गये, उनकी कुल सम्पत्ति 2,800

4.00 P.M.

करोड़ रुपये की है। उन्होंने कहा कि 10 लाख से कम आमदनी वाले जो प्रतिनिधि चुनाव में जीते हैं, उनकी तादाद 0.7 परसेंट है, जिनकी सम्पत्ति 50 लाख से 5 करोड़ रही है, वैसे 19 परसेंट लोग लोक सभा में जीत कर आये हैं और 5 करोड़ से ऊपर की सम्पत्ति वाले 33 परसेंट लोग जीते हैं। यह हालत है। सियासत में धन-बल किस तरह से बढ़ रहा है, उसका यह एक नमूना है। महोदय, यही नहीं, मेरे पिताजी ...(व्यवधान)... मैं कारण बता रहा हूँ। यह जो महंगाई का मामला है, यह कोई अकेला मामला नहीं है। मेरे पिताजी 1952 में एम.एल.ए. बने, जननायक कर्पूरी ठाकुर, रामानन्द तिवारी, तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा, केदार पांडेय, जो यहाँ रेलवे मिनिस्टर थे, बिहार के चीफ मिनिस्टर थे, सब लोग साथ रहते थे। उस समय विधायकों और सांसदों को बहुत कम सुविधाएँ मिलती थीं। लेकिन, उस समय जन-प्रतिनिधि और जनता के बीच में एक रिश्ता था। मैं यह महसूस कर रहा हूँ कि जैसे-जैसे जन-प्रतिनिधियों की सुविधाएँ बढ़ रही हैं, वैसे-वैसे जनता और जन-प्रतिनिधियों के बीच की दूरी बढ़ती जा रही है, इसलिए महंगाई जैसा मुद्दा, दरिद्रता जैसा मुद्दा, बेराजगारी जैसा मुद्दा और गैर-बराबरी जैसा मुद्दा राजनीति का मुद्दा नहीं बन पा रहा है। यह मैं कहना चाहूँगा।

उपसभापति महोदय, हमारे देश की कृषि नीति में बदलाव शुरू हुआ 1968 से 1978 के बीच में, उसके पहले 1965-66 में देश में सुखाड़ पड़ा। उस समय 1967 में देश के 9 राज्यों और बिहार में भी संविद की सरकारें बनी थीं। इतना जबर्दस्त सुखाड़ था कि हम लोगों को हाथ पसारना पड़ा। PL-480 के अंतर्गत अमरीका से हम लोगों ने अनाज मंगाया था, ललका जोंगही बांटा जाता था, अभी भी पुराने लोगों को याद है और उसके बाद सरकार ने कमर कसी कि हम अन्न के मामले में दूसरे देशों पर निर्भर नहीं रहेंगे और Green Revolution की शुरुआत हुई। इस Green Revolution ने खेती को पूरा का पूरा बदल दिया, लेकिन हम लोगों ने अपनी परम्परागत खेती का विकास नहीं किया। आयातित बीज, खाद, टेक्नोलॉजी, खेती का पूरा तरीका हम लोगों ने आयात किया और उसका नतीजा क्या निकला? Green Revolution का प्रभाव पूरे देश में नहीं पड़ा, कुछ खास ही इलाके Green Revolution का फायदा उठा सके और बाकी इलाके जस-का-तस रह गए। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि क्षेत्रीय गैर बराबरी बढ़ी, खेती की लागत में वृद्धि हुई, जो परम्परागत खेती थी उससे कई गुणा ज्यादा खेती की लागत में वृद्धि हुई और इसके अलावा Green Revolution में कुछ अनाजों पर ज्यादा जोर दिया गया - गेहूँ, धान, maize पर। इन दो-चार अनाजों पर Green Revolution में ज्यादा जोर दिया गया और बाकी जो हमारे अनाज थे, हमारे देश में जो अन्न के प्रकार थे, जिनकी कोई गिनती नहीं हो सकती थी, वे सारे के सारे छूट गए, जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि आज एक तो देश में गैर बराबरी बढ़ी और दूसरे जो स्थानीय फूड हेबिट में व्यापक बदलाव आया। हम लोग जिस इलाके रहने वाले हैं, उस इलाके में हम लोग चावल को *भात* कहते हैं। हमारे इलाके में हम लोग मक्का का *भात* बनाकर खाते थे, चावल के *भात* के बारे में हम लोग सोचते भी नहीं थे। तो जो वेराइटी थी अनाज खाने की, उसमें कमी आई और पूरे देश में धान और गेहूँ की ही खपत हो गई। लेकिन, फिर धीरे-धीरे क्या हुआ? धीरे-धीरे यह हालत हुई कि हमारे यहां आबादी के बढ़ने की रफ्तार और खेती में उत्पादकता बढ़ने की रफ्तार के बीच में गैप हुआ। आज हमारी आबादी बढ़ रही है, अभी श्री जयराम रमेश जी बोल रहे थे, डेढ़ परसेंट के हिसाब से हमारी आबादी बढ़ रही है और हमारी खेती की प्रोडक्टिविटी एक परसेंट के हिसाब से बढ़ रही है। इस तरह से जो डिमांड और सप्लाई में mismatch हुआ, उसने भी आज के संकट को बढ़ाने में मदद की और दलहन तथा तिलहन के क्षेत्र में तो सरकार ने और इस देश के कृषि वैज्ञानिकों ने इतना बड़ा अपराध किया है, जिसका कोई हिसाब-किताब नहीं है। न दलहन के मामले में कोई रिसर्च हुई, न तिलहन के मामले में कोई रिसर्च हुई और उसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि दलहन थाली से गायब होने लगी। आज जो महंगाई की हालत है और दालों की कीमत है, गरीब आदमी को तो छोड़ दीजिए, मध्यम वर्ग के जो लोग हैं, उनकी थाली से भी दाल गायब हो रही है, ऐसी स्थिति हम लोगों के यहां पैदा हो गई है। Green Revolution के बाद हम लोगों ने दावा किया था कि अनाज के मामले में देश आत्मनिर्भर हो गया है। क्या स्थिति है? वर्ष 2000 में हम लोगों ने अन्न का आयात किया 2.6 बिलियन डॉलर का और 2007

में यह आयात 4.9 बिलियन डॉलर का हो गया, यह हालत है। 120 करोड़ की आबादी वाला देश, इतने बड़े आकार का देश, अनाज का आयात करके अपने आपको कैसे स्वायत्त बना सकता है, अपनी sovereignty को कैसे बरकरार रख सकता है, अपने आत्मस्वाभिमान को कैसे बरकरार रख सकता है? क्या हालत है अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि 2006 में आपने 5.5 मिलियन टन गेहूं आयात किया। किस भाव में आयात किया? आपने आयात किया 178.75 डॉलर से लेकर 228.94 डॉलर प्रति टन के बीच में। दो-तीन बरस पूर्व तक देश में पर्याप्त अनाज था, यहां माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं, उस समय हमारे देश में 74.82 मिलियन टन का भंडार था और उस समय हम लोगों ने मिनिमम् सपोर्ट प्राइस 850 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल गेहूं का रखा था। इसके बावजूद हम लोगों ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार से, इतना बड़ा अन्न भंडार रहते हुए भी, 1600 रुपए टन के हिसाब से अनाज आयात किया।

उस समय बहुत शोर मचा था, बहुत अंगुली उठी थी कि इस आयात में गड़बड़ी हुई है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : तिवारी जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूं, मुझे 5 मिनट का समय और दे दीजिए...(व्यवधान)... यह परंपरा रही है कि जिन लोगों ने बहस की शुरुआत की है, उनको थोड़ा समय मिलता है, इसलिए मैं उम्मीद करूंगा कि आप मुझे 20-25 मिनट का समय देंगे।

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने 15 मिनट का समय दिया है, इससे ज्यादा समय मैं क्या दे सकूंगा?

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : आज हम अनाज का आयात कर रहे हैं, गरीबी बढ़ रही है, कुपोषण बढ़ रहा है, हमारे देश में 40 परसेंट बच्चे कुपोषण के शिकार हैं, यह हालत है, उनकी ग्रोथ नहीं हो रही है, उनकी लंबाई नहीं बढ़ रही है, हमारे देश में कम भार वाले बच्चे पैदा हो रहे हैं। पिछले 4-5 वर्षों में GDP growth के बारे में इस देश में जो शोर मचा, उस शोर में गरीबों की आवाज दब गई। हालत यह हुई कि एक तरफ GDP की growth हो रही है और दूसरी तरफ गरीबी बढ़ रही है, भुखमरी बढ़ रही है, कम भार वाले बच्चे पैदा हो रहे हैं, आधी से अधिक औरतें anaemic हैं, लेकिन शोर यह कि GDP बढ़ रही है और कोई डर के मारे इन स्थितियों के बारे में बोल नहीं रहा है, क्योंकि अगर हम गरीबों की बात उठाएंगे, तो कहा जाएगा कि यह आदमी कितना पीछे देखने वाला है। इसका कारण क्या है, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा। जो सबसे बड़ा कारण है, वह है - खेती के उत्पादन में mismatch और दूसरा कारण यह है कि इस देश में future trading in commodities की एक नयी समस्या पैदा हुई है। वर्ष 2003-04 में सरकार ने future trading की मान्यता दे दी और उस समय माना गया था कि इससे price में stability आएगी और किसानों को वाजिब दाम मिलेगा, इसी भरोसे के तहत आपने future trading यानी वादा बाजार की अनुमति दे दी। वर्ष 2005-06 से वादा बाजार में गति आई। पहले जहां जनवरी, 2005 में 58 ज़िंसों में वादा बाजार का कारोबार होता था, वहीं दिसंबर, 2006 में 94 ज़िंसों में वादा बाजार का कारोबार शुरू हुआ। 2005 और 2007 के बीच यह कारोबार 16 लाख करोड़ रुपए से बढ़कर 36 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया। हमारे जैसा आदमी तो इस बात की कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता है कि 36 लाख करोड़ रुपए कितने होते हैं और आज 2008-09 में यह वादा बाजार 52,48,956 करोड़ रुपए का हो गया है, पिछले साल यह वादा बाजार 40,55,989 करोड़ रुपए का था। इतनी वृद्धि देखकर किसी का भी माथा चकरा जाए। यह जो amount इसमें involved है, हमारे देश का जो total agricultural produce है, जितना भी कृषि उत्पादन है, उससे 8 गुना, 9 गुना ज्यादा कीमत का वादा बाजार हमारे देश में हो रहा है। यह वादा बाजार जिन लोगों का है, उनको दामों में स्थिरता से कोई मतलब नहीं है। उनका लाभ इसी में है कि दाम अस्थिर रहें और आप देखिएगा कि 2005-06 से वादा बाजार ने इस देश में गति पकड़ी और उसी समय से इस देश में अस्थिरता का माहौल शुरू हुआ, नहीं तो हमारे देश में जो खेती का उत्पाद था, उसके दाम में स्थिरता रहा करती थी, लेकिन इस वादा बाजार ने दामों में अस्थिरता को पैदा किया। मैं यह कहूंगा कि अगर सरकार यह चाहती है कि...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: तिवारी जी, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए। कुल 24 मेंबर्स बोलने वाले हैं, आपने शुरू किया है।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: उपसभापति जी, मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि यदि दामों को आप रोकना चाहते हैं, अगर आप प्राईस पर लगाम लगाना चाहते हैं, तो इसके लिए आपको वादा बाजार पर रोक लगानी होगी, वैसे आपने कई चीजों के वादा बाजार पर रोक लगाई है। यह आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण जो हुआ, उसमें कहा गया था कि वादा बाजार में जिन जिन पर रोक लगाई गई है, उस पाबंदी को उठा लेना चाहिए, इस बात की सिफारिश की गई थी, इसीलिए हमको डर लग रहा था। मुझे खुशी है कि कोई टेक्नोक्रेट, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर नहीं बना, जब प्रणब बाबू, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर बने, तो हमको थोड़ी सांत्वना मिली, नहीं तो जिन लोगों ने आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण तैयार किया था, आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण पढ़कर यह लग रहा था कि ये लोग देश को बेच देना चाहते हैं, यह हालत थी।

