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Thursday
6 August, 2009
15 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 6th August, 2009/15 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : मान्यवर, घड़ियां क्या टाइम बता रही हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सीताराम येचुरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : एक टाइम पाकिस्तान का है और एक टाइम बंगलादेश का है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, please ...(Interruptions)... There is a technical fault which is being corrected....(Interruptions)... Please, allow the new Members to take the oath.

Shri Nand Kumar Sai (Chhattisgarh)

Shri Shadi Lal (Haryana)

Shri Ghulam Nabi Wani (Jammu & Kashmir)

Shri Anil Dave (Madhya Pradesh)

Shri Kaptan Singh (Madhya Pradesh)

Shri Vilasrao Dagadojirao Deshmukh (Maharashtra)

Shri Ranjitsinh Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil (Maharashtra)

Shri Narendra Budania (Rajasthan)

Shri Jai Prakash (Uttar Pradesh)

RE. SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 461

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा) : सभापति जी ...(व्यवधान) हमने नोटिस दे रखा है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute please ...(Interruptions)

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह : धर्म के बारे में ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute please ...(Interruptions)...

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह : सभापति जी, नोटिस दिया हुआ है...(व्यवधान) जब तक इस बारे में डिसकस नहीं होगा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : सभापति जी, हमने सस्पेंशन ऑफ क्वेश्चन ऑवर का नोटिस दिया है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा (पंजाब) : सभापति जी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, one minute please...(Interruptions) None of this is going on record....(Interruptions)

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह :*

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट...(व्यवधान)... मेरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया :*

श्री सभापति : प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... अहलुवालिया जी, आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए ...(व्यवधान)... Please ...(Interruptions)... This was discussed this morning.. It was decided that this matter would be taken up after the Question Hour(Interruptions)... Please observe the agreement reached. ...(Interruptions)...Please ...(Interruptions)... We decided on a course of action this morning ...(Interruptions)... Please observe it.(Interruptions)...We decided on a course of action this morning ...(Interruptions)... Please resume your places...(Interruptions)... Allow the Question Hour to proceed...(Interruptions) We decided on a course of action ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 12 o' clock.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past eleven
of the clock till twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Directions to States on job racket cases

*461.DR. JANARADHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently directed the State Governments to take urgent action on foreign job racket cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign job rackets have increased in the country in the past few years and the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Union Government proposes to take to check the functioning of unrecognized job consultancies?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) The migration of Indians for overseas employment is governed by the Emigration Act, 1983. The applicability of the Act is, however, limited to the low skilled migrant workers who hold ECR Passports and emigrate to the Gulf countries and South East Asia. Other professional and skilled

* Not recorded.

workers such as Doctors, Engineers and IT Professionals are not covered under the ambit of the Emigration Act. A significant number of workers migrate every year for overseas employment. In 2008, 8.49 lakh ECR Passport holders went abroad for employment purpose after obtaining emigration clearance.

2. Despite the existing framework to enable legal migration and the efforts made by the Government to prevent illegal migration, complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers are received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisement for jobs abroad, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits to lure job seekers. These complaints are received against registered Recruiting Agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some Foreign Employers.

3. Powers to initiate penal action against persons committing offences in recruitment of workers is vested with the State Police. The Ministry advises the State Governments to take steps for detection and prosecution of unauthorized recruiting agents involved illegally in sending workers for foreign jobs. The Protector General of Emigrants forwards such complaints to the State Police authorities for initiating criminal action against the culprits.

4. The Ministry had organized the first Annual Consultation Meeting with the State Governments in July, 2008 on various issues relating to migration of workers and overseas Indians. The State Governments were requested to take pro-active action to collect intelligence and exercise due surveillance on recruitment for overseas employment in the States and to take preventive and corrective action against illegal recruitment. As recently as 6th July, 2009, I had written to Chief Ministers of five major labour sending States requesting them to take stringent action against fraudulent Travel Agents who are engaged in sending workers on Visit Visas for overseas employment to the Gulf Countries.

(c) The number of complaints about illegal recruitment for overseas employment and action taken thereon during 2006-2009 is as follows:—

Year	No. of complaints received	Prosecution Sanctions issued
2006	78	21
2007	40	7
2008	93	56
2009	63	09
(Upto 30.6.09)		

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives for preventing and combating illegal recruitment for overseas employment. These initiatives include the following :—

- (i) A National Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign was launched by the Ministry to create wider awareness among the general public and particularly among the potential migrants on the risks of illegal migration and safeguards against illegal practices by unauthorized intermediaries and fraudulent recruiting agencies.
- (ii) An overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up to provide information and assistance to intending migrants on all aspects of overseas employment. The OWRC is operating a toll-free 24x7 Helpline in seven languages to provide need based information to

intending migrant workers about the antecedents of recruiting agents and the precautions to be taken while seeking overseas employments.

- (iii) The Ministry has also issued pamphlets and a Hand book on Emigration to sensitize the public about legal emigration process.
- (iv) The Ministry has set up a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) at Kochi to provide information and counseling services to intending emigrants. Another MRC is being set up at Hyderabad.
- (v) The Ministry has signed an MoU with the State Government of Punjab for promoting legal migration from the State and for creating awareness among emigrant workers for overseas employment opportunities. An MRC is being set up at Chandigarh under the broad framework of this MoU.
- (vi) The Ministry is implementing an E-Governance Project with the objective to provide efficient, cost effective and reliable emigration services in a transparent manner.
- (vii) The Ministry has notified the new Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 on 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria of Recruiting Agents (RAs) and enhancing the validity period of the Registration Certificate and increasing the Bank Guarantee and services charges.
- (viii) The Ministry is finalizing a Draft Bill to replace the Emigration Act, 1983 with a view to effect a paradigm shift in the management of the emigration. The proposed Draft Bill will include a separate chapter on people smuggling and provide stringent penal provisions against smuggling and exploitation of migrants.

Business Visas to Chinese Nationals

*462.SHRI R.C. SINGH :

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Business Visas issued to Chinese national to come to India during the last five years year-wise;
- (b) whether Business Visas, permit nationals of other countries to work in India;
- (c) if not, whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that the Business Visa-holders from China are doing semi skilled work in India; and
- (d) if so, the Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, is doing to curb illegal work by Chinese work by Chinese in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) The detail of year-wise Business Visas issued to Chinese nationals in last five years is as follows :

Year	Business Visa Issued to Chines Nationals
2004	15979
2005	22427
2006	33960
2007	48146
2008	58658
2009 (Up June)	26014

(b) to (d) Business visa does not permit nationals of other countries to work in India. Government has taken note of the potential misuse of the Business Visa and has issued an advisory to all the Missions and Posts abroad to strictly observe the norms for grant of Business Visas as specified in the Visa Manual.

Accidents in Metro Rail Projects

† * 463. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR :

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents in the Delhi Metrol Rail and the number of people, who died and injured in these accidents;

(b) whether compensation was given to the dependents of the dead and the injured people, if so, the details of the amount paid and the names of such dependents;

(c) whether CAG has mentioned irregularities in Delhi Metro in its report in this regard;

(d) if so, whether an investigation was done and action taken against the persons responsible; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that 130 number of accidents occurred during the last eleven years of construction phase. The details of accidents, fatalities and injuries are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) The compensation is reported to have been paid/deposited with Woman Compensation Commissioner in most of the cases involving fatalities as well as injuries. Further details are being collected.