इसलिए मैं सुझाव दूंगा कि आप वादा बाजार पर रोक लगाइए। आपने अभी Food and Civil Supplies Department में एक कमीशन बना रखा है, उसमें कोई जान नहीं है, वह toothless है, वह नियंत्रण करने में बिल्कुल अक्षम है। आप स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के बारे में इतना चिंतित रहते हैं।

टाटा, बिरला के शेयर का दाम बढ़ता है या Reliance के शेयर का दाम बढ़ता है, तो इस देश के 99 प्रतिशत लोगों को उससे क्या मतलब है? जिसमें पांच-सात लाख लोगों का interest involve है, उसमें तो आप इतनी रुचि दिखाते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: तिवारी जी, आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: आप उसको regulate करने की कोशिश करते हैं और वादा बाजार इतना व्यापक है, इस बारे में आप क्या करते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: तिवारी जी, आप समाप्त कीजिए। Please conclude.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: महोदय, मैं समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। दूसरी बात मैं पी.डी.एस के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। आप इस पी.डी.एस. के जरिए दाम को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश कीजिए। महोदय, चिंताजनक बात यह है कि पी.डी.एस. में उठाव हर साल घटता जा रहा है ...(समय की घंटी)... मेरे पास उसके आंकड़े हैं कि यह लगातार घटता जा रहा है।

श्री उपसभापति: आप कितने आंकड़े देंगे, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए, दूसरे भी सदस्य बोलने के लिए इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: महोदय, मैं तीसरी बात कहना चाहता हूँ। माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी यहां मौजूद हैं। आपके सामने इतना बड़ा अन्न का भंडार है। आप उसे ओपन मार्केट में क्यों नहीं बेच रहे हैं?...(समय की घंटी)... आपने पिछले साल न के बराबर ओपन मार्केट में अनाज बेचा है। अगर ओपन मार्केट में अनाज उपलब्ध रहता, तो आज इतना दाम नहीं बढ़ता ...(समय की घंटी)...।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं, अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : महोदय, मैं चौथी बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप कृषि में उत्पादन क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए उसमें निवेश कीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... किसानों को इन वायदा कारोबारियों के हाथ में मत छोड़िए, नहीं तो देश आपको कभी माफ नहीं करेगा। इसी के साथ आपने मुझे बोलने का जो अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. At the village level, or *moffosil* or city level ...(Interruptions)... every where the people, more so the people of middle class, are suffering very much because

the working class, that is, the below poverty line people, are protected in certain ways in certain States. The States, which are very much interested in the people's welfare, could bring forth certain new ideas by giving not only rice but also certain other grocery items in certain ways through the fair price shops. We can take the example of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Both the States are giving very important *dal* and other materials, which are used for daily food purposes, through the fair price shops. But, at the same time, we have to consider the fact that production of food materials, grains and other things is now being taken away from the villages by the traders who convert it back into different machine-made food materials and sold such material in the same market. Similar things happened during the colonial rule. We used to produce all the material which was taken away to their own country, England. This material would come back with new packages and for more prices to be sold in the same market of India. For that only, we agitated and brought our independence. Now, in the global economy, all the agriculturists work and their production is taken away by the traders and sold back with multiple prices in the same villages. In these circumstances, Sir, the Government of India, more so the UPA Government, has initiated great programmes like NREGA. Through these programmes, the common man could get the purchasing power for getting his own food material and other needs by his own hard work. Previously, people used to migrate from one place to another for getting employment, but nowadays employment is given in their own villages. Therefore, the purchasing power is increasing. But, at the same time, the small farmers and the medium farmers could not withstand certain wage increase. Therefore, they are not going for agriculture. They could not expect water or irrigation facilities at appropriate time. The fertilizers are not reaching the villages at appropriate time. The wages of the labourers, who are migrating from place to another, are more than what is needed. Mechanised ways of ploughing, harvesting, everything is of high cost. Therefore, the agriculturist, who could not maintain that type of expenditure, is leaving this and migrating to the nearby urban area. Therefore, this matter needs to be looked into by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Previously, massive agricultural production programme was implemented. People having land holdings were helped by giving bank loans at appropriate time for developing agriculture. But now banks are not willing to give loans to villagers. Therefore, people are migrating and seeking jobs elsewhere.

Food material available in villages is not accepted by various programmes. For example, two days ago, UNICEF announced that it wanted packaged material to be supplied to children throughout India. But this is a method of robbing village people of their produce and taking it to other countries, packaging it, and then selling it back in India. This is the main cause of poverty in villages. In villages, there should be markets for their own produce whether it is grain or milk or any other product.

Now purchasing power of the people in villages has increased. But markets for their produce in villages have decreased. Markets have now moved to the urban areas where traders

are taking away all the produce, including milk. They are taking it to the urban areas and coming back with mixed milk. Even milk powder is sold in the villages rather than pure milk. I can say this because I myself come from a village. Ninety per cent of the people in villages are not using milk which they have in their own village. They are selling it because they need money for their day-to-day affair. The Government has to see to it.

Sir, the Central Government is blamed for everything. When there is a rise in the prices of essential commodities, the onus is on the State Government. We cannot ask the Central Government for everything. The Central Government can control the price of steel or the price of cement or prices of some other commodities.

Creating markets for locally produced raw material is in the hands of the State Government. The State Governments should take up this issue genuinely. They have to see that markets are created in villages and their own material is sold in nearby places, so that the cost of transport can be reduced and some other costs can be reduced. *Gram Rajya* has to be established.

We are providing huge allocations for Panchayati Raj institutions. The State Governments have to take care of that aspect. The price rise has now become just like law and order problem, even though it is the responsibility of the State Governments. Nowadays everything is pushed to the court of the Central Government. Very often Central Ministers come forward with law and order problem and also price rise as if they are accountable for that. Really, they are accountable for controlling cement price and steel price. How can the Central Government control the price of milk in a particular area or a particular State? It is the subject of the State Government. The State Governments are simply pushing the ball in the court of the Central Government. They have to think about it. They are responsible and accountable to local people. Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been given full power. They do not enjoy all the powers which were enunciated in the amendment to the Constitution. Twenty-nine subjects were not given to the Panchayati Raj institutions. If the system of Panchayati Raj is properly implemented, they will control their own products, they will create markets for their own products in that area. That is also insufficient, Sir. For that also, the Central Government has to compel. When it releases the funds, it has to see whether the Panchayati Raj institutions are alive; whether they are enjoying the powers; and whether the elected representatives of the panchayats have the power to control their own destiny. If that is so, then only funds should be released. Otherwise, funds should not be released. The Central Government has to see that dynamic Panchayati Raj institutions come up in villages. Similarly, Sir, the State Governments should come forward to implement their laws.

Yesterday, 'Slumdog Millionaire' was shown in Parliament. I saw it for half an hour. Afterwards, I could not tolerate those scenes. The scenes in the movie show, to my knowledge, that more than 150 laws of the Central Government and the State Governments are violated in

that area. That was shown in the movie. This movie has got the Oscar awards. We are celebrating it. The movie shows that everybody starting from a Member of Mumbai Corporation to a Member of Parliament, even Prime Minister, is violating the law. That is why this movie got the Oscar awards in various categories.

This is not a good thing for our country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, he has used the word 'Prime Minister'. Please expunge that. He said that unknowingly. Please expunge that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I am only talking about the movie. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sorry, sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay, it is about the film. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am not blaming any Prime Minister or any Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only saying that, that film shows as if everything is violated. The result of his suffering and knowledge makes him a billionaire. That is what I want to tell. The overall picture is that we are violating the laws and we are not implementing the laws properly. Therefore, the result is, Slumdog Millionaire movie. That is what I want to say. If we properly implement the laws....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please come to price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: We want to shut our eyes on everything but we celebrate the successful showing of Slumdog. Throughout the world, it is said that India is like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, price rise is one of the issues. I am just explaining.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Price rise is the only subject for discussion.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I am explaining the situation that if laws are properly implemented, even the price rise in Mumbai will not happen. All the facilities will be given to Mumbai. We are expending huge money on everything. But, it is not reaching the common man. That is the main reason for price rise. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wonder whether we are going to achieve anything from this. I am saying this based on my past experience also. It is not to blame one Minister or one person. People are asking: Has it become a ritual? You discuss price rise. You express your concern or agony. But, nothing is happening. If you see for the last three years, the inflation rate is coming down. But, the market prices are going up and there is no explanation whatsoever. How are WPI and CPI functioning? I wish the Finance Minister were here. But, he came here and told us that he had to go for the CCS meeting. I think, there will be a meaningful discussion if both the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister are present in

the House. Most of the things are in the hands of the Finance Minister and some are in the hands of the Commerce Minister. The Agriculture Minister alone will not be able to solve the problem. It is the collective responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... He told me that there was some meeting. My only urge is that we must do something serious rather than simply sympathising with the people or just deriving satisfaction that I also spoke on the issue of price rise in the House. We are not going to achieve anything. The Government is not able to do anything. Sir, just now, my friend, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan was saying as to what the Central Government can do. Sir, I also understand that the States have a responsibility. But, under whose control cement comes? Under whose control steel comes? Steel and cement prices in the world market have come down whereas here, people have formed a cartel. An increase of Rs. 7000 in steel prices! Today, a cement bag costs Rs. 250. Why? Is there shortage of production?

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, actually, the NDA Government increased it from Rs. 800 to Rs. 2000.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, during the NDA Government, if you want to see the record, all prices were under control. There was no line, no queue, no waiting list, no shortage, no black-market, etc. Today, everything is there. I am not entering into an argument on that issue. My point is, the Government has miserably failed to contain prices. The common man is allowed to suffer year after year. My worry at this time is, there is loss of jobs, growing unemployment and recession on the one side which is affecting mostly the middle class and on the other side, the deficit in monsoon is going to add to the woes of the people. This is aggravating the problem and we must understand it. We must have a multi-dimensional and multi-pronged approach to face this reality. Otherwise, we will not be able to do justice. The latest figure shows that the paddy cultivation would go down by 20 per cent because of deficit monsoon. Our noted agricultural scientist and expert, Dr. Swaminathan, opined that there might be a decline of 15 per cent in rice production in the country. That means the situation is going to be further aggravated. We are all aware and you calculate the price index that 55%-60% of the budget of the common man accounts for food items. The other things account for only 45 per cent. Fifty-five per cent to sixty per cent accounts for food items. Today, the prices of almost all the food items are increasing. The Government of the day should plan beforehand if there is going to be a shortage of crops. You have the Meteorological Department; you have your own Agriculture Department; you have the Department of Consumer Affairs also. You have to calculate how much is going to be the production and how much is going to be the demand. Then, if the production is going to go down, beforehand you have to plan for importing from outside, from wherever it is possible; if it is going to be surplus, then you plan for export. What is the Government doing in this regard? There is shortage of pulses; there is shortage of cereals. The foodgrain production, of course, was excellent last year thanks to our agriculturists. We salute them. This year, there is going to be a shortage. If there is a shortage and if there is no

alternative plan or contingency plan for the Government, this is the situation. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what the Government of India has done, particularly, with regard to cereals, pulses and foodgrains, to increase the production, to preserve enough stocks and to see that there is no hoarding in the market. As far as hoarding is concerned, I do admit that the State Governments have a role to play. It is not to play politics because in India, fortunately or unfortunately, every political party of the spectrum largely is ruling in one State or the other. That being the case, there has to be a collective effort to come to the rescue of the common people which we are not able to do. The Government of India, being the leader of the Government of the country and also the policy and decision-making body at the national level, is not able to do anything. Are we so helpless? That is the question I am asking myself. As I have said in the beginning itself, I don't want to derive satisfaction by blaming one Minister. Are we helpless? Is the Parliament of India helpless? The prices are going up every day. When the prices start going up, the political game begins. The other day also I said that my Andhra Pradesh Government had given an advertisement that the prices in other States were higher than in Andhra Pradesh. That is not the solution. The prices are higher in Maharashtra, in Delhi and in Karnataka, according to the Andhra Pradesh Government's advertisement. They have released a half page advertisement in all the newspapers. That is no solution. That is not going to solve the problems. Today, the situation is that the price of every item, particularly, food items, is going up and we, in the Government or in the Parliament, are not able to do anything. This is the major worry for the people.