(c) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s performance audit report on implementation of Phase-I of Delhi Mass Transit System by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. does not contain any reference in regard to accidents or payment of compensation thereof. However, it has made certain recommendations highlighting the innovative practices undertaken for successful implementation of the project as well as certain observations 'to facilitate the management to further improve its systems and bring it at par with the best practices'. The CAG's report has been laid in Parliament.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

The Details of accidents, fatalities and injuries in Delhi Metro Rail

Phase	Period	Km	No. of accident	Fatalities	Injuries
Phase-I	1st Oct., 1998 to December, 2005	65.05	82	55	39
Phase-2 including extensions and Airport Link	December, 2005 to till date	121.5	4.8	47#	55**
TOTAL			130	102*	94

*Figure of 102 fatalities includes 15 deaths involving road accidents and others not attributable to construction work directly. Details are as under :-

1 death	-	lightening
3 deaths	-	Collapse of water tank at labour rest place
2 deaths	-	Heart attack/natural death
8 deaths	-	Road accidents other than construction site
1 death	-	Electrocution

includes one outsider

**Including 7 outsiders

Muslim Community Abroad

*464. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any details of the muslim minority people who have gone abroad for work and studies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, country-wise and purpose-wise;
- (c) whether Government is providing any financial assistance to them in case of any difficulty;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, by when such financial help would be provided to those persons who are facing trouble abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. Statistics based on religion are not maintained. The Indian missions extend help as and when overseas Indians in distress require assistance.

In addition, in 17 ECR countries 'Indian Community Welfare Fund' to extend on-site welfare services to all overseas Indians in distress has been established.

Starting of 3G Services

*465. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

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

- (a) whether BSNL and MTNL have already started their 3G services in their respective areas and if so, the details of the circle-wise number of subscribers of these PSUs till May, 2009;

(b) whether Government is planning to mandate Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) for PSU operators in order to put Government investments to proper use since PSUs are not good at marketing their products;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are 453 million subscribers of these PSUs at the end of May, 2009 and about 11 to 12 million subscribers are added every month; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government plans to cope up with this huge requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have started 3G Services in few selected cities. The number of 3G subscribers in BSNL and MTNL network till May 2009 are 7295 and 399 respectively. Circle-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir. Presently there are no Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) in the country. The policy on MVNOs is under consideration.

(c) and (d) Sir, there are 90.70 million subscribers of these PSUs at the end of May 2009 and they are adding on an average about 1 million subscribers every month during the last one year.

BSNL and MTNL are expanding their network capacity in a progressive manner to cater for increase in subscriber base, improve quality of service by reducing congestion and provide value added services. BSNL and MTNL are also improving commercial arrangements by increasing sales force and more aggressive monitoring of retailers by use of IT tools. Further, they are becoming more responsive to customers' need like quick activation of new connections/roaming services.

Statement

Circle-wise details of 3G Connections as on 31.05.2009

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Number of 3G Connections
1.	Haryana	308
2.	Himachal Pradesh	110
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	20
4.	Punjab	690
5.	Rajasthan	1228
6.	Uttaranchal	433
7.	U.P. (East)	1352
8.	U.P. (West)	776
9.	Bihar	815
10.	Kolkatta, Telecom District	119
11.	Jharkhand	352
12.	Orissa	653
13.	West Bengal	439
	Number of BSNL 3G connections	7295
14.	MTNL Delhi	399
	Number of MTNL 3G connections	399

Land for Nuclear Power Projects

†466. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two places in the country have been identified for setting up of nuclear power projects by the American Companies;

(b) if so, the names of these places and the estimates of the land required for the present and future outlay of projects at each place; and

(c) the area of agricultural land out of the land marked for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :
(a) to (c) Selection of sites for nuclear power projects is an ongoing process. Finalization of sites for future domestic programme as well as for projects with international co-operation is under consideration of the Government. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Chinese Plan to divert Brahmaputra River

*467. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Army Command has sent a report on China's ambitious plan to divert Brahmaputra from the point of the 'Great Bend' to its territory by digging a tunnel in its part of Himalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent any disturbance in the flow of the mighty river to our territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India and China have established an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on all issues regarding trans-border rivers. The India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans Boarder Rivers had held three meetings in September 2007, April, 2008, and April 2009. The Expert Level Mechanism provides the inter-Governmental forum to discuss relevant issues relating to India-China trans-border rivers.

Revenue collection system

*468. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG report has criticized BSNL's revenue collection system under which its arrears have climbed to Rs. 7,502 crore during 2007-08, compared to Rs. 7,376 crore in the preveious year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nearly Rs. 4,226 crore is considered doubtful recovery and the biggest defaulters are private subscribers having Rs. 4,185 crore as outstanding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by BSNL to recover the arrears?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, BSNL's Revenue arrears (Sundry debtors) for the year 2007-08 stood at Rs. 7482.81 crore instead of Rs. 7502 crore as per the duly audited Annual Accounts. Break up of the amount under sundry debtors is as follows :-

- (i) Exceeding 6 months - Rs. 6210.06 crore
 - (ii) upto 6 months - Rs. 1272.75 crore
- Rs. 7482.81 crore

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 4226 crore out of revenue arrears is considered doubtful. This is as per accounting policy of BSNL according to which debts outstanding for more than 2 years are considered as doubtful.

The biggest defaulters are private customers under basic services, who owed an amount Rs. 4173.63 crore as on 31.03.2008. The details are as follows

(Rs. in crore)					
Service	Telephone	Telex	Phone Circuit	Telegraph Circuit	Total
Amount	3817.99	6.72	287.39	61.53	4173.63

BSNL has been taking following steps to effect recovery of outstanding dues from its customers on regular basis :-

- (1) Payment reminders through IVRS and SMS are being issued to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones. Phones are disconnected as per the schedule in case of non-payment of dues by customers.
- (2) Connections remaining disconnected for non-payment even after expiry of 3 months period are permanently closed and accounts regularized by adjusting Security deposit, if any available.
- (3) Scheme for appointment of Private Recovery Agents for recovery of outstanding dues has been introduced.
- (4) Graded discount scheme regarding grant of discount to defaulting customers, for clearance of old outstanding dues has been introduced.
- (5) Incentive scheme to employees of BSNL for recovery of outstanding arrears from defaulters has also been introduced.
- (6) Legal proceedings, wherever required, are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues.
- (7) A scheme for settlement of outstanding dues through Lok Adalats has also been introduced.
- (8) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.
- (9) Circle-wise and Year-wise target for liquidation of outstanding dues are fixed to get the maximum realization and the progress in this regard is closely monitored and units are addressed periodically to take all necessary steps to recover the same.

Upgradation of Quarters by CPWD

*469. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :

SHRI SANTOSH BARGODIA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of vacant and occupied Type II and III Central Government quarters that have been upgraded by the CPWD in Delhi;
- (b) whether the occupants have been refusing to undertake upgradation due to logistical problem;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that recently, the CPWD has discontinued the practice of upgrading the vacant quarters before handing over to new allottees;
- (d) the rationale of discontinuing such practice considering that it is convenient to upgrade a vacant quarter; and
- (e) whether Government would review its decision and upgrade the vacant quarters on priority before handing over to allottees?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The details are as under :—

Quarters upgraded		
Type	Vacant	Occupied
II	1239	160
III	912	65

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) No policy decision to discontinue the upgradation has been taken. However, in some cases upgradation has not been undertaken due to shortage of funds.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Conversion to Freehold

† *470. SHRI DARA SINGH :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken a decision to convert 80 yard plots at J.J. Colony Shrinivasपुरi, New Delhi, into free hold, which were allotted by the Slum and J.J. Department on lease hold basis in 1960;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the plan of his Ministry in this regard; and
- (d) by when, the conversion work from lease hold to free hold is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has informed that as per decision of the Cabinet dated 4.1.1960, plots measuring 80 square yards, were allotted to the jhuggi dwellers on perpetual lease basis in 5 JJR Colonies, including Srinivasपुरi. It was decided earlier to confer leasehold rights on the allottees of plots/tenements under Jhuggi Jhopri Removal Scheme. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi *vide* its orders dated 12.10.1998 and 27.9.2002 passed in CWP No. 4215/1995 titled "Pitampura Sudhar Samiti vs. GNCTD & ORS" directed that the land allotted on relocation basis or under relocation scheme shall not be converted into freehold.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Land for Housing Projects

*471. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many urban housing projects are hampered due to non-availability of Government land and high cost of acquiring it from private parties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government would include the cost of acquiring land in deciding the share of central funds to be allocated under various housing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take measures for increased supply of land for adequate shelter. The non-availability of adequate land for housing project has drawn the attention of Government. In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Municipal Administration on "Affordable Housing for All" held on 20.01.2009, a communication has been sent to all States on 24.03.2009 for initiation of steps in line with the resolution adopted in the Conference that availability of land for housing be augmented to meet the shortages and to keep pace with the increasing population in urban areas. A need for providing land for housing free of cost or at nominal cost for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS); and at controlled prices for the Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) acknowledged in the Conference has also been highlighted in the communication. Further the Government has launched a scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership to encourage increased supply of developed land at reduced cost.