Another issue is about WPI and CPI. How do you correct it? The other day, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman, Mr. Suresh Tendulkar, had said that the WPI is an unsatisfactory indicator of inflation that has dented the credibility of the Government data following its divergence with the consumer price. It is a reality. He has accepted it. The other day, even the Finance Minister on the floor of the House had accepted it. It is high time that we corrected it and correlated it with the Consumer Price Index. The data, the series, for the Wholesale Price Index are released weekly, whereas we release the data for the Consumer Price Index monthly. Why? As far as the WPI is concerned, the series are released in a transparent manner, but, as far as the Consumer Price Index is concerned, they are not transparent. I don't know what the reason for this differential approach is.

Now, coming to the common man's idli, the ordinary road-side idli, earlier we were getting it for Rs. 4; today it has gone up to Rs. 8. I am not talking of the idli of the middle class or the upper middle class. There are people who push the small carts and sell idli at Rs. 4. That has now gone up to Rs. 8.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sambar has become costly.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sambar has become costly because the price of Arhar Dal has gone up. Why I am giving this small example is that when the price of idli has gone up from Rs.4 to Rs.8, which means that there is a 100 per cent increase, what will the poor wage earners

do? What will happen to a poor student, who will have to travel long distances to reach a school or a college, and who depend on these dhabas? How is he going to face the situation? This is an issue which is really worrying us. There is another argument that there are foodgrains available in the godowns. There is also a news item, which appeared in many of the newspapers, that stocks of pulses rot in major ports, as the prices have shot up. In the Kolkata ports and other ports, lakhs of tonnes of pulses and sugar worth around Rs.1600 crores are lying unclaimed. If it is true, then, it is a horrible situation, an unpardonable act. You are getting arhar dal at Rs. 95, and the same thing has been imported and stocked in the ports, and we are not able to do anything. Nobody seems to be concerned about it. In fact, we have the Cabinet Secretary and the hon. Agriculture Minister saying that they are not aware of this. I would like the Government to immediately order an inquiry into this, and I will be happy if the Minister responds to this. If this is true, then, it is a very serious matter. Then, the price of jowar has increased by 16 per cent; bajra by 17 per cent, pulses by 15 per cent, ragi by 28 per cent and moong by 18 per cent. The prices of all vegetables also have gone up. The price of tea has gone up by 30 per cent. The price of sugar is Rs. 27 per kg. The farmers are in a difficult situation. Now, is there a shortage of sugar? Now, there is a report that the crop production earlier was 240 lakh tonnes, and this has come down to 150 lakh tonnes. If this is so, then, it is another disturbing factor because we cannot live without sugar. It is a different matter that people, who are diabetic, may not need it. But, fortunately or unfortunately, nearly 60 per cent of the people are out of this range. So, sugar is also an important item. I would like to know what is being done with regard to sugar. Then, with regard to dal, if there is shortage in dal, particularly, Red Gram Dal, then, we should have plans to import it from countries where there is production. The reason given by the sources in the Government is that there is a decline in production in those countries too. My point is, you must first analyse what the basic, nutritious food requirements of the people of our country, whether there is shortage of these foodgrains and how to encourage increased crop production. Fortunately, we have both the Agriculture Minister and the Commerce Minister planning for crop diversification. But how long is it going to take? What is our strategy for this? Did the Cabinet Committee on Prices apply its mind in depth? Have you any contingency plan, any long-term plan, to see to it that proper production of, at least, the foodgrains, is made. This is one aspect. Then, coming to other items, there is no shortage of rice as of today. It may be 15 per cent less next year. Even then the rice is priced at Rs. 35-40 a kg. How do you expect the middle class and the lower middle class people to survive? Everybody is not a BPL cardholder. This has never happened before. My friend was talking about the NDA regime. It was only Rs.18-20 at that time. Now, I am not deriving satisfaction saying that prices were less at that time and the prices are more now. That is why this Government is becoming unpopular. Anyway, being popular or unpopular depends on many issues. People of this country do not vote on the basis of their actual sufferings. They vote on different parameters. That is the irony of this country. Coming back to the main issue, the prices of all basic requirements of day-to-day

consumption have shot up, and the Government is not able to do anything to contain the prices. The prices of vegetables have gone up. One can say that this is a seasonal phenomenon. But, there also, there is so much exploitation going on. And, there is no information available to the producer, nor to the consumers, as to whether production in respect of foodgrains has gone up or come down, or, whether there is shortage or whether there is surplus, etc. These kinds of information should be available to the people.

Then, Sir, we have always discussed about the need for improvement in the cold storage system in the country so that we can store perishable items, and then, transport them to the areas where they are needed. We have regional variations in the country. Tomatoes in my part of the country, in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, are being sold at one rupee a kilo. Today, in Delhi, tomatoes are being sold at Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 per kilo. It is the same country, from Madanapalli to Delhi, but look at the exploitation that is going on! We must have some approach, particularly, to give more push to cold storage systems. Coming back to the issue of Centre and State coordination, enquiring from the States what is required there and what is in short supply and, then, rushing stocks to those States, is the responsibility of the Central Government. And the Central Government, I must say, has miserably failed in its responsibility.

Then, coming to the issue of planning for the future, I will be happy if the Minister takes the House into confidence and gives an assurance how he is going to solve this problem because, as per this year's indication, the production of rice, pulses, cereals and even sugar is going to come down. This is another issue. Then, coming to the issue of the present situation, what is the system through which the Government of India is planning to tackle this situation about shortage, about storage, about black marketing, about exploitation by middlemen and so on. These are issues that naturally agitate the minds of the people. It is the duty of the Government of India, and I do not like the Government of India to throw this responsibility on the States and, then, wash off its hands, because the Central Government has the authority and it is the decision-making body. Sir, I must say on record that the UPA Government, after presentation of the Union Budget, was totally silent on how it is going to tackle the spiralling prices of foodgrains, especially pulses. There is no mention of this and the Government seems to have forgotten the *aam admi* after having benefitted from his support. And now, the unprecedented fall from the double digit to the single digit of the WPI is not reflected in the Consumer Price Index. This is an irony. First of all, is the Government going to address this issue? Then, coming to the situation where...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How long will you take?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am going to conclude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are two more speakers.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I know that, Sir. As I said, continuously speaking on the issue is not going to help me or the cause. My point is that going by indications, there are going to be shortages; one is the shortfall in sowing; the other is shortfall in production because of untimely rains. Now, what is the contingency plan of the Government to contain the prices? If I have to say in one word what the common man is feeling, I would say that people are weeping and the Government is sleeping.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we are extremely glad that, ultimately, a serious issue is being discussed here. Few days back, MPs from the Left and from some other political parties took part in a demonstration on this serious problem and on the miseries of the common people. Sir, today, in a daily newspaper, a news item has a headline 'Rise and Rise of Prices. Then, in the news item, they quote prices of various items in the metropolis; for example, arhar dal was Rs. 48 per kg and it is now Rs. 86 per kg; moong dal was Rs. 46 per kg; it went up to Rs. 50 and then to Rs. 70 per kg within one year; similarly, kala masoor also went from Rs. 48 to Rs. 70 per kg. I would not like to go into all the details that the newspaper has given. The news item also asks people to talk to them and tell them how the price rise is hitting them and how they are managing to make both ends meet. This question was asked in the news item. Our question is: how are 77 per cent of the people earning below Rs. 20 a day managing themselves? Who will answer these questions?

Sir, according to the recent Human Development Report, which says, 'that nearly 50 per cent of the world's hungry people live in India. Around 35 per cent of India's population is considered food insecure, consuming less than 80 per cent of minimum energy'. And, we all know the Arjun Sengupta Report. Sir, on 18th July, 2009, food inflation went up by 1.2 per cent in just one week. The maximum increase was seen in wholesale price of vegetables, which rose by 4.9 per cent; followed by pulses, that went up by 4.2 per cent; meat, egg and fish rose by 3.5 per cent in just one week. There was an increase of 3 per cent in Moong and Masoor and an increase of 2 per cent in Arhar during the week. Arhar has reached this psychological mark of Rs. 100 a kilogram in most retail markets. This is the picture in all the retail markets of all the metropolis. Sir, is there any way out, I ask, other than being hungry for a person earning less than Rs. 20 a day? Studies worldwide show that the hungriest of the people are the producers, the farmers, and India is no exception, Sir. Suicide is continuing among today's farmers of our country. They have no capacity to borrow, and the purchasing power is declining seriously. We know the real picture. This is what is being faced by millions of aam aadmi in our country. This is happening at a time when the wholesale price index is in negative and the consumer price index is growing at a rate over 77 per cent. This mismatch in itself, Sir, has serious implications and reflects a deep structural defect in our country. The joblessness arising out of recession has worsened the situation. The purchasing power is coming down, and looting of the people is the picture of today, of our dear country. So, this is the real picture, Sir.

Sir, this unprecedented price-rise is, primarily, due to — and we ask the Government to answer — the large scale encouragement being provided to speculative trading in the commodity exchanges through futures trading in essential commodities. The Forward Markets Commission of India, in its Fortnightly Report, informs that the total value of trading at the commodity exchange between June 1 and June 30, 2009 was Rs. 15,64,114.96 crores, while the same was Rs. 2,21,888.06 crores in June, 2007. In other words, the total volume of trading in the Forward Markets, within these two years, jumped by over seven times. Therefore, the only way, that profits can be made from such huge value of trading, is to ensure that prices of those commodities rise relentlessly, mercilessly burdening the people. And, this is, exactly, a Ram Rajya for these speculators and the rich, Sir. And the Government, instead of doing the needful, is doing the opposite. It has abolished the Commodity Transactions Tax, and we want an answer from the Government and the Minister.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the website of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India. In the said website, there is a High Level Committee Report. The High Level Committee, in its recommendations states, *inter alia*, "that a system of universal PDS is being reintroduced with uniform Central issue price, one each for rice and wheat, respectively, for all consumers, in all parts of the country." The Union Government, Sir, is squarely responsible for the present state of affairs. Sir, see the definition of BPL in the present scenario. The definition of BPL is being manipulated in such a manner that crores of people will be left out from receiving foodgrains and other essential commodities at affordable prices. The existing benefits under the *Antodaya* Scheme are being curtailed.

Sir, I have three specific questions to ask. Another MP of my party will speak on the subject. But I have only three specific questions to ask. I would like to know whether the Government will agree to ban all future and speculative trading in essential commodities which is being continuously demanded by the Left parties and some of the other political parties here. I would like to know whether the Government would agree to introduce universal PDS for all. Also, I would like to know whether the Government would agree to guarantee food security for all. Thank you.

श्री उपसभापति: श्री जनेश्वर मिश्रा।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मेरे पास कितना समय है?

श्री उपसभापति: आपके पास 10 मिनट हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखण्ड): सर, मेरी एक रिक्वेस्ट है कि कल राखी पूर्णिमा है। जिन लोगों को गाँव जाना है, अपने इलाके में जाना है, बहनों के घर जाना है, अगर हाउस देर तक चलेगा, तो उनके लिए मुश्किल है। मेरा आपसे आग्रह है कि आज अधिक-से-अधिक 5.30 बजे तक छुट्टी कर दें और इस विषय को continued कर दें।

श्री उपसभापति: यह continued इसलिए नहीं हो सकता कि अब हमारे पास दो ही दिन बचे हैं।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, हम 6 तारीख को देर तक बैठ लेंगे।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Clarification on sugar imports is very important. We need to have clarifications. We can keep that on the following day, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति : क्या आप बैठने के लिए तैयार हैं कि आप 10 बजे तक भी बैठेंगे, 11 बजे तक भी बैठेंगे?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we do not have any problem even to sit up to 10 o'clock. Please try to understand the sensitivity, Sir. Rakhsha Bandhan is a function wherein we not only go to Bangalore but also to the villages and the nearby places.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no problem. The only thing is, whatever agenda...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the Minister will respond. He knows this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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 THE 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, we agree with the sentiments expressed. We request you that we can sit till 6 o'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it would look a little odd, but some of the flights take off at 6 o'clock. सर, इसको 5 बजे खत्म करिए और इसको परसों लीजिए। परसों हम लोग बैठेंगे।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, the clarification on the sugar imports is important; so, kindly schedule it for another day according to the convenience of the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... When will it come up?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the next two days, we will have to do it. There is no other way.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the business that we plan to have for the other two days would come in the way!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only two days are left. If you all decide to sit a little late, the business can be completed. Moreover, self-restraint on time! जनेश्वर जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सर, जब सदन में इस पर बहस आगे बढ़ेगी, क्या तब भी हमारा समय 10 मिनट ही रहेगा या थोड़ा टाइम बढ़ाया जाएगा?