(c) Under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) land cost is financed by the Centre for acquisition of private land for scheme/projects in the North Eastern States and hilly States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.

SAI hostel in Orissa

† *472. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) hostel situated at Dhenkanal in Orissa is on the verge of closure;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the Government's plan to make this hostel more spacious and effective?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is operating a Training Centre at Dhenkanal with hostel facility for 45 trainees, which has been in operation since 1992. Government of Orissa and SAI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2003, which, *inter-alia*, provides that the State Government shall place at the disposal of SAI the hostel and playing facilities for operation of the Centre. The MOU further stipulated that the facilities of the Centre may also be used by the State Government for organizing sports events subject to the same not interfering the regular training programme of SAI and further subject to stipulation that under no circumstances the facilities shall be used for non-sporting purposes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Training Centre has been facing acute operational problems for the past three years due to unauthorized occupation of the indoor hall by the local athletic association and frequent diversion of the main ground for various non-sporting activities, which are violative of the MoU entered into between SAI and the State Government. This matter has been taken up with the State Government. A mutually acceptable solution is being worked out. SAI will run the Centre to full capacity as soon as the operational issues are resolved to mutual satisfaction.

Major and medium irrigation projects

*473. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the execution status of major and medium irrigation projects undertaken in Rajasthan during the Tenth Five Year Plan, showing spill-over from earlier plans separately, indicating their estimated cost and cost over-run, if any;

(b) the total area of land estimated to be irrigated on completion thereof and what has been achieved, so far;

(c) whether the Centre and the State are losing crores due to cost over-runs in delayed irrigation projects;

(d) if so, whether Government has made any investigations to find the causes for delay; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being State subject, planning, execution and funding of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments based on their own priority. However, as per information made available by the Government of Rajasthan, the execution status of major and medium irrigation projects undertaken in Rajasthan, during Tenth Five Year Plan indicating original sanctioned cost, revised estimated cost, expenditure incurred up to Ninth Plan, expenditure incurred during Tenth Plan, Expenditure incurred during Eleventh Plan (during 2007-08 and 2008-09), total expenditure incurred up to March 2009, total area estimated to be irrigated on completion, actual achievement up to March 2009 and expected year of completion is given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

The cost overrun normally occurs due to time overrun, price escalation, shortage of funds with State Governments, land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation problems, liberalization of resettlement & rehabilitation policies, contractual problems, change in design or scope of the projects by the State Government, geological surprises requiring change in design of project components, delay in execution of work required to be executed by other than Irrigation/Water Resources department such as Railway Crossing, Highway crossing etc.

Keeping in view that shortage of funds with State Governments was one of the most important factors resulting in delay in completion of ongoing projects and in order to expedite completion of ongoing irrigation projects, the Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 to provide financial assistance to the State Government. Details of the irrigation projects of Rajasthan assisted under AIBP indicating name of the project, their present status, grant released during 2008-09, grant released during 2009-10 and cumulative central assistance released since inclusion of the AIBP is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Execution status of Major and Medium irrigation projects undertaken in Rajasthan during Xth five year plan

(Rs. in crore, Area in Thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Original Sanctioned cost	Revised estimated cost	Expenditure incurred up to IXth Plan	Expenditure incurred during Xth Plan	Expenditure incurred during XIth Plan (2007-08 & 2008-09)	Total expenditure incurred upto 03/2009	Actual estimated to be irrigated of completion	Expected achievement up to 03/2009	Plan/Year of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Projects Spilled over from earlier Plan										
A Major Projects										
1.	Narmada	467.53	1541.36	203.14	877.38	289.79	1370.31	246.00	133.10	2010
2.	Gang canal Modernization	445.79	445.79		118.53	259.03	66.45	444.01	96.51	72.76 2010
3.	Ratanpura distributory	28.00	28.00		10.00	11.96	0.44	22.40	18.00	18.00 Completed in 2007-08
4.	Mahi	31.36	834.88		695.04	195.93	49.15	940.12	80.00	85.70 Completed in 2007-08
5.	Bisalpur	52.00	657.91		454.81	186.50	44.32	685.63	81.80	81.70 Completed in 2007-08
6.	Indira Gandhi Naha Pariyojana St-II	2267.44	3183.00					2970.26	788.00	760.00 2010

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B. Medium Projects										
1.	Panchana	1.03	125.00	96.51	40.16	0.23	136.90	10.61	10.61	Completed in 2004-05
2	Chhapi	5.91	100	76.41	31.48	2.29	110.18	10.00	10.00	Completed in 2004-05
3	Chauli	38.25	98.55	53.42	55.68	1.53	110.63	8.96	8.96	Completed in 2004-05
4.	Bethli	16.2	46.21	44.64	12.77	0.11	57.52	4.32	4.32	Completed in 2004-05
Projects started during XIth Plan										
A. Major Projects										
1.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	733.6	740.00	0.00	433.56	151.89	585.45	0.00	0.00	XI th Plan
B. Medium Projects										
1.	Bandi Sendra	37.03	37.03	0.00	26.64	6.30	32.94	4.60	4.47	Completed in 2007-08
2.	Sukli	42.9	42.90	0.00	32.08	11.85	43.93	5.60	5.00	Completed in 2007-08
3.	Gardada	81.41	81.41	0.00	47.68	53.49	101.17	8.93	0.95	XI the Plan
4.	Takli	51.81	51.81	0.00	2.00	10.90	12.90	7.39	0.00	2013
5.	Piplad	33.64	33.64	0.00	2.00	13.87	15.87	4.69	0.00	2013
6.	Gagrin	80.12	80.12	0.00	2.00	23.44	25.44	7.94	0.00	2013
TOTAL :		4414.06	8127.61	1752.50	2216.85	726.05	7665.66	1383.35	1195.57	

Statement-II

Details of the Major/Medium projects of Rajasthan under AIBP

Sl.No.	Name of Major CLA/Grant	Year of & Medium Project inclusion in AIBP	Grant inclusion in 2008-09 (Rs. Crore)	Grant released in 2009-10 (Rs. Crore)	Total released till date (Rs. crore)
Rajasthan					
Major/Medium Projects					
Completed Projects :					
1.	Jalsmand (Modernisation) (VI) (C)	1996-97	0.00	0.00	3.13
2.	Chhapi (V) (C)	1996-97	0.00	0.00	38.23
3.	Panchana (V) (C)	1997-98	0.00	0.00	43.38
4.	Bisalpur (VII) (C)	1998-99	0.00	0.00	41.56
5.	Gambhiri (Modernisation) (VI) (C)	1998-99	0.00	0.00	1.32
6.	Chauli (VII) (C)	1998-99	0.00	0.00	48.28
7.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar (IV) (C)	1999-2000	0.00	0.00	113.65
Ongoing Projects :					
1.	IGNP Stage-II (V)	1997-98	0.00	0.00	582.72
2.	Narmada Canal (VI)	1998-99	178.62	0.00	851.84
3.	Mod. of Gang Canal	2000-01	0.00	8.11	214.36
TOTAL :			178.62	8.11	1938.45

Rehabilitation of slum clusters in Delhi

*474.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently asked DDA to submit the detailed rehabilitation and development plans for slum clusters in the city;

(b) if so, the details of the plans submitted by DDA to the Union Government;

(c) whether any estimate of population living in slums in the capital has been made and reasons for its rapid growth; and

(d) the specific time by which all the slums in the capital are likely to be rehabilitated and the city would be declared as slum free?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) As part of the Ministry of Urban Development Agenda for Action for 100 days, and in order to meet acute shortage of houses for urban poor, economically weaker sections and lower income groups of city of Delhi, construction of about houses will be taken up. About 10,000 houses are phased to be completed every year from the year 2010 onwards. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will take

up *in-situ* development towards rehabilitation of slum-dwellers and Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) clusters in next five years for 23 clusters. The total numbers of dwelling units of about 25 square meters will be about 47,500. These will be taken up on public-private partnership model in which the land in question that is presently occupied by the JJ/slub-dwellers will be made available to developers, who will construct houses for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in accordance with the numbers identified by the DDA. These house will be constructed on part of the area while in the remaining area, the developer will be allowed to carry out commercial exploitation of the land. The bidding parameter is envisaged to be the amount to be paid to the DDA in addition to the number of houses identified by the DDA each cluster/land.

(c) The Slum & JJ Wing of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has informed that as per survey conducted by the Food and Supplies Department of Government of NCT of Delhi in 1990, there were 929 JJ Clusters wherein 2.59 lakh jhuggi families were identified. The Slum & JJ Wing of MCD has also informed that a field assessment was conducted in 1994 and 1080 JJ clusters with about 4.80 lakh families were identified. According to the Slum & JJ Wing of MCD, presently there are about six lakh jhuggi families with a population of about 30 lakh living in Delhi. The rapid growth of slums in Delhi every year is mainly due to number of people migrating to Delhi from neighbouring States in search of employment.

(d) No specific time frame can be given, in view of the issues involved.

Redesigning of ITDC hotel rooms for Commonwealth Games

*475. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR :

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether, to cater to the high-profile clientele of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, the Delhi-based ITDC hotels have started giving 'fashion designing' touch to their rooms;

(b) if so, whether this work would be done by Indian fashion designers or some foreign experts are also involved; and

(c) whether the expenditure involved would be met by the concerned hotels or special allocation has been made by her Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, etc. for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism has provided Rs. 73 crore to ITDC as equity support for the renovation/refurbishment work of Hotel Ashok.

Extra-Departmental Employees/Casual Labour

*476. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Extra-Departmental Employees and casual labours working in different Post and Telegraph Offices in Orissa, Post Office-wise/Telegraph Office-wise;

(b) the number of them that have been working for more than ten years;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to give pension to all the Extra-Departmental Employees/casual labours on their retirement on completion of ten years of service; and

(d) if not, the prescribed rules and by when they would be regularized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) The number of Gramin Dak Sevaks and Casual Labours in Telegraph Offices is nil. The number of Gramin Dak Sevaks (formerly called Extra-Departmental Agents) in Post Offices in Orissa Circle is 15712 out of which 14603 Gramin Dak Sevaks are working for more than ten years. The Head Post Office-wise information as on 31.07.2009 is given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below). The number of Casual Labours working in Post Offices is 1177 out of which 1085 are engaged part time for limited hours of duty, on day to day basis, eight hours though working for more than 10 years. The Head Post Office wise information as on 31.7.2009 is given in the enclosed statement-II (See below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Gramin Dak Sevaks work on a part time basis ranging from 3 hrs. to maximum 5 hrs .per day. The services of Gramin Sevaks are governed by a separate set of Conduct and Employment Rules, 2001 that re non-statutory in nature. They are not covered by CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 and they are paid discharge benefits like ex-gratia gratuity and severance amount at the time of discharge.

Casual Labours are only daily were workers engaged for limited hours of duty and are not eligible for regularization or any pensionary benefits.

Statement-I

*Head Post Office Wise Information on Gramin Dak Sevaks in
Orissa Circle as on 31.07.2009*

Sl.No.	Head Post Office	Total No. of GDS working	GDS working for more than 10 years
1	2	3	4
1.	Aska H.O.	147	135
2.	Bhanjanagar H.O.	399	376
3.	Berhampur H.O.	380	367
4.	Chatrapur H.O.	293	293
5.	Parlakhemundi H.O.	276	276
6.	Balangir H.O.	722	127
7.	Cuttack G..P.O.	76	67
8.	Chandni Chowk H.O.	184	151
9.	Jagatsinghpur H.O.	536	476

1	2	3	4
10.	Athagarh H.O.	354	322
11.	Angul H.O.	194	183
12.	Dhenkanal H.O.	750	676
13.	Bhawanipatna H.O.	855	764
14.	Baripada H.O.	999	988
15.	Rairangpur H.O.	438	436
16.	Phulbani H.O.	756	697
17.	Rourkela H.O.	68	58
18.	Uditnagar H.O.	297	269
19.	Sundargarh H.O.	413	390
20.	Bhubaneswar G.P.O.	426	415
21.	Keonjhar H.O.	856	802
22.	Puri H.O.	299	265
23.	Khurda H.O.	383	340
24.	Nayagarh H.O.	380	323
25.	Bargarh H.O.	425	379
26.	Jharsuguda H.O.	308	266
27.	Sambalpur H.O.	321	281
28.	Bhadrak H.O.	673	653
29.	Jeypore (k) H.O.	574	541
30.	Koraput H.O.	393	376
31.	Rayagada H.O.	419	410
32.	Balasore H.O.	462	446
33.	Jaleswar H.O.	375	362
34.	Jajpur H.O.	588	530
35.	Kendrapara H.O.	693	623
TOTAL :		15712	14063

Statement-II

*Head Post Office Wise Information on Casual Labour in Orissa
Circle as on 31.07.2009*

Sl.No.	Head Post Office	Total No. of Casual Labour Working	Casual Labour working for more than 10 years
1.	Berhampur H.O.	75	75
2.	Chatrapur H.O.	50	50
3.	Parlakhemundi H.O.	41	41
4.	Balangir H.O.	122	105
5.	Cuttack G.P.O.	33	33
6.	Chandnichowk H.O.	24	24
7.	Jagtsinghpur H.O.	41	41
8.	Athagarh H.O.	22	22
9.	Bhawanipatna H.O.	46	30
10.	Phulbani H.O.	93	93
11.	Rourkela H.O.	68	63
12.	Uditnagar H.O.	61	58
13.	Sundargarh H.O.	62	58
14.	Bhubaneswar G..P.O.	8	8
15.	Keonjhargarh H.O.	77	64
16.	Puri H.O.	24	20
17.	Khurda H.O.	18	18
18.	Nayagarh H.O.	15	15
19.	Bargarh H.O.	24	24
20.	Jharsuguda H.O.	27	27
21.	Sambalpur H.O.	35	35
22.	Jeypore (k) H.O.	39	31
23.	Koraput H.O.	89	84
24.	Rayagada H.O.	22	13
25.	Balasore H.O.	40	40
26.	Jaleswar H.O.	21	21
TOTAL :		1177	1093

Racial attack on students

†477. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that racial attacks against Indian students are still continuing in Australia;
- (b) whether some students belonging to the State of Haryana are also among the victims of these attacks in Australia;
- (c) if so, the number thereof along with the details of the districts of Haryana to which they belong to; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government for protection of Indian students in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) 84 incidents of attacks on Indians including students have come to the notice of the Government since May, 2009. The possibility of some of these attacks being racial in nature has not been ruled out by the Australian Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Two persons belonging to the State of Haryana have reportedly been attacked in recent months. Shri Rajesh Kumar, a student from Yamuna Nagar, Haryana was a victim of petrol bomb thrown at his residence in Sydney on 25th May, 2009. Another Indian national, Shri Baljinder Singh from Haryana, was attacked in Melbourne on 24th May, 2009.

(d) Details of steps taken by the Government is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government to protect Indian Students in Australia

The issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level in a telephonic conversation, when the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called our Prime Minister immediately after his assumption office, our concerns at the attacks on Indian students were conveyed to him suitably. The Prime Minister made a reference to this in the course of his reply to the debate in the Parliament on the motion of thanks for the President's address to the joint sitting of both houses. The Minister of External Affairs has also conveyed our deep concerns to his counterpart in the Government of Australia.

2. It has been conveyed to the Australian Government that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. Our High Commissioner and Consuls General in Australia are in constant touch with the Australian authorities both at the federal as well as State level, including the Ministers, senior officers and the police authorities, besides the Australian Foreign Office, the Universities and the students.