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे दोस्त लोग कह रहे हैं कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The decision is that we finish the first round, adjourn and then take up the next round on Thursday.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, Thursday evening?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Thursday evening.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sugar discussion on Friday? I have no objection to that, Sir.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These are the things and we will work out the agenda.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: My only request is, the day after tomorrow we have to sit late in the evening because there is a discussion on the same subject in the other House also.
...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, हाउस कितने बजे तक चलेगा?

श्री उपसभापति: एक राउंड हो जाने के बाद हम adjourn करेंगे। हम स्पेशल मेंशंस ले करा देंगे। जनेश्वर जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: उपसभापति महोदय, इसी सिलसिले में दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, अभी हमारे मित्र लोग कह रहे हैं कि कल राखी का त्यौहार है। राखी का त्यौहार बहनों का त्यौहार होता है, बहनें अपने भाइयों को मिठाई खिलाती हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: पैसे कहाँ हैं?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: इधर जो हम लोगों के घरों में मिठाई बन रही है, उसमें इतनी कम चीनी पड़ रही है कि वह बहुत फीकी हो गई है। जब हमने पूछा कि ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है, तो उन सबने यही कहा कि अब आप शुगर के मरीज हैं, आप कम मीठी मिठाई खाइए। इसीलिए सरकार भी चाहती है कि इस पर बहस टाली जाए।

सबसे पहले मैं अपने मित्र शिवानन्द तिवारी जी को कुछ बताना चाहता हूँ। इन्होंने एक घटना का जिक्र किया था कि बहुत दिनों पहले लोक सभा में एक बहस चली थी, 'नेहरू बनाम लोहिया'... लोहिया जी ने यह कहा था कि 27 करोड़ आदमी तीन आने पैसे पर गुजर कर रहे हैं, लेकिन पंडित जी ने इस बात से इंकार कर दिया था और उन्होंने कहा कि नहीं, 27 करोड़ लोग क्या पूरे देश के लोग 13 आने पैसे पर जी रहे हैं। उस समय इस पर एक लम्बी बहस हुई। उस समय श्री गुलजयरी लाल नन्दा साहब प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर थे। उन्होंने इस पर बड़ी खोज की और फिर सरकार की तरफ से बताया कि तीन आने पैसे पर तो नहीं, हां, सात आने पैसे पर देश के 27 करोड़ लोग गुजारा कर रहे हैं। उसके बाद भी लोहिया जी ने यह साबित किया था कि नहीं, तीन आने और उससे कम पर भी लोग गुजर कर रहे हैं।

उपसभापति महोदय, जब कभी भी हम लोग महंगाई और अभाव पर बहस करते हैं, तो हम यह जानते हैं कि कोई बगावत नहीं होने वाली है। अगर आप दाल बहुत महंगी कर देंगे, तो हम बिना दाल के रह जाएंगे। दस दाने दाल के डालेंगे और उसमें टमाटर डाल देंगे, प्याज डाल देंगे, लौकी डाल देंगे और कहेंगे कि दाल खा रहे हैं। हिन्दुस्तान का आदमी अभाव में जीना जानता है। भोजन के अभाव में वह जल्दी दम तोड़ना नहीं चाहता और इस बात को गद्दी पर बैठे हुए लोग भी समझ जाते हैं। कभी भी महंगाई के सवाल पर बगावत नहीं हो सकती है, हां, भूख के सवाल पर हो सकती है।

जब इस देश में अंग्रेज थे, उस समय 1902 में उन्होंने एक उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक बनाया था और तब से यह कानून आज तक बदला नहीं है। बीच में 1967 में Producers Price Index आया था, लेकिन वह भी लगभग वही था। दुनिया में ऐसा कहीं भी नहीं होता है कि जो लोग सामान तैयार करते हैं, उनके पैमाने पर भाव तय किया जाए। केवल हिन्दुस्तान में ही ऐसा होता है। यहां पर सामान तैयार करने वाले के

5.00 P.M.

पैमाने पर भाव तय किया जाता है, सामान के खाने वाले और उपभोग करने वाले के पैमाने पर नहीं किया जाता। पाकिस्तान तक में यह इतना नहीं होता है, इंग्लैंड में तो बिल्कुल नहीं होता। जब मैं सामान की बात कर रहा हूँ, तो केवल गेहूँ, चावल या दाल की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ। बाजार में केवल गेहूँ, चावल और दाल ही नहीं बिका करते हैं, उपसभापति महोदय, बाजार में लोहा भी बिकता है, सीमेंट भी बिकता है, पेट्रोल भी बिकता है, जैसा कि हमारे मित्र ने कहा।

सब चीजों के दाम कैसे बढ़ते हैं? जिसने उसे पैदा किया, उसका जितना खर्चा पड़ा, जिसे कॉस्ट फैक्ट्री प्राइस भी कहते हैं, उसकी बुनियाद पर दाम तय कर दिया जाता है। कभी भी उपभोक्ता के दाम पर यह भाव तय नहीं किया गया। 1907 में तो हम पैदा भी नहीं हुए थे, तो हम क्या बता सकते हैं, लेकिन इसके बाद यह मुल्क तबाह होता चला गया। उसके बाद से लोगों के पास बहुत सी तकनीकें आ गईं। कल-कारखाने में जो उत्पादन करते हैं, उनको पैसा कमाने के क्रिस्म-क्रिस्म के तौर-तरीके भी मालूम हैं।

यह बात सही है कि जहां कई क्रिस्म की खेती हुआ करती थी, धीरे-धीरे वह बारीक खेती पर आती चली गई। यह बात भी सही है कि खेती की पैदावार की खरीद के लिए कुछ बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियां भी आ गईं, जो वायदे के आधार पर खरीद करती हैं। यहां मैं छोटी-छोटी कंपनियों की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बहुत बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनियां, देश के बहुत बड़े-बड़े लोग इस क्षेत्र में आ गए हैं। अब तो अमरीका का एक बहुत बड़ा स्मगलर टाइप का आदमी भी इसमें आ गया है, जिसकी खरीद पर अमरीका ने भी रोक लगा दी थी कि इससे आगे आप नहीं बढ़ोगे, लेकिन भारत सरकार ने पिछले दिनों उसका स्वागत किया। जितना उसका अकेले का कारोबार है, उतना तो हमारे देश का सारा खुदरा कारोबार है। उसका पूरा साम्राज्य फैला हुआ है और उसका नाम है वालमार्ट। हम जानते हैं कि सरकार उसको जानती होगी। ये सब-के-सब चले आए। जिस तरह से ये लूट रहे हैं, उनको मालूम होता है कि दाल की कमी पड़ने वाली है। पता नहीं वे कैसे रिपोर्ट तैयार करते हैं? उसके बाद कानपुर की मंडी में जितनी दाल है, दाल-मंडी के मालिकों से कहा कि कितनी दाल है, जवाब मिला कि इतनी है। तब उसने कहा कि इतना रुपया हम भेज रहे हैं, दाल की बिक्री रोक दो। तब बाजार रुक जाता है, थम जाता है। सरकार को कहीं-न-कहीं इसके बारे में, वायदा कारोबार के बारे में, कुछ करना चाहिए। इन्होंने पिछली बार गेहूँ को वायदा कारोबार से मुक्त कर दिया था। गेहूँ के कारोबार पर रोक लगा दी थी और चीनी पर से यह रोक हटा दी थी। अब हम लोग चीनी की दुर्दशा देख रहे हैं। इसी तरह से एक-के-बाद एक आइटम बदलता रहता है। यह सच है कि हमारे यहाँ दाल कम पैदा होने लगी है। हमने खेती का रुझान दूसरी तरफ कर दिया, लेकिन खेती की पैदावार अकेले तो बाजार में बिकेगी नहीं। जो अनाज बेचेगा, वह ईंट खरीदना चाहेगा, वह लोहा खरीदना चाहेगा, वह सीमेंट भी खरीदना चाहेगा। — सर, मेरे दस मिनट मत देखिए, वरना मेरी बात अधूरी रह जाएगी।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं। मैंने उसे उठाकर उस तरफ रख दिया है।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: ठीक है, सर। इस तरह वह ये चीजें खरीदना चाहेगा। जब हम बहुत छोटे बच्चे थे, तब हमारे पिता जी एक बोरा गेहूँ बाजार में ले जाते थे और उधर से ईंट के भट्टे वाला 10 हजार ईंटें दे जाता था, उसको वे उसका पैसा दे आते थे। उस समय एक क्विंटल गेहूँ पर 10 हजार ईंटें मिलती थीं। आजकल एक क्विंटल गेहूँ बहुत कम पैसे का हो गया है, एक हजार रुपए का, लेकिन गाँव में एक ईंट चार रुपए में बिक रही है। हम लोग तो सरकारी मकान में रहते हैं, इसलिए हमें ईंट का कोई मोह नहीं, सीमेंट का कोई मोह नहीं और लोहे का भी कोई मोह नहीं, क्योंकि सरकार के खजाने से हम लोगों के मकान बने हुए हैं। वे बनते हैं, टूटते हैं, बिगड़ते हैं, हमने देखा है। लेकिन, यह जो कुछ भी रुपया सरकार के खजाने में आता है, वह देश की आम जनता की जेब से आता है। जिसको उस रुपए का दर्द होगा, देश की आम जनता का दर्द होगा, वह ईंटों का टूटना-फूटना देख करके तिलमिला जाता होगा। आज चार रुपए में एक ईंट बिक रही है, जबकि किसी जमाने

में एक बोरा गेहूँ ले जाकर बेच देने पर 10 हजार ईंटें मिलती थीं। ईंट उसी मिट्टी की बनती है। उसे जरा-सा मशीन पर चढ़ाया, थोड़ा-सा कोयला लगा और जब वह पक गई, तब उसकी कीमत बढ़ने लगी।

सर, जब मैं पहली बार पार्लियामेंट का मੈम्बर बनकर आया था, तब मैं अपनी जीप चलाने के लिए एक रुपए का एक लीटर पेट्रोल या पाँच रुपए का एक गैलन पेट्रोल खरीदता था और यहाँ आकर हम लोग इंदिरा जी के खिलाफ नारा लगाते थे कि 'यह इंदिरा का शासन है, सवा सेर का राशन है' उस समय एक रुपए का सवा सेर गेहूँ बिकता था और एक रुपए का एक लीटर पेट्रोल भी बिकता था। मैंने पाँच रुपए का एक गैलन कहा है। आज पेट्रोल 50 रुपए लीटर हो गया, लेकिन हमारा गेहूँ 10 रुपए प्रति किलो ही रह गया है। कहीं-न-कहीं कारखाने के सामानों के भाव और खेती की पैदावार के भाव में कोई अनुपात रहेगा या नहीं रहेगा? कितने दिनों तक पक्का माल तैयार करने वाले कच्चा माल तैयार करने वालों को लूटते रहेंगे, इसका जवाब भारत सरकार को देना पड़ेगा? यह मूल्य सूचकांक का नियम 1907 का बना हुआ है। अब तक कितनी पुश्तें चली गईं, कितनी सरकारें बदल गईं, लेकिन हम लोग उसको बदल नहीं सके। केवल उपभोक्ता के पक्ष में सोचा जाएगा? केवल उत्पादक के पक्ष में सोचा जाएगा? जब मैं उत्पादक के पक्ष में सोचने की बात करता हूँ, तब कुछ मित्र तो कह देते हैं कि चंदा खाया जाता है, राजनीति महँगी हो गई। मैं यह आरोप नहीं लगाता। लेकिन, सरकार कच्चे माल पर टैक्स लगाती है और वह टैक्स फैक्टरी से जोड़ कर हमारी जेब पर आता है। इस तरह, दाम के लिए कुछ नियम बनाने पड़ेंगे। हमें नियम बनाने पड़ेंगे कि खेती की जो कोई भी पैदावार तैयार होती है, उसके एक सेर पर 10 पैसे, 20 पैसे, 30 पैसे या 50 पैसे रहेगा और दूसरी फसल तक इसमें देश भर में हेर-फेर होने नहीं दिया जाएगा। इसे एक रुपया कर दो, लेकिन इससे ज्यादा नहीं। दो फसलों के बीच में दाम तय होने चाहिए, वरना हिन्दुस्तान में खेती की पैदावार की चीजयें के भाव कभी तय नहीं हो सकते।