3. The Government of Australia has in response to these demarches, strongly condemned these attacks. The Australian authorities have conveyed their firm commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. When the matter came up in the Australian Parliament, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Australian Prime Minister as well as the Leader of the opposition and several Members of Parliament denounced the attacks and called for immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Indian students studying in Australia. Premier of the Victoria State has further promised that the State would do everything in its power to track down the perpetrators of these cowardly acts and bring them to justice.

4. Some of the steps taken at the instance of the Government of India are as follows:

- (i) Launch of a police operation specifically to investigate the incidents of attacks on students.
- (ii) The provision of a 24 hour hotline (in Hindi and English) by a Community Reference Group to provide support, information and advice to Indian students who are victims of crime.
- (iii) Representations have been made to the concerned State Governments in Australia concerning the experiences of students including study and stay.
- (iv) The setting up of a Police Community Reference Group to improve communications between the police and the student community.
- (v) This Police Community Reference Group has had several meetings.
- (vi) Stressing the need to bring in basic and essential infrastructural changes for more police presence at sensitive areas like railway stations and also late in the night.
- (vii) Constant monitoring of the well being of Indian students including those who have been hospitalized and looking after their treatment.
- (viii) The Australian Government has also stated that it was considering the possibility of the amending the existing law to enlarge the definition of offence to include "inciting violence against people for their race, religion or ethnicity and violence against individuals and for inciting violence against individuals on the basis of the individual's race, religion, ethnicity or nationality." The proposed amendment would strengthen the police response to the attacks against Indian students. It has also been contemplated to amend the existing legislation to provide for enhanced sentence for racism related offences.

5. On 23rd June 2009, a delegation led by Secretary, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Government of Australia, called on the Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. Government of India's deep concerns over the matter were conveyed to the Australian delegation. In response to some suggestions made by the Indian delegation, the Australian side undertook to consider the following:

- (i) Registration of Education Agents;
- (ii) Ensuring quality of education provided at private educational institutions;
- (iii) Steps to ensure that Education Agents provide necessary pre-departure briefing to Indian students properly, on the basis of the latest advisory booklet published by the Australian Education Department for international students;

- (iv) Steps to prevent exploitation of Indian students by unscrupulous employers who underpay them and employ them beyond the maximum prescribed 20 hours a week.

6. A delegation of educational providers from Australia met Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 6th July, 2009. Various measures to address the problems related to safety and security of Indian students were discussed in these meetings. It was decided to set up a Joint Working Group to recommend to the two Governments measures required to regulate the activities of Education Agents in India and design appropriate pre-departure orientation programmes.

7. The matter was also taken up with the Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship during his call on the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs on 22nd July, 2009.

8. The High Commission of India in Canberra and Consulates General in Sydney and Melbourne will continue to extend all possible assistance. An advisory for students going for studies to Australia has been put on the website of this Ministry.

Work on Narmada Project

*478. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the slow-speed of work on Narmada Project (SSY) in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) the details regarding height of the Dam as on 31 March, 2009 and of the water made available for irrigation and other purposes as on 31 March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is an inter-State multipurpose water resources project on the river Narmada in Gujarat. The project envisages construction of Unit-I (Dam & Appurtenant works), Unit-II (Main Canal) and Unit-III (Hydro Power) works. Progress of the Unit-I works of SSP is given as under :-

The project authority started the construction works of main dam in April, 1987 and was programmed to be completed by the end of January, 1998 as per the Revised Implementation Schedule (RIS) of February, 1990.

However, the construction work on spillway blocks of the dam remained held up for long, due to litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In October, 2000 with the final verdict of the Hon'ble Court in favour of project, the spillway portion could be raised upto elevation level (EL) 110.64 metre by June, 2004, thereby making it possible to derive partial irrigation and power benefits from the Project.

Further permission to raise the height of dam in spillway portion from EL 110.64 metre to EL 121.92 metre as per approved design was accorded by Narmada Control Authority (NCA) on 8th March, 2006. After getting clearance from NCA, project authorities started the construction works on spillways portion of the dam in March, 2006 and achieved Elevation Level of 121.92 metre (crest level of spillway) in December, 2006, which is the present height of the dam as on 31.3.2009.

Water for irrigation and other purposes from Sardar Sarovar Project is being allocated by Sardar Sarovar Reservoir Regulation Committee (SSRRC) of Narmada Control Authority since March, 2007. On the basis of available live storages and requirements indicated by the Party States for irrigation and other purposes, SSRRC has allocated a total of 9850 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of water since March, 2007 till March, 2009.

Special Allowances to Officers of NE Cadre

*479. SHRI LALHMING LIANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional monetary incentive in the form of "Special Allowance for the officers belonging to the North East (NE) cadres of All India Services" is granted to the officers belonging to the NE cadres working in the North East Region (NER);

(b) if so, the reasons(s) for granting it only to the officers of the NE cadres working in the NER;

(c) whether Government proposes to give such benefit to All India Service officers of other State cadres and of organized Group 'A' services, who are posted or are on deputation to the NER;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(e) if not the reasons(s) therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special allowance to the officers belonging to the NE cadres of All India Services who are working in the North East region has been granted to help them tide over the difficult and challenging working environment faced by officers allotted to these State Cadres.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) With a view to attract and retain competent officers for service in the North East; a Special Duty Allowance is given, to officers of the All India Service belonging to other State Cadres and officers of other organized Group "A" services who are posted or working in the North East Region.

Agreement during the visit of US Secretary of State

*480. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which bi-lateral agreements were signed between India and the United States of America when Secretary of State of the United States recently visited New Delhi; and

(b) the broad details in respect of each agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Two Agreements - Technology Safeguards Agreements (Space) and an Indo-

US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board Agreement, were signed during the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton from 17-21 July, 2009.

The Technology Safeguards Agreement will permit the launch of civil or non-commercial satellites containing US components on Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

The S & T Agreement seeks to establish an India - U.S.A. Board and an Endowment for developing Joint Research and Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology.

The Agreement will substantiate the aims and objectives of the India-U.S.A. Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation signed in October, 2005.

The two sides also agreed to a formulation on End Use Monitoring (EUM) to be included in Letters of Offer and Acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipped to be acquired by the Government of India from the U.S. Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Generation of thorium based nuclear energy

3501.SHRI SHYAM LAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has any plan of generating thorium based nuclear energy;
- (b) the total amount of thorium reserve in our country;
- (c) the concrete planning for extraction of thorium; and
- (d) the estimated time of extraction of thorium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) India has 10.21 Million Tonnes of Monazite from which 9,18,900 Tonnes Thorium Oxide (ThO₂) can be obtained.
- (c) and (d) Extraction of Monazite as by-product from limenite mining is being done by M/s Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) in Kerala and Tamil Nadu; M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) in Kerala; and Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) in Orissa. Sufficient quantity of Thorium has been stockpiled for future use.

Survey of Himalayan Rivers

†3502.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that information has been received recently about meeting of icy peaks located at Gangotri and their melting is at satisfactory level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it has been decided to undertake a new survey in regard to the originating points of other Himalayan rivers on the lines of Gangotri; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has informed that GSI is not carrying out any work on Gangotri since 1996. GSI has, however, observed that recent reports have shown that the Gangotri glacier has been melting at satisfactory level. Further, National Institute of Hydrology has carried out research studies and the analysis of flow data observed by the institute for the period from the year 2000 to 2008 does not indicate any definite trend.

(c) GSI has informed that has been decided to undertake new surveys in regard to originating points of other Himalayan rivers.

(d) Does not arise.