दूसरे यह कि किसान की पैदावार सब खाते हैं, हम MPs भी खाते हैं, कैबिनेट सेक्रेटरी भी खाता है, इंजीनियर भी खाता है, कलैक्टर भी खाता है और मजदूर भी खाता है। सभी लोगों की जिंदगी बचाने के लिए चूंकि उसकी चीज आपको सस्ती बिकवानी जरूरी है, तो बिकवाइये, लेकिन उसकी पैदावार में जितना खर्चा होता है, उतना तो उसको अपने खजाने से दे दीजिए! दो-चार रुपये मुनाफा जोड़ कर दे दीजिए तो और अच्छा है। किसान को कुछ नहीं मिलता है। वह 1200 रुपये या 1300 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की लागत पर गेहूँ तैयार करता है, लेकिन उसे 800 रुपये में बेचना पड़ता है। गांव के किसान का खपरेल कभी ठीक नहीं होता। अगर उसका बेटा कोलकाता चला जाए और वहाँ पान की दुकान खोल ले तो उसका खपरेल पक्का मकान बन जाता है। अर्थव्यवस्था के इस पेंच को कृषि मंत्री को और जो कोई भी सरकार चलाएगा, उसे भी समझाना पड़ेगा कि गांव उजड़ा-उजड़ा क्यों रह गया? अगर हम इसको नहीं समझेंगे तो हम मार खा जाएंगे, हम कभी सुधार नहीं कर सकते। गांव का किसान महंगाई का मारा है। सर, वह किसान जिसने अपना गेहूँ बेच दिया, क्योंकि उसे बेटी की शादी करनी थी या जमींदार को लगान देना था, तीन महीने बाद जब घर में रोटी नहीं रहती तो वही किसान अपना ही गेहूँ खरीदने के लिए लाइन में खड़ा होता है। क्या उसकी इस बेबसी के बारे में कभी सोचा नहीं जाएगा कि वह लाइन में खड़ा रहे? आज बहुत सी बहनें हैं जो अपने भाई के हाथ में राखी बांधते समय तश्तरी में जो मिठाई रखती हैं, उसकी मिठास की कमी का अहसास कर रही हैं। भाई और बहन की राखी का संबंध तो बड़ा पवित्र था। भाई उसकी रक्षा का पक्का वादा करता था। आप सोचिये कि अगर बहन फीकी मिठाई खिला देगी तो उसका यह पक्का वादा कितना कच्चा वादा हो जाएगा? मानवीय रिश्तों के साथ यह कितना बड़ा मजाक हो रहा है? सामानों के दाम के बारे में भी नियम बना लेना चाहिए कि जितनी लागत में वह सामान तैयार होता है, चाहे वह सीमेन्ट हो, जिस तरह से सीमेन्ट के मालिकों ने सीमेन्ट का दाम एकबारगी 500 रुपये, डेढ़ सौ रुपये और दो सौ रुपये चढ़ाया, जिस तरह से दवा के व्यापारी, जितनी दवा की लागत होती है, उसके तीन सौ परसेंट या चार सौ परसेंट भाव तय करते हैं, सरकार को यह फार्मूला बना लेना

चाहिए कि कारखाने की जो चीज जितने में बनती है, उसके ex-factory price में सरकारी लगान भी शामिल हो और वह चीज लागत से ऊँचे या दूने से ज्यादा में न बिकने देंगे। वह चीज जितने में तैयार होती है, ऊँचा या दूना, जो तय कर लीजिए, लेकिन उसे बहुत आगे मत बढ़ने दीजिए। अगर कारखाना लूटता रहेगा तो गांव का किसान तो अपने खेत से लूट नहीं सकता, लेकिन जब कभी-कभी वह सड़क पर निकलता है तो वह फावड़े से लूटने लगता है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सन् 1942 में और जयप्रकाश जी के आंदोलन में हम लोगों ने देखा है। सर, किसान का बेटा एक सपना लेकर निकला था, क्योंकि वह जानता था कि 1902 का कानून उसके लिए नहीं बना है, बल्कि बड़े-बड़े उत्पादक जो लंदन में बसा करते थे, उनके लिए बना है। जब वह निकल पड़ा तो अंग्रेज का सूरज डूब गया। हम हुकूमत करने वाले लोग अगर यह तसल्ली करते हैं कि किसान गुस्सा नहीं करता, श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी ने भी कहा कि कोई बगावत क्यों नहीं होती है? नायडु साहब की बात पर हमें याद आया कि जब हम क्षेत्र में जाते हैं तो हर आदमी पूछता है कि महंगाई के बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं, आप कुछ बोल रहे हैं कि नहीं बोल रहे हैं? महंगाई एक बहुत बड़ा रोग है। हमारे यहाँ यह जो काठ की लकड़ी है, इसमें घुन लग जाती है, लेकिन वह घुन दिखाई नहीं पड़ती है। एक बड़ा-सा कीड़ा होता है, जिसको “मंगरा” कहते हैं, वह पूरी लकड़ी में छेद कर देता है। महंगाई भी मंगरा-जैसा ही एक कीड़ा है। इससे बिल्डिंग तो जल्दी नहीं गिरेगी, कोई खौफनाक हालत पैदा नहीं होगी। पहले जो चार रोटी खाता था, आज वह दो रोटी ही खाकर गुजारा करता है। आज 18 रुपये, 22 रुपये किलो आलू हो गया है। अब आलू कोई नहीं खाता। एक परिवार में पांच आदमी दो आलुओं को आधा-आधा टुकड़ा करके, उसमें रसा डाल कर, खा लेते हैं। हमने उनका घर देखा है। सर, आज दाल बहुत महंगी हो गई है। हमारी बहू ने थोड़ी-सी दाल में टमाटर भी डाल दिया, उसमें प्याज भी डाल दिया और लौकी भी डाल दी। हमने पूछा कि क्या कर रही हो, यह दाल है या सब्जी? उसने कहा कि यह दाल है, बाबूजी। यह हमारे घर की हालत है! हम चाहेंगे कि इस हालत को मंत्री जी समझें। यह अकेले इनके बूते की बात नहीं है। हम जानते हैं कि इसमें उद्योग मंत्रालय भी आएगा, वित्त मंत्रालय भी आएगा, सब लोग मिलकर इसे करें। वरना, इन्होंने ऐलान किया है कि जो बहुत गरीब होंगे उनको हम 25 किलो गेहूं देंगे। हम इनसे पूछना चाहते हैं कि 25 किलो गेहूं की रोटी वे खाएंगे किस चीज से? दाल तो है नहीं, सब्जी की हांडी तो बंद है, तो क्या गरीब लोग नमक के साथ खाएंगे आपका 25 किलो गेहूं? हमारी गरीबी का इतना बड़ा मजयक क्यों? सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि इतना बड़ा मजयक क्यों कि आप हमको गेहूं दे दें और कहें कि जाओ बेटे खाओ और अपनी जिन्दगी बिताओ, लेकिन किसके साथ खाएं? हम आदमी हैं, गाय-बैल नहीं हैं, हमारी जुबान में बचपने से taste आ गया है, लेकिन खाएं तो किसके साथ खाएं, न दाल है न सब्जी है। इसलिए उनको दाल-सब्जी भी दीजिए और मैं चाहूंगा कि भारत सरकार को पक्के तौर पर यह जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए कि हिन्दुस्तान में किसी भी आदमी को इस हालत में नहीं पहुंचने देना है कि वह आधा पेट खाए। क्योंकि, आधा पेट खाने का मतलब है कुपोषण और कुपोषण का मतलब है अपनी मौत को जल्दी न्यौता देना। तो यह जिम्मा लेना पड़ेगा, जो गरीब हैं उनके लिए भी और जो अमीर हैं उनके लिए भी, क्योंकि मैं जानता हूं कि सब्जी तो बड़ी खेल-खिलवाड़ की चीज है। मैं बाजार घूमता हूं, सर, मैं ऐसा नहीं हूं कि पार्लियामेंट में ही आऊं। तो बाजार में मैंने देखा है कि दुकान पर टमाटर जो 8 रुपए किलो होता है, जब मैं शाम को 7 बजे वही टमाटर खरीदने जाता हूं, कई कचहरी के वकील लोग भी आते हैं हमारे साथ, तो डेढ़ रुपए किलो हो जाता है। क्योंकि टमाटर बेचने वाला जानता है कि कल सड़ जाएगा। तो कुछ कच्चा माल है। खेती से जो पैदावार होती है, यह कच्चा माल है, कारखाने से जो पैदावार होती है, वह पक्का माल है। यह सीधी-सीधी लड़ाई कच्चे माल और पक्के माल के बीच में है और सरकार और उसके अफसर इससे सचेत नहीं हो सकते। ये तो वेज बोर्ड से अपनी तनखाह बढ़वा लेते हैं और हम MP लोगों को भी कुछ ज्यादा सहूलियत दे देते हैं, इधर कुछ सेलेरी वगैरह बहुत बढ़ाने के बारे में सोच लेंगे, बस हम लोग भी पगला जाएंगे। लेकिन, सच यह है कि आम आदमी

त्राहि-त्राहि कर रहा है, सरकार को सावधान हो जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह जो आम आदमी की आह निकलती है, वह रोज नहीं निकलेगी, वह अपने बाल-बच्चों को संभालता है। लेकिन, दस साल, पन्द्रह साल के बाद जब वह सड़क पर निकलता है, तो जिस किसी की सरकार हो, चाहे अंग्रेज की सरकार रही हो, चाहे इंदिरा गांधी जी की सरकार रही हो, जब आम आदमी अपनी आह बटोरकर सड़क पर निकलता है तो वह सरकार तिलमिलाकर गिर जाती है। हम नहीं चाहते कि वह नौबत आए, क्योंकि अभी हम इस सरकार का समर्थन कर रहे हैं और हम यह नहीं चाहते कि इनकी सरकार गिरे। इसलिए हम सलाह दे रहे हैं कि आम आदमी के भोजन का इंतजाम कीजिए। धन्यवाद सर।

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thanks a lot for allowing me to speak in my mother tongue, that is, Tamil.

*Honourable Deputy Chairman Sir, Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this short duration discussion on the price rise of essential commodities. Prices of essential commodities have been increasing continuously. During the past few months, anybody could witness the sky rocketing of prices. This shows the indifference of the Union Government in controlling the prices of essential commodities.

Honourable Deputy Chairman Sir,

A few months ago, the Union Government was asked about the reason for this price rise. Do you know what the reply of the Government is? The Government had replied that inflation had gone up to 13% and explained that prices have risen because of the rising inflation level. On 18th of July and till the end of July inflation has gone down to the level of -1.54% (minus one point five four per cent). Why prices have not gone down? When price rise is on the increasing level, the Government has explained that it is mainly because of rising level of inflation. But when inflation has gone down, why the prices of essential commodities have not been reduced? I humbly request the Honourable Minister to give the reason for this disparity.

The poorer section of people, the common man, the villagers, the people living below the poverty line (BPL) and all sorts of people are suffering because of the price rise. Prices of all essential commodities salt, tamarind, chilly, pulses, cereals, edible oils, and vegetables have increased. Buying of essential commodities have become a distant dream for the poor and downtrodden people. If the price rise continues like this, even for going to a tea shop, one has to take money in a suitcase. It will not take much time to reach such a situation.