Energy generation projects

†3503. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided so far to set up only two atomic energy generation projects;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the basic blueprint has been drawn for these projects;

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure in regard to setting up the project and amount of foreign capital therein; and

(d) the average production cost of the energy generated in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :
(a) and (b) Proposals for setting up of two nuclear power projects - KAPP 3&4 (2x700 MWe) at Kakrapar in Gujarat and RAPP 7&8 (2x700 MWe) at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan are under the consideration of the Government. No decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Location for Nuclear Reactors

3504. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized location for \$150 bn. US nuclear power reactor promised to Washington during negotiations for ending India's isolation from global nuclear commerce;

(b) whether any final decision for finalizing sites for US origin nuclear reactors has been finalized; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Efficiency of Nuclear Plants

3505. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is focussing on the raising of efficiency of nuclear plants in Andhra Pradesh particularly for Manuguru and other plants;

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

(c) the present status of working conditions and efficiency of nuclear plants, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) There is no Nuclear Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plants

3506. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Units 1 and 2 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Rawatbhata are under shutdown since June, 2008 for lack of fuel supply;

(b) if so, the total requirement of nuclear fuel asked for by Rajasthan Government and by when the reported nuclear fuel supply expected from 'Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad' for use of RAPS;

(c) whether State Government of Rajasthan has also requested to enhance its allocation from RAPS units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) RAPS-1 has been shut down for techno-economic evaluation on its refurbishment/continuation of operation. RAPS-2 was shutdown for En-Mass Feeder Replacement and this has been completed.

(b) Fuel loading in RAPS-2 has commenced. The Unit is expected to come on line in September 2009.

(c) and (d) The Government had adjusted the share of Rajasthan in the unallocated share of all central generating stations in the Northern Electricity Region including RAPS-3&4.

Nuclear material for Power Generation

3507. SHRI P. RAJEEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first lot of the nuclear material for power generation has reached the country after the Indo-US nuclear deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the fuel could solve the present day power crisis and which are the States going to benefit from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 300 Te of natural uranium from France and 90 Te natural uranium pellets from Russian Federation is received.

(c) After manufacture of fuel bundles by Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), these will be used at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station unit-2 (RAPS-2) in the first instance and RAPS 5 & 6 and RAPS 3&4 progressively. The beneficiary States are Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Blockage of Telephone Number

3508. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of telephones under '2874' exchange in New Rajinder Nagar area remained blocked for a number of days in July this year and those dialing those numbers only heard 'service of this number temporarily withdrawn';

(b) the actual number of telephones which were blocked and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are proposed including the action against erring staff to ensure that such cases do not recur and the subscribers are not unduly harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, no blockage of lines under 2874 exchange were observed during the month of July, 2009. Remote Switching Units (RSUs) are monitored in main exchange daily for any faults etc. However, for telephone numbers disconnected due to non-payment, suitable announcement is given for some time.

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

Penalty on Telecom operators

3509. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom regulator TRAI has asked for more powers including imposing penalty on Telecom operators for unsatisfactory service to subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to amend the TRAI Act and provide more powers to TRAI to deal with Telecom operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has sent a consolidated revised proposal to Department of Telecommunications to consider various amendments in the TRAI Act, 1997 including amendment of Section 29 of TRAI Act which *inter-alia* provides for imposition of penalty on telephone operators for violation of its directions.

(c) and (d) Government has not so far taken any final decision in this regard

Universal service obligation charge

‡3510. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a cess as universal service obligation charge is being collected from each telephone subscriber in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount collected through it till June, 2009;

(c) the purpose for which this cess is collected from subscribers; and

(d) the amount spent till the end of June, 2009 for fulfilling the desired purpose out of the total amount collected so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Universal Service Levy (USL) is collected by the Government from various service providers (except pure value added service providers such as voice mail, e-mail etc.) operating in the country at the rate of 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). As on 30 June, 2009 a total amount of Rs. 26,207.11 crores has been collected as USL since the inception of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in April, 2002.

(c) The USL is collected to raise resource for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USOF) for providing telecommunication services in rural and remote areas of the country.

(d) As on 30 June, 2009, out of the total collection of Rs. 26,207.11 crores, Rs. 8,378.88 crores have been disbursed for USO Fund activities and Rs. 6,948 crores have been reimbursed to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towards payment of license fee and spectrum charges to Department of Telecommunications.

Independent Spectrum Regulator

3511. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been actively considering to set up an Independent Spectrum Regulator to solve spectrum related issues in the country;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps Government proposes to take to streamline the process of allotment of spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) No, Sir.

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

BWA Spectrum

3512. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

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

(a) whether Government proposes to auction Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum also alongwith 3G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much more spectrum in each of the BWA bands is going to be made available in subsequent years;

(c) whether the base price of BWA spectrum is 50 per cent of the base price of 3G spectrum;

(d) whether DOT carried out any study to ensure that the BWA services will be viable in the rural and far flung areas at this price; and

(e) if not, how does DOT propose to make these services affordable in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guidelines were issued for auction of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum. 2 blocks each of 20MHz are available in 2.3 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands. Out of this one block of 20MHz has been allocated to MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai/Metro Service Areas and BSNL in other Service Areas at a price equal to the highest bid in the respective areas.

(c) Guidelines were issued for auction of BWA spectrum on 1.8.2008 with some amendments on 11.9.2008. As per the guidelines, the reserve price for 20MHz in Time Division Duplex (TDD) mode spectrum was fixed at the rate of Rs. 80 Crore for Metro & Category 'A' Circles, Rs. 40 Crores for Category 'B' Circles and Rs. 15 Crores for Category 'C' Circles.

However, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted on issues relating to auction of 3G Spectrum. As per terms & reference, the EGoM will also examine the reserve price for BWA spectrum in the relevant bands.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) A scheme to provide broadband connectivity to approximately 2 Lakh villages is under consideration. The rest of the villages will be covered in a phased manner. In this scheme financial

assistance by way of subsidy will be given to Telecom Service Providers for the wireless infrastructure in rural and remote areas. The scheme is envisaged to be rolled out across India in phased manner during the current Five Year Plan.

Spectrum Committee's recommendations

3513. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Spectrum Committee's recommendations of charging a flat rate of 3 per cent spectrum charge irrespective of the 2G spectrum held by the operators a contravention to the stand taken by the DOT, MoF and TRAI; and

(b) if so, the amount of losses incurred by Government in accepting the recommendation of the Spectrum Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) The Committee for "Allocation of Access [Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM)/Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) spectrum and pricing" recommended prescribing uniform rate of 3% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) per annum for spectrum usage charges irrespective of the quantity of spectrum held & the technology. The issue on which the Committee has given its recommendations were already deliberated in detail by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) also while giving its recommendations on "Reviews on license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers" on 28th August, 2007. Various recommendations are inter-linked or inter-dependend. Therefore, on 7th July, 2009, the Government has sought recommendations of TRAI on the recommendations/comments on the Report of the Committee.

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

Allocation of Additional Spectrum

3514. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no one-time entry fee was charged from the GSM operators for allocation of additional spectrum beyond the license mandated 6.2 MHz;

(b) if so, by when and how much spectrum has been allotted to each of the GSM operator beyond the 6.2 MHz;

(c) whether Government proposes to charge one-time fee for such allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of GSM operators who have been allotted spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz along with the amount of spectrum and date on which beyond 6.2 MHz spectrum has been allocated is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Government is considering the proposal of charging one time entry fee for spectrum allocation beyond 6.2+6.2 MHz.