The Union Government have listed out some reasons for price rise. Some experts also have listed the reasons. I would like to point out an instance for explaining how the prices have risen in the past few months, particularly in the few months after the 15th General election to the Lok Sabha. I have a data of market prices, with regard to pulses, sold in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. In April, the price of one quintal of pigeon pea (Tur dal) had been Rs. 5,500. Its present rate is Rs. 8,200. The price of Black gram (Urad dal) in April, had been Rs. 4,900 per

* [English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.]

quintal. But now, the price of black gram per quintal has gone upto to Rs. 5,700. Mr. Deputy Chairman sir, If one considers the price of Green gram (moong dal), one quintal of green gram had cost Rs. 5,200 in April. At present, its price has gone to the level of Rs. 8,800 per quintal. The price of Bengal gram has increased from Rs. 2,100 per quintal to Rs. 2,500 per quintal. Throughout India, the price of pigeon pea has increased upto the level of 35% and that of black gram has increased upto the level of 22%. This has happened within one year. These are the views of eminent economic experts.

Honourable Deputy Chairman Sir,

A statistics, issued by the Union Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, shows the price rise of essential food materials in four metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, in one year. In Delhi, the price of rice has gone upto 22% and in Mumbai upto 13%. There is no change in the price of rice in Kolkatta, but in Chennai, the price of rice has gone upto 13%. With respect to Sugar, the prices have gone upto 47% in Delhi, 43% in Mumbai, 29% in Kolkata and 42% in Chennai. Throughout India, Onion occupies an important place in the preparation of staple food items of poorer sections. What is the per cent age increase in the price of onions? According to the statistics furnished by the Union Ministry, in Kolkata and in Chennai, the price of Onion has been doubled, *i.e.* there has been 100% increase in the price of onions. But the situation is worse in Delhi and Mumbai. In Delhi, the price of onion has gone upto 111% and in Mumbai, it has gone upto 128%.

At this juncture, I would like to point out the important reasons for this price rise, to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and to the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. First and foremost reason for this price rise, is the Union Government; Second is the inflation. Third reason is black marketeering, and Fourth reason is hoarding of food materials. A large amount of food material is hoarded by black marketer resulting in price rise of essential commodities in open market. As a result, the common man could not afford to it. Fifth reason is the petrol, diesel price hike. Sixth reason is online trading. And seventh reason is the failure of monsoon and the changing climate. All these reasons have to be eliminated and should be rectified by the Government to enable the common man to purchase essential commodities at affordable prices. I humbly request the Hon'ble Minister that the Government has to take serious efforts to supply essential commodities at reasonable prices.

Honourable Deputy Chairman Sir,

Please give me two more minutes. This is a very important issue.

If you strike the bell at this point of time, it is equivalent to striking the hearts of crores of people. I do not desire to give such an embarrassing situation to you. Therefore, I humbly request you to give some more minutes to this young man who desires to address the grievances of the poor people.

I told that the Union Government is responsible for this price rise. I would like to point out the reason for criticizing the Union Government. Some months ago, a Central Government organization called The India Meteorological Division had issued a statement. Accordingly, pigeon pea had not been cultivated at 4 lakh acre of land this year to failure of monsoon and therefore scarcity for pulses may rise this year unlike last year. Next day, the price of pigeon pea had gone upto Rs.2,000 per quintal. But at the end of July, the same India Meteorological Division reversed its statement and apologized that they had issued a wrong statement. They said that pigeon pea had been cultivated in 4 lakh acre of land as is being done every year. After this reversal of announcement, the price of pigeon pea has been reduced to Rs.700 per quintal. What is the reason for this contradiction? I would like to point my fingers at the Union Government only.

In addition to all of the above reasons pointed out by me, the most important reasons for this price rise is the wrong economic policy of the then finance minister of the UPA-I government who had been in the finance ministry for four years. Only the mother knows the labouring pain while giving birth to a child. Similar is the plight of common man, who suffers from the price rise of essential commodities. If the Government want to protect the common man, it had to reduce the prices of essential commodities. Only the common man feels the pain of the price rise of essential commodities. Therefore, the Government had to address their grievances by reducing the price of essential commodities. With these words, I conclude my speech. I once again thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL (Kerala): *Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I will speak in Malayalam. The unprecedented rise in the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities is the burning issue that agitates the minds of everyone in this country. I am not going to quote any figures to show how the prices of every consumer items have gone up. The Hon'ble Member from Tamil Nadu who spoke before me has explained how the prices of rice, cereals and other items have increased by citing actual figures. Other Hon'ble Members have also spoken extensively on the subject.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN IN) THE CHAIR]

Mr. Vice-chairman, sir, since I am speaking in Malayalam, I expect a generous attitude towards me, sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I can understand your speech without the help of translation.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, the price rise affects Kerala most severely. Because Kerala has to depend on other states for all commodities the effect of the price rise is felt the most in Kerala. Therefore immediate steps should be taken by the Government to check the escalation of prices of essential commodities. It is this Government that has admitted that the majority of the

*[English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.]

population of our country live below the poverty line. It has been admitted by the Government that 77% of our population live in a condition where getting at least a single meal a day is difficult. The burden of price rise is thrust on the shoulders of this deprived section of the society. Those who are already living in a state of abject poverty are pushed further into deeper miseries.

Sir, crores and crores of people who bear the brunt of the price rise and thus driven to extreme life situations fall easy prey in the hands of fundamentalist and separatist forces. They are being targeted, to be recruited into their fold, by religious fundamentalists, terrorist forces and divisive agencies. These elements are trying to use the members of this vast deprived class as pawns in their games. Therefore, sir, in order to prevent the growth of separatism, terrorism and religious fundamentalism we need to address ourselves to the miserable plight of the millions of people of our country and find a solution to mitigate their sufferings. So steps should be taken to find a solution to the problems faced by a vast section of our population.

Sir, the rise in the prices of food items and other essential commodities that we witness now has been triggered by the hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products. Who get benefited from this hike other than the owners of big oil companies? This merely adds to the misery of the common man. So, the one necessary step to bring some solace to the suffering masses of our country is to reduce the prices of petroleum products. I urge upon the Government to take initiative in this direction immediately.

Sir, the trade and business of our country are controlled by people who indulge in speculative trade, hoarding and black marketing. This Government should show the willingness to initiate bold actions against black marketers and those who indulge in speculative trade and hoarding. There is no other solution to the present crisis.

Sir, Kerala is a state where Public Distribution System has been functioning quite smoothly and effectively for many years. Statutory rationing system is in place in Kerala since 1966. Sir, I think the Hon'ble Minister and others are under the impression that they are doling out some favour by giving some amount of rice to Kerala. Is it a right attitude, Sir? It was agreed in 1966 that Kerala will be provided sufficient food grains. It was on the basis of certain fundamental factors that an understanding to this effect was reached upon between the State Government and the Central Government. Kerala is the biggest contributor of valuable foreign exchange to the country. Be it rubber, or coffee, or cardamom or marine products or spices, through the export of its produces, Kerala is earning the country huge sums of foreign exchange. So in order to protect and promote exports an understanding was reached upon to the effect that Kerala will be provided with sufficient supply of food grains. It is highly unfortunate that the people of that state are divided into two categories, namely APL and BPL, and thereby depriving around 60 lakhs of people of their right to get food grains through PDS. I would say that it was indeed a cruel decision. Only 10 lakh people are now eligible to get rice at the BPL rate. It is

denied to the remaining 60 lakhs ration card holders. It is the State government that is providing rice to this large section of ration card holders in spite of the acute financial crunch. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister to do away with the APL, BPL distinction. It should be ensured that the ordinary people of our land get foodgrains at a fair and reasonable rate. The Public Distribution system should be strengthened so that the people of our country get food items and other essential commodities at affordable rates.

Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala and the Minister of Civil Supplies met the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture yesterday. I am glad that the Hon'ble Minister made a promise to them that 50 thousand tonnes of rice would be given to the State during Onam festival season. But Sir, I have a request in this connection. This 50 thousand tonnes of rice should be made available at the BPL rate. It does not really do any good if the rice is provided at the market price. So sufficient quantum of rice should be made available to the State.

Sir, the ordinary people of our country are gradually being driven into miserable conditions. There should be concrete action to ameliorate the hard living conditions of the people. If the Government does not come forward to intervene in an effective way our country may be relegated to the league of poor nations which are ill famous for deaths due to poverty. We cannot allow our country to fall into that state of ignominy. The country is important. The people are important. It is the duty of the Government to curb black market, speculative trade and hoarding and save the millions of our country men from poverty. The basic reasons behind the price rise should be identified and tackled effectively. Such actions are the need of the hour.

Kerala is currently facing a serious financial crisis. So the Central Government should come forward to ensure timely supply of sufficient amount of rice to Kerala. There was even an unfortunate situation when the Central Government had decided to curtail the quota of rice to the state. The quantum of rice promised for Onam should be increased from 50 thousand tones. I request the Hon'ble Minister, through you Sir, to provide sufficient quantum of rice to Kerala in order to enable the State to continue giving rice at Rs. 2 per Kilogram. Immediate steps should be taken to ensure that the millions of poor people in our country get their food grains at an affordable rate. With these words I conclude.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF P.J. KURIEN): It is interesting to hear Malayalam in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is interesting to hear Malayalam in the House. Now, Shri M. V. Mysura Reddy.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, he must speak in Telugu. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, let him speak in Telugu. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I did not give notice. At the outset...
...*(Interruptions)*... I didn't give notice; how can I speak in Telugu?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There was no intimation. He did not give intimation in advance and so, it is not possible. You may speak in English. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, you said that since there was no prior intimation, Telugu interpretation is not available. I would like to know whether we have a Telugu interpreter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, we have.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Okay, it is available. But then, in how many languages is interpretation not available? ...(*Interruptions*)... It is not only about South India; there are other languages as well — Punjabi, Kannada, Ahomia, Bengali, Oriya, and so on. Oriya is there. Are all language interpreters available in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat? That is my point. If they are not available, please see to it. We can have more speakers like this who can speak in their mother tongue and can articulate more efficiently and frankly. Secondly, Sir, after the first round is over, please adjourn the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): After this, there are Special Mentions. Then I will adjourn the House.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Sir, I am referring to the answer of Unstarred Question No.3414. The reply came on today. I quote, 'The Government monitors the price situation regularly with the price stability being high on its agenda. Measures taken to contain the prices of essential commodities include selective ban on imports, future trading in foodgrains, Zero Import Duty on selective food items, permitting imports of pulses and sugar by public sector undertakings, distribution of imported pulses and edible oils through PDS and release of higher quota of non-levy sugar. In addition to this, the State Governments have been empowered to act against the hoarders of food items by keeping them in abeyance, with removal of restriction on licensing, stock limits and movement of food articles under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.' The same stark reply is there for Calling Attention, Short Duration Discussion or maybe in reply to the debate. Sir, due to lopsidedness and adhocism in implementing these policy measures, it neither protects the interests of farmers, nor does that help consumers. In reality, prices are still rising. Sir, the production of rice is in comfortable position, but still the price of rice is increasing. Sir, I will remind the Minister of his statement at FICCI Conference in 2007. I quote, 'If any Government wants to implement the scheme of PDS, it should provide money from the State revenue to purchase foodgrains from the open market.' Sir, as per the buffer norms of FCI in 2005, the buffer stock should be 120 lakh tonnes as on April, but rice buffer stock should be more than 2 lakh tonnes. In 2005-06, Andhra Pradesh contributed 49 lakh tonnes, in 2006-07 it went up to 53 lakh tonnes and in 2007-08 it suddenly zoomed up to 75 lakh tonnes. With this additional 75 lakh tonnes, 60 lakh tonnes of rice, which is more than the buffer-stock norms, is left in the open market. He preached one thing and practised another thing. This led to the smuggling of rice to the extent of 30 to 35 lakh tonnes by rice-millers to other States or to

other countries. Everybody knows that from Kakinada port, it is smuggled out to other countries in the code name of *mallapoovu*. Probably, the Minister knows about this scam. It also occurred during 2007 when here also, in Delhi, rice-millers exported rice to Sierra Leone and other African countries, probably as a part and parcel of the scam that took place in Andhra Pradesh.

Then, there is one more point. The Ministry had prohibited the export of non-basmati rice on 15th October, 2007. Then, again, in November, 2008, also, export of non-basmati rice was prohibited. But, strangely, two rice millers got permission on 18th November, 2008, for export of 25 tonnes of non-basmati rice, namely, Venkata Chalapati Modern Rice Mill, Puducherry; and Bharat Exporters of Ranga Reddy District of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. Even though there was a shortage of rice in Andhra Pradesh in 2008, they got this permission. I can understand that the Government can change the policy. But, individual exemption to rice millers for export would result in shortage in the open market for rice and they will resort to smuggling, hoarding, and all those things, and the price rise will be there. ...(*Time-bellings*)... I will complete within two minutes.