Statement

Details of additional Spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz allotted to operators

Sl.No.	Service Area	Name of Operator	Date on which additional Spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz was made	Allotted additional spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz in MHz
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	Bharti	17.07.2002	3.8
		Vodafone	17.07.2002	3.8
		MTNL	06.12.2005	6.2
		IDEA	06.12.2005	1.8
2.	Mumbai	Vodafone	17.07.2002	4.0
		Bharti	21.04.2004	3.0
		MTNL	06.05.2005	6.2
		BPL	13.01.2003	3.8
3.	Kolkata	Bharti	22.01.2005	1.8
		Vodafone	30.06.2004	3.6
		BSNL	10.05.2007	3.8
4.	Chennai	Vodafone	01.06.2006	1.8
		Bharti	20.01.2006	3.0
		BSNL	20.03.2006	3.8
		Aircel	20.01.2006	2.4
5.	Maharashtra	Bharti	14.11.2008	2.0
		Idea	31.12.2003	3.6
		BSNL	27.10.2004	3.8
6.	Gujarat	Vodafone	31.12.2003	3.6
		BSNL	16.05.2005	1.2
7.	A.P.	Bharti	09.02.2004	3.8
		BSNL	20.09.2004	3.8
		IDEA	20.09.2004	1.8

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Karnataka	Bharti	31.12.2003	3.8
		Vodafone	22.01.2005	1.8
		BSNL	05.11.2004	3.8
9.	Tamil Nadu	Bharti	20.01.2006	3.0
		Vodafone	30.07.2008	1.0
		Aircel Ltd.	09.01.2004	3.6
		BSNL	20.09.2004	3.8
10.	Kerala	BSNL	20.09.2004	3.8
		Idea	28.10.2004	1.8
11.	Punjab	Bharti	09.01.2004	1.6
		Spice	09.01.2004	1.6
12.	Haryana	BSNL	12.07.2007	3.8
13.	UP (West)	BSNL	28.01.2006	3.8
		Idea	28.01.2006	1.8
14.	UP(E)	BSNL	28.01.2006	3.8
		Bharti	21.01.2009	1.0
		Vodafone	28.01.2006	2.0
15.	Rajasthan	BSNL	08.06.2006	1.8
		Bharti	23.12.2008	2.0
16.	M.P.	BSNL	10.05.2007	3.8
		IDEA	02.11.2006	1.8
		Bharti	8.01.2007	1.8
17.	West Bengal	BSNL	12.03.2007	1.8
18.	HP	BSNL	12.07.2007	3.8
19.	Bihar	Bharti	09.06.2006	3.0
		Reliance	23.10.2006	1.8
		BSNL	24.08.2006	3.8
20.	Orissa	BSNL	10.05.2007	3.8
		Bharti	16.09.2006	1.8
21.	Assam	BSNL	24.05.2007	3.8
22.	NE	BSNL	10.05.2007	3.8
23.	J & K	BSNL	16.06.2006	1.8

Issuing of IPO by BSNL

†3515. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved issuing of IPO by Bhartiya Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the opposition from labour organisations has been ignored in this regard; and

(d) if so, position of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's Claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons:

- * It will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- * It will promote growth of BSNL
- * It will provide an access to the capital market for raising fresh equity capital, if required.

The timing of the issue depends on the condition of the capital market.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Various staff associations and employees unions have expressed their reservation on the proposed disinvestment/listing. However, to allay the fears of the employees, efforts had been made by BSNL Management to apprise them of the advantages of listing.

BSNL's Profit

3516. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

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

(a) whether Government is aware that BSNL's profit after tax fell sharply during the past few years;

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the factors responsible for poor financial health of BSNL have since been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the financial health of BSNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL's profit after tax has fallen sharply during last few years.

(b) The details of BSNL's profit after tax for last five years is as following:-

(Rs. in Crores)					
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Profit after tax	10184	8940	7806	3009	575

(c) The decline in profit is mainly due to following reasons :-

- (i) There has been decline in revenue due to reduction in tariff and substantial surrender of fixed lines telephony by subscribers.
- (ii) Expenditure on employees has increased despite decline in employees number due to revision of pay.

(d) Various steps have already been taken by the BSNL management for improving the financial health such as focusing on quality of service, better customer care, strengthening the sales and marketing channel to attract and retain the customers and exploring new business opportunities such as sharing of tower infrastructure & media and sharing of new services such as Managed Network Services, International Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) etc.

Disinvestment in BSNL

3517. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal before Government to disinvest BSNL;
- (b) if so, the proposal thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal has been discussed with the employees; and
- (d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's Claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons :

- * It will facilitate BSNL to get Navratana status.
- * It will promote growth of BSNL.

- * It will provide an access to the capital market for raising fresh equity capital, if required.

The timing of the issue depends on the condition of the capital market.

(c) and (d) Various staff association and employees unions have expressed their reservation on the proposed disinvestment/listing. However, to allay the fears of the employees, efforts had been made by BSNL Management to apprise them of the advantages of listing.

Implementation of Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in BSNL

3518. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission with regarding to Maternity Leave, Child Care Leave, etc. is being implemented in BSNL;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) to (c) Sir, the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are not applicable to BSNL. BSNL being a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), is following Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern of pay scales. The pay scales and other related benefits are governed by the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises which have recently been revised based on recommendations of 2nd Pay Revision Committee.

Telephone Services

3519. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages in Bihar and Maharashtra not having telephone connectivity;
- (b) the list of applicants who have applied for various telephone services; and
- (c) the time that would be taken for providing facility to the waitlisted people by the BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Out of 39,032 and 41,442 inhabited villages in Bihar and Maharashtra Telecom Circles, 1162 and 3,272 villages have not been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) as on 30 June, 2009 respectively.

(b) A Statement indicating number of waitlisted applicants for various services such as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Landline etc. in the States of Bihar and Maharashtra is given below :-

Name of BSNL Telecom Circle	Landline/MTNL	Mobile	Broad Band
Bihar	7653	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	67500	Nil	13348

(c) The current waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 2010 subject to technical feasibility.

Services of BSNL

3520. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non availability of signal properly, the service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are badly affected in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area where such problems are being encountered by BSNL;

(c) whether BSNL is serious in countering such problems to provide better facilities to its subscribers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile service of BSNL is mostly meeting various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its area of operation.

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

'Wireless-in-Local-Loop' facility

†3521. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in country, especially in Uttar Pradesh where the 'wireless-in-local-loop' facility has been provided;

(b) the number of villages in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh where telecommunication services are not available; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Out of 4,62,159 villages in the country, where Wireless-in-Local-Loop (WLL) facility has been provided, 86,225 villages are in Uttar Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, a total of 40,490 inhabited villages remains to be covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in the country which includes 896 villages in Uttar Pradesh. The remaining villages in the country are likely to be covered with VPT facility by February, 2011 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in progressive manner.

Telephone connection in Rural Areas

†3522. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether difficulties are being faced in getting telephone connection in rural areas and PCO connection at Panchayat level;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether telephones sets being provided with new connection are of inferior quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Against the envisaged target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010 under New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99), the present teledensity is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 as a result of various initiatives of the Government. No difficulties are being faced in providing mobile connections in rural areas, where mobile coverage exists. However, the main reasons for difficulties generally faced in providing wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connection in rural areas and also PCO connections at Panchayat level are given below :-

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

Despite these difficulties, Government is making following corrective measures to provide telephone connections in rural areas :-

- (i) In hilly areas, where laying of underground cable is not feasible, overhead lines are erected.
- (ii) Where the connection is not possible by laying underground cable or overhead lines, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are installed to make the areas feasible on WLL.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Mobile telephone sets are being purchased by the consumers. However, Telephone sets for new wire line and WLL connections are being provided after inspection by the quality and assurance wing of BSNL.

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

Communication services in Orissa

3523. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that communication services in Orissa are in bad condition and their expansion is taking place at a very slow pace;

(b) the efforts made by Government till date during the last two years to provide communication services at a fast speed in the State and what is the outcome thereof;

(c) by when Orissa is likely to be brought under cent-per cent communication services; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving this target till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, the telephone and mobile services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Orissa are mostly meeting with Quality of Service (QoS) parameters. The QoS provided by BSNL in Orissa is comparable to those rendered by private companies.

(b) to (d) The expansion of BSNL's telecom network in Orissa is being progressively done as per the market requirements. Details are given below :-

Sl.No.	Parameter	Achievement (2007-08)	Achievement (2008-09)
1.	Landline Capacity	2284	816
2.	WLL Capacity	48750	9500
3.	GSM Mobile Capacity	186906	573700
4.	Broadband Capacity	66,696 Ports	27,712 Ports

Moreover, to provide communications services at a fast speed in Orissa State, BSNL has made the following plans during the current financial year 2009-10:

(i) 3.87 Lakh lines capacity addition with 495 numbers of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTSS).

(ii) 1 Lakh lines capacity addition with Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based 145 numbers of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) BTSS.