Regarding pulses, I would like to say that traditionally, they were called poor man's protein. But, it became a rich man's in recent years. The price rise is as follows: (i) *Chana*, in 2004, was at Rs. 1350; in 2009, during the same period, it was Rs. 2350, (ii) *toor dal* was at Rs. 1780, and it is now Rs. 5500, (iii) *urad dal* was at Rs. 1400 in 2004, and now it is Rs. 4400 in 2009, (iv) *moong dal* also was at Rs. 1600, and now it is Rs. 4200. The prices have risen by 65 to 215 per cent in the last five years. In retail market, the prices of *toor*, *moong* and *urad* really touched, in some places, the mark of Rs. 90, Rs. 99 and Rs. 100. In terms of cricket connection of present Food Minister, it is nearing century, or might have crossed century. If this Government continues for the next five years, it may even hit a double century also. That is the situation because on the one hand, the Government is importing pulses for domestic requirement, and on the other hand, roughly, 60 thousand tonnes of these pulses were stored in Tuticorin, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam ports. This scam was also telecast by television channels and published by newspapers. On the one side, there is deficiency, and on the other, the Government itself is hoarding pulses as stocks. These short-term measures will not control the prices. The Government has to wake up and take appropriate measures to increase the production of pulses also. Wherever there is deficiency, they have to concentrate on measures to increase the production of essential commodities.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Short Duration Discussion on the situation arising out of continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country has not concluded yet. It will continue on Thursday, 6th August, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Constitution (One Hundred and Ninth Amendment Bill, 2009)

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha:-

¶In accordance with the provisions of rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 4th August, 2009, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (One Hundred and Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2009, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd August, 2009.¶

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we shall take up Special Mentions. I request hon. Members to lay the Special Mentions on the Table of the House.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for additional funds for revision of pay scales of the State Government employees

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, the Central Government has revised the pay and allowances of the Central Government employees as per the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. It is appreciable. But the Central Government has not simultaneously thought over its repercussion on the State Government employees. The State Government employees cannot be treated differently. The impact of price hike and the rise in the price index is no less on the State Government employees than on the Central Government employees. The sources of the State Governments are limited in comparison to the Centre and that too are not the same for all the States, particularly, the North-Eastern States are quite unable to mobilise funds for the State Government employees in regard to the revision of their pay scales and allowances at par with the recommendation of the Central Sixth Pay Commission. The State Government of Tripura, while revising the pay and allowances of the State Government employees, has expressed its ardent desire to provide benefits to them as per the Central Government employees, but could not do so for short of funds. The matter has been well represented with the Centre by the State Government.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to have a justified view over the issue and come forward to sanction additional funds to the State Governments, with particular attention to the North-Eastern States, on the basis of requisitions from respective States. Thank you.

Demand to take assistance of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) in basic health services and National Health Programmes

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। किसी भी देश के विकास हेतु सबसे जरूरी है कि सरकार

बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, खासकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उपलब्ध कराए। सरकार समय-समय पर विभिन्न योजनाएं एवं कार्यक्रम बनाती है, परन्तु डॉक्टरों की कमी के चलते उनका कार्यान्वयन ठीक से नहीं हो पाता है। इस कमी को पूरा करने हेतु विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने समुदाय भागीदारी का सुझाव दिया है, जिसके तहत दाई, विलेज हेल्थ गाइड और मल्टी परपज हेल्थ वर्कर तैयार किए गए और अब राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के मार्फत ASHA वर्कर्स तैयार किए जा रहे हैं।

मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हर राज्य में हजारों की तादाद में सालों साल से प्रैक्टिस कर रहे RMP डॉक्टरों को इन कार्यक्रमों में क्यों नहीं जोड़ा जा रहा है? सरकार करोड़ों रुपए खर्च करके जिन लोगों को प्रशिक्षण दे रही है, वे इन RMP डॉक्टरों के 10 प्रतिशत के बराबर भी नहीं हैं।

पड़ोसी देश चीन ने “Barefoot Doctors Programme” चलाया था, जिसमें गांव के लोगों को साथ लगाकर और ट्रेनिंग देकर बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में उनका सहयोग लिया गया था, जो सफल हुआ था।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार इस विषय पर एक समिति का गठन करे जो यह पता करे कि क्या RMP डॉक्टरों का सहयोग दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में प्राथमिक चिकित्सा व राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों के लागू करने में लिया जा सकता है?

Demand to give priority to the local people in employment in every sector

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE (Maharashtra): Sir, hon. Railway Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, has made an important announcement in the House that 20 per cent jobs in the Railway services will be given to the local people. This is a policy statement. Our population is growing by leaps and bounds, unemployment has disproportionately increased, jobs have shrunk due to privatisation and intra-migration of people to advanced States has increased. These are the major reasons why the local people feel aggrieved. When the local people do not get employment in their own States and regions, naturally they nurture grievances. They feel frustrated and desperately fume their fury. When this situation becomes aggravated, local people resort to parochialism which is as dangerous as communalism. They claim that they are sons of the soil. Eventually, the regional identities become stronger than the national identity. Regional political parties or groups emerge from this situation. The recent incidents in Maharashtra, Karnataka and other States are very tragic. People of Telengana are agitating for a separate State because the local people feel frustrated. There are regions which have remained economically and educationally backward. In a federal polity, people from different regions should get opportunities of development and employment. We have already accepted the concept of reservation in education, services and representation on local bodies, legislatures and the Parliament. Why not, then, give some percentage of services to local people in all the sectors? I call upon the UPA Government to consider this matter.

Demand to remove the shortcomings in the policy of reservation to OBC being adopted in the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it is appreciated by one and all the Government's decision of providing 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in higher educational

institutions. But, the problem lies in actual implementation of reservation for admission in the Central Educational Institutions for persons belonging to socially and educationally backward classes. Sir, institutions like JNU are following faulty admission process, leading to non-fulfilment of OBC reservation. In 2008, only 10 per cent of seats were filled instead of declared 12 per cent and in 2009, only 14 per cent of seats filled instead of declared 18 per cent. The policy says, 'Central Educational Institutions conducting admission tests may decide on cut-off marks for OBCs 'well in time' so that enough OBC students are available on the basis of merit against reserved seats.' In JNU, cut-off marks are decided 'after' evaluation is completed in entrance exam. Once all students have been awarded marks, seats of 'General' are first filled. Marks scored in entrance by last 'General' student selected are declared as cut-off for 'General' category students. Sir, OBCs are given relaxation of 10 marks from marks of last General candidate. That means, if there are 10 general seats and the 10th student gets 67 marks in entrance test, OBC student scoring below 57 will not get admission. Thus, the entire OBC quota of 27 per cent has to be filled within this 10 marks margin.

This process is a clear violation of Government's directive. Due to this, the pool of eligible OBC students available for admission is drastically reduced and the quota is going unfilled. The Government's interference is required to rectify this faulty interpretation of term 'Cut-off' for OBC candidates. Otherwise, social justice will remain a mockery in JNU which is known for its social commitment. Thank you.

**Demand to extend the benefits given to people of Bharia tribes of
Patalkot in Chhindwara to all Bharia people of Madhya Pradesh**

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं सदन के माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि संविधान में अनुसूचित जनजाति तथा अति पिछड़ी जनजाति वर्ग के हित संरक्षण एवं उनके कल्याण हेतु पृथक से प्रावधान किए गए हैं, जिनका क्रियान्वयन भी किया जा रहा है।

तामिया पातालकोट, जिला छिन्दवाड़ा, मध्यप्रदेश में "भारिया जनजाति", जो कि अति पिछड़ी जनजाति है, के व्यक्ति सदियों से निवास करते आ रहे हैं, जिनकी आबादी लगभग 2000 है। वे शैक्षणिक, आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक दृष्टि से अत्यन्त पिछड़े हुए हैं, इसलिए उनके सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु "पातालकोट भारिया विकास परियोजना" का गठन किया गया है, जिसके अंतर्गत शिक्षित बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों को शासकीय सेवा तथा योजनाओं में प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सीधे, बिना साक्षात्कार/परीक्षा के, नियुक्ति योजना का लाभ दिया जाता है।

उल्लेखित है कि जिला छिन्दवाड़ा एवं पातालकोट के बाहर तामिया के आसपास के ग्रामों में तथा सम्पूर्ण मध्यप्रदेश के अन्य स्थानों पर भी भारिया जनजाति के व्यक्ति निवास करते हैं। वे भी शैक्षणिक, आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक दृष्टि से अति पिछड़े हुए हैं। उन्हें भी विशेष भारिया विकास परियोजना के समान लाभ की आवश्यकता है।

महोदय, विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से मैं केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि पातालकोट छिन्दवाड़ा के अलावा मध्यप्रदेश में निवासरत सभी भारिया जनजाति के व्यक्तियों का पृथक से सर्वे कराया जाए एवं पातालकोट के समान छिन्दवाड़ा तथा मध्यप्रदेश में निवासरत सभी "भारिया जनजाति" के व्यक्तियों को भारिया विकास परियोजना में शामिल किया जाए। जिससे इस जनजाति का आर्थिक, सामाजिक एवं शैक्षणिक दृष्टि से विकास हो सके एवं वे अपना जीवन आत्म निर्भरता एवं सम्मान के साथ व्यतीत कर सकें।

**Demand to provide a link train at Bhopal or Mumbai for pilgrims
traveling to Ajmer from Secunderabad**

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रेलवे मिनिस्टर का ध्यान सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर जाने वाले यात्रियों को पेश आने वाली मुश्किलात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। हिंदुस्तान के मुख्तलिफ़ हिस्सों से रोज़ाना हज़ारों जायरीन अजमेर शरीफ़ दरगाह ज़ियारत के लिए जाते हैं, लेकिन सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर जाने वाले जायरीन को पिछले कुछ सालों से बेहद तकलीफ़ों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। पहले सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर के लिए पूरना के रास्ते रेल रूट था, लेकिन उस रूट पर पिछले कई बरसों से रेलवे लाइन को मीटर गेज से ब्रॉडगेज में बदलने का काम चल रहा है, जिसकी वजह से यह रूट बंद पड़ा है। नतीजे में सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर जाने वाले यात्रियों को भोपाल या मुम्बई से रतलाम या दिल्ली होकर जाना पड़ रहा है। पूरना के रास्ते जाने वाले रूट पर लिंक ट्रेन की सहूलियत भी थी, लेकिन अब इन लंबे रूटों में से किसी एक पर भी कोई लिंक ट्रेन नहीं है। इस तरह सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर जाने वालों का न सिर्फ़ ज्यादा वक्त और किराया जाता है, बल्कि उन्हें ज्यादा परेशानी भी होती है। सिर्फ़ अजमेर के उर्स के ज़माने में स्पेशल ट्रेन चलाई जाती है जो नाकाफ़ी है, क्योंकि पूरे साल ही जायरीन अजमेर जाते रहते हैं। इसलिए रेलवे मिनिस्टर से मेरा मुतालिबा है कि सिकन्दराबाद से पूरना के रास्ते अजमेर जाने वाले रूट पर गेज कन्वर्जन का काम जल्द से जल्द पूरा कराया जाए और जब तक यह काम पूरा नहीं हो जाता, उस वक्त तक सिकन्दराबाद से अजमेर जाने के लिए भोपाल या मुम्बई से एक लिंक ट्रेन चलाई जाए।

جناب محمد علی خان (آندھرا پردیش) : اب سپہا ادھیکش مہودے، میں ریلوے منسٹر کا دھیان سکندر آباد سے اجمیر جانے والے یاتریوں کو پیش آنے والی مشکلات کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں۔ ہندوستان کے مختلف حصوں سے روزانہ ہزاروں زائرین ^{۵۶۷۵} ~~۵۶۷۵~~ ^{۵۶۷۵} ~~۵۶۷۵~~ شریف ~~۵۶۷۵~~ ^{۵۶۷۵} ~~۵۶۷۵~~ ^{۵۶۷۵} زیارت کے لئے جاتے ہیں، لیکن سکندر آباد سے اجمیر جانے والے زائرین کو پچھلے کچھ سالوں سے بیحد تکلیفوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑ رہا ہے۔ پہلے سکندرآباد سے اجمیر کے لئے پورنا کے راستے ریل روٹ تھا، لیکن اس روٹ پر پچھلے کئی برسوں سے ریلوے لائن کو میٹر گیج سے براڈ گیج میں بدلنے کا کام چل رہا ہے، جس کی وجہ سے یہ روٹ بند پڑا ہے۔ نتیجے میں سکندرآباد سے اجمیر جانے والے یاتریوں کو بھوپال یا ممبئی سے رتلام یا دہلی بوکر جانا پڑ رہا ہے۔ پورنا کے راستے جانے والے روٹ پر لنک ٹرین نہیں ہے۔ اس طرح سکندرآباد سے اجمیر جانے والوں کا نہ صرف زیادہ وقت اور کرایہ جاتا ہے، بلکہ انہیں زیادہ پریشانی بھی ہوتی ہے۔ صرف اجمیر کے عرس کے زمانے میں اسپیشل ٹرین چلائی جاتی ہے جو ناکافی ہے، کیوں کہ پورے سال ہی زائرین اجمیر جاتے رہتے ہیں۔ اس لئے ریلوے منسٹر سے میرا مطالبہ ہے کہ سکندرآباد سے پورنا کے راستے اجمیر جانے والے روٹ پر گیج کنورژن کا کام جلد سے جلد پورا کرایا جائے اور جب تک یہ کام پورا نہیں ہو جاتا، اس وقت تک سکندرآباد سے اجمیر جانے کے لئے بھوپال یا ممبئی سے ایک لنک ٹرین چلائی جائے۔

(ختم شد)

†[] Transliteration in Urdu Script.

**Concern over harsh guidelines in selection of
women porters in Railways**

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, with deep anguish and pain, I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the irrational, harsh and unethical guidelines issued by the Railways in selecting women porters.

Last year, the Indian Railways had issued guidelines that mandate women to meet specified eligibility criteria. One of the criteria is that women have to run 200 metres, with 25 kilograms of weight on their head, within 4 minutes. This is the first endurance test for women to qualify for the next round of test. Apart from relaxation in time, there is no difference between men and women with regard to other qualifications. And, more surprisingly, there is no reservation for women. The Allahabad Division of the North-Central Railways have announced 344 vacancies of porters. One gets shocked after knowing the kind of women who had attended the test. A postgraduate girl, with Masters Degree in Computer Science, and a six-month-old pregnant woman appeared for the test. The most unethical and inhuman approach of the Railways was that they had asked the six-month-old pregnant woman to run with 25 kgs of weight on her head. It is not only shocking and unethical, but against the human values.

Sir, I demand immediate scrapping of these guidelines; and, porter's licence be given to all women candidates without any test. I also demand that separate rates be fixed, higher than men, for women porters, and also provide them other facilities to ensure their safety at railway stations.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri R.C. Singh, but with a request that there should be a parameter for selection of woman porters. There should be different parameter for pregnant women. The other day, we found that even the pregnant women were also seen walking 100 metres or 200 metres with normal women with 25 kg weight.

**Demand for establishment of a Navodaya Vidyalaya in the
District of Mayurbhanj, Orissa**

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA (Orissa): Mayurbhanj District is the biggest undivided district in Orissa. According to the Census of 2001, its population is more than 25 lakhs. It has always been neglected, being the last district in the list of districts of the State. Since it is at a distance of 300 kilometres from the Capital Bhubaneswar, it was kept away from development. This district is mainly dominated by tribes, namely, Santhal, Ho (Koli), Munda, Bhumij, Oraon, Bathudi, Gond and other primitive tribes like Kharia, Mankdiha.

There is only one railway line which was started in the year 1905. There were only four railway lines in the State. It is also neglected in comparison to other lines. This district has a telecom district and the North Orissa University. Tribals have been culturally rich since ages.

The employment opportunities are increasing in Defence services, Postal Department and Railways after the reservations for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are properly regularised. Sometimes, they are deprived of higher education due to low income of their family members or guardians.

The UPA Government has taken this District under the scheme of BRG, because it is a hilly region. In spite of several hurdles, a lot of meritorious students are passing out every year.

To encourage the meritorious tribal students, a Navodaya Vidyalaya was sanctioned in the year 2008-09. One year has already passed, but it has not yet started.

I urge upon the Government, as well as the Ministry of Human Resource Development, to grant sanction and set up another Navodaya Vidyalaya in the District of Mayurbhanj. Thank you.

Demand to regulate pathological diagnostic laboratories

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Of about 40,000 testing labs in the country, only about 60 are accredited. There are no enforceable regulations that are mandatory for diagnostic laboratories to follow. A person can start a diagnostic laboratory simply by following the Shops and Establishments Act, applicable to a nearby grocery store. In the absence of any specified quality standards, these laboratories provide sub-standard service by hiring under-qualified technicians. Research indicates that only about 5-10 per cent of the total number of private pathology labs in the country are run by individuals with the right qualifications. This results in using sub-optimal methods of testing and inaccurate results.

It is estimated that more than one million patients are tested everyday. The pathology market is currently 2.5 per cent of the overall healthcare delivery market.

Hence, I would strongly urge that the Central Government should come up with minimum qualification criteria for a person to operate pathology laboratory. There should be guidelines which lay out the infrastructure required to conduct specific services and tests. Based on these criteria, licences should be issued, which would be contingent on fulfilment of basic norms.

Demand to set up an oil refinery in Barmer, Rajasthan

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): महोदय, बाड़मेर जिले में रिफायनरी की स्थापना अविलम्ब की जाए, इस विषय को लेकर मैं विशेष उल्लेख कर रहा हूँ। आने वाली कठिनाइयों को राज्य सरकार द्वारा दूर किया गया है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :

बाड़मेर जिले में पेट्रोलियम भंडारों का पता 2005 में ओएनजीसी एवं एमआरपीएल द्वारा रिफायनरी स्थापना हेतु प्रस्ताव दिया।

वर्ष 2006 में ओएनजीसी ने एसबीआई कैप्स की विशेष स्टडी रिपोर्ट के आधार पर 15 वर्ष के लिए ब्याज मुक्त 1300 करोड़ रुपए देने का अनुरोध किया।

वार्ताओं के दौर के बाद अगस्त 2008 में राजस्थान सरकार ने 30 वर्षों के लिए बाड़मेर कूड के वेट के पेटे 16000 करोड़ रुपए की छूट का प्रतिप्रस्ताव दिया। इस पर ओएनजीसी की प्रतिक्रिया अनुकूल नहीं रही।

राज्य में नई सरकार आने के बाद राजस्थान व केन्द्र सरकार में पुनः वार्ताओं का दौरा चला। उसके आधार पर ओएनजीसी द्वारा त्वरित अध्ययन करवाया गया जिसमें निम्न बिन्दु उभर कर आए :

रुपए 1200 करोड़ का ब्याज मुक्त ऋण प्रति वर्ष 16 वर्षों तक ओएनजीसी को उपलब्ध कराया जाए।

रिफायनरी उत्पादन का विपणन पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स से करवाया जाए।

बाड़मेर सलाया पाइप लाइन के माध्यम से न्यूनतम परिवहन शुल्क पर बैलेंसिंग कूड की सप्लाई की व्यवस्था हो।

मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार विस्तृत फिजिबिलिटी रिपोर्ट तैयार हो गयी है जिसके आधार पर विचार-विमर्श होना है। पेट्रोलियम कूड को सलाया पाइपलाइन में जाने के पहले अविलम्ब वार्ता की जाए एवं राज्य हितों को देखते हुए राजस्थान में रिफायनरी की स्थापना की जाए। धन्यवाद।

Demand to take suitable steps to increase the use of renewable energy sources in the country

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, 80,000 villages remain un-electrified in India. The Government plans to electrify them by 2012. Even after 62 years of independence, we are unable to provide a basic necessity for our citizens. India is heavily dependent on foreign sources of energy. In the year 2007-08, we imported 50 million tonnes of coal; our oil prices keep fluctuating, increasing the miseries of the poor. The solution given by the Government to this problem is nuclear energy, which too is dependent on our relationship with foreign imperialist powers.

India needs to gauge the potential of renewable energy sources. We have huge potential for utilising solar and wind energy which can deliver electricity to the poorest quickly. Right now, renewable energy accounts for 8 per cent of our total energy mix. We need to deliver electricity to the poorest in the quickest and the cleanest possible manner and this can only be done through renewable sources of energy. Why is the Government not keen on utilising this potential? Why does it still keep the poor in India dependent on foreign countries for getting electricity? What is the Government doing with regard to renewable energy which will enable the poor to have a better standard of living?

The Government should enable a renewable energy legislation which will help deliver electricity at the doorstep of the poor. This legislation should take into consideration the plight of the poor and it should empower them. This should be one of the priorities of the Government.

**Demand to take suitable steps to provide supply of gas for the
Dadri Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh**

प्रो० राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने सन् 2004 में उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के गाजियाबाद जिले में दादरी के निकट एक गैस आधारित विद्युत परियोजना एक निजी कम्पनी को स्थापित करने की मंजूरी दी थी। उस परियोजना के लिए जमीन भी उपलब्ध है। किन्तु कतिपय कारणों से उक्त परियोजना को गैस आपूर्ति नहीं की जा रही है। अगर गैस उपलब्ध हो जाती है तो 3750 मेगावाट की यह परियोजना उत्तर प्रदेश, दिल्ली तथा हरियाणा जैसे समीपवर्ती राज्यों का बिजली संकट दूर कर सकती थी। दादरी पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट शुरू होने का कार्य गैस के अभाव से बाधित हो रहा है, तथा सरकारी उपक्रम एन.टी.पी.सी. को भी लगभग 20,000 करोड़ का नुकसान होने जा रहा है। अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से इस विशेष उल्लेख के जरिए सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए यह अनुरोध करता हूँ कि दादरी पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट को गैस उपलब्ध कराने और उत्तर प्रदेश के बिजली संकट को समाप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाएँ।

**Concern over the proposal to empower Banks to deduct
credit card dues from Salaries**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): I rise to command the attention of this House to a new proposal to empower banks to deduct dues on credit cards from bank accounts of subscribers. It has been proposed that under the contract, credit cards will be issued to subscribers on the condition that they will have to agree to this condition whereby empowering banks to start deducting from their bank account dues on their credit cards. This is a serious infringement of customers' right by banks to pressurise them to enter into a contract whereby compromising safety and security of the money in their account. It may also be recalled that this House, on previous occasions, had raised concerns over the unethical ways adopted to realise credit card dues. Yet there remain hidden clauses in the credit card business. The courts and the RBI have time and again sought to make the credit card business more transparent. Still there have been complaints about the hidden and high costs of availing credit card facility. Worse still, most of the credit card business has been outsourced. In such a situation, the new condition of empowering banks to make deductions from customers' account may be misused by banks. I would like to know if the new proposals have been approved by the RBI. I call upon the RBI to protect the sanctity of individual accounts from predatory infringement by banks.

**Demand to arrange Indo-Sri Lankan Trade Fair in
'Katcha Theevu' Island**

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Indo-Sri Lankan friendship and co-operation is in existence for centuries. After the SAARC co-operation, the 'Most Favoured State' status has also been given to Sri Lanka by India. The 'Katcha Theevu' island, which was once under Indian Territory, was allowed to be used by Sri Lanka and Indian fishermen also continued to celebrate annual religious festival and drying fishing nets. But, the Sri Lankan Navy and Coast Guards are causing daily quarrel on various issues leading to killing, missing and

damaging Indian fishermen. To avoid such frequent incidents, I request the Government of India to arrange and locate the Indo-Sri Lankan Trade Fair in 'Katcha Theevu' which is a 25.5 acre island. This will be a permanent solution for the daily disturbances between neighbouring countries. The External Affairs Ministry and the Department dealing with foreign trade should take up this issue on war footing and arrange this Indo-Sri Lanka Trade Fair in 'Katcha Theevu'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 6th August, 2009.

The House then adjourned at forty-two minutes past five of the clock
till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 6th August, 2009.