(iii) Replacement of 124 numbers of old WLL BTs by new MSC based WLL BTSS.

(iv) Replacement of 13 number of Cor-Dect technology BTSS by new MSC based WLL BTSS.

MTNL and BSNL Services

3524. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of land line connections, mobile connections of BSNL and MTNL and also number of internet users and user of G3;

(b) whether it is a fact that MTNL and BSNL service is not better as they have more connections than their actual infrastructure capacity;

(c) the total number of employees and labour contract employees that are working in BSNL and MTNL in the country; and

(d) whether Government has any plan to regularize the contract labours who have been working in MTNL and BSNL for more than five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, the total number of land line connections, mobile connections, internet/broadband users and users of 3G of BSNL and MTNL as on 30.06.2009 are given below:-

	Land Line (in lakh)	WLL (in lakh)	GSM Mobile (in lakh)	Internet/ broadband users (in lakh)	3G users
BSNL	287.95	52.67	490.97	75.94	10,733
MTNL	35.50	3.08	42.97	14.81	902

(b) In case of Cellular Mobile, though loading is more than 100%, yet Cellular Mobile Service of BSNL is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). In case of land line & Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), loading is much less than 100%. BSNL broadband and internet services are meeting most of the TRAI QoS benchmarks and capacity is not a constraint for quality of internet and broadband services.

MTNL has sufficient infrastructural capacity to cater to the needs of the customer.

(c) The total number of employees of BSNL and MTNL at present are 2,96,975 and 45,739 respectively. As a policy, BSNL and MTNL do not recruit people on contract basis. However, certain jobs are outsourced through contractors. The number of workers employed by the contractors varies from time to time depending upon the nature of job.

(d) Since contract workers are deployed by contractors/agencies, the question of regularization does not arise.

China's Regulations

3525. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's recently notified regulations making it mandatory for all makers of PC to install a software filter from July 1, 2009, have evoked reactions in China and abroad over cyber security and internet freedom concerns;

(b) whether China has sought to defend the move as a safety measure to enable parents to block their children from watching inappropriate contents; and

(c) the implications this move would have on major brands of PCs sold in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) It has been reported in the media that Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China has issued a circular in May 2009 which states that as part campaign to restore the Internet from a state of vulgarity and to avoid unhealthy information on the Internet from influencing and hurting the youth, a software called "Green Dam-Youth Escort Internet filtering software" shall be pre installed in all computers produced or imported, before sale in China. Industry associations and Governments of USA and European Union have urged China to reconsider this directive. It is also reported that this move is presently delayed.

(c) The proposed regulation of China will have no implications on the Personal Computers made and sold in India, However, the due precaution in general would be taken for preventing loading of such software on Personal Computers made in China and sold in India.

Services of Telephone Exchange

3526. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that MTNL, Delhi officials are very indifferent and negligent in the matter of refunding security in the event of surrendering of telephones;

(b) the number of telephone connections surrendered in April, 2008 in Janak Puri area, the time taken for actually disconnecting, forwarding the refund papers to the accounts branch and time taken by accounts branch in actually issuing refund orders;

(c) whether it is a fact that communications received by accounts section about making underpayment of security have remained unanswered for months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed against delinquent staff for inefficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Land for Telegraph Offices

3527. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would furnish the details of vacant lands at Delhi and other State capitals earmarked for Telegraph offices; and

(b) in what manner BSNL is intending to use these lands specifically allotted and earmarked for Telegraph offices because company is closing the Telegraph Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, details of vacant Lands of BSNL and MTNL at Delhi and other State Capitals, originally earmarked for Telegraph Offices, are as under :-

Name of PSU	Name of Capital	Locations
BSNL	Delhi	Rohini Sector -14
		Rohini Sector -03
		Shakur Basti Transport Centre
		Dilshad Garden
		Mukherji Nagar
		Bangla Sahib Marg
	Chennai	Marimalai Nagar
		Sathangadu
		Madhavaram
MTNL	Delhi	Bangla Sahib Marg

There is no vacant land of BSNL for Telegraph Offices in any State Capitals except at Delhi and Chennai.

In MTNL Delhi one plot measuring 1.141 acres was allotted near Bangla Sahib Marg, New Delhi by Ministry of Urban Development for construction of a building for International Telegraph/Telephone office, which was cancelled by Ministry of Urban Development. MTNL has taken up the case through Department of Telecom (DOT) for restoration of the same.

In MTNL Mumbai, no vacant land is earmarked for telegraph offices.

(b) The vacant lands of BSNL at Delhi are proposed to be used as follows :

- * International Long Distance (ILD) Gateway Exchange for routing of all International voice, Data and other Traffic.
- * For Lawful Interception of Monitoring (LIM) Systems.
- * For Multiprotocol Level Switching (MPLS) Node/MNGT Nodes.
- * For installing New Technology Switches.
- * For KU Band Satellite Service Hub for providing services to countrywide customers.
- * For making Transmission Centre for Next Generation Network.

- * Monitoring and Analysis Centre for “Network Operation Control Centre (NOCC)” for monitoring and analyzing the Satellite Media from Indian Soil by Telecom Operators, Broadcasters, Defence Agencies, Internet Service Providers etc.
- * The Administrative offices required to maintain the services.

The vacant lands of BSNL at Chennai are proposed to be used as follows :

- * For setting up a Customer Service Centre and for accommodating the Divisional Engineer/Sub Divisional Engineer (External) Office which are currently functioning in a nearby rented buildings.

As on date, BSNL does not have any plan to close Telegraph Services.

MTNL, Delhi intends to install telephonic equipments for new bandwidth intensive services, *e.g.* IPTV, Broadband, VOIP, Video etc.

Recharge Vouchers

3528. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any complaint was received by DOT regarding some telecom operators printing more recharge vouchers than it is accounted for in its accounts to avoid the payment of revenue share on this amount to Government;
- (b) if so, the name and details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by DoT to recover its losses from these companies and the penalty being imposed on the companies for deviating from licencing conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A complaint has been recieved against Bharti Airtel in this regard.

- (c) This is a subject matter of the special audit being conducted for the telecom operators. The report is awaited.

Reporting and Accounting System

3529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that TRAI had recently asked the DoT to introduce new reporting and accounting system for telecom companies to declare both their consolidated and stand alone revenues from different business streams;
- (b) if so, the details and the action taken by DoT in the matter; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) No recommendations under Section 11 of the TRAI Act 1997 for amendment to UAS Licence Agreement to introduce new reporting and accounting system for Telecom Companies to declare both their consolidated and standalone revenues from different business streams has been recieved by the DoT.

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

3G Facilities

3530. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the cities where 3G facility is provided till date;
- (b) the names of the cities where Government proposes to provide 3G facility in near future;
- (c) the schedule prepared, if any, in this connection; and
- (d) the details of the investment, expenditure and revenue scenario in the matter of 3G services provided and proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched 3G services in 111 cities till date as a part of first phase. Names of cities are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*)

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is providing the 3G services in Delhi and Mumbai service area.

(b) and (c) BSNL has proposed to provide 3G services in total 760 cities in first phase covering all the district head quarters, commercially important towns and tourist places. This work will be completed by 2010-11.

(d) BSNL has planned a Capital expenditure of approximately Rs. 2700 crores for first phase of 3G roll out.

MTNL is in process of adding 750 thousand lines of 3G each in Delhi & Mumbai. The estimated expenditure of 3G in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai is around Rs. 159 crores and Rs. 140 crores respectively.

The 3G services are being launched for the first time in India, so it is not possible to ascertain revenue scenario. However, a host of 3G services will be provided to the subscribers like video telephony, high speed mobile broadband, mobile TV, video streaming, video on demand, on line gaming etc.

Statement

List of Cities where 3G Services have been launched till date

Sl.No.	Name of City	Sl.No.	Name of City	Sl.No.	Name of City
1.	Lucknow	27.	Sonipat	53.	Jalandhar
2.	Kanpur	28.	Sirsa	54.	Amritsar
3.	Varanasi	29.	Jammu*	55.	Pathankot
4.	Basti	30.	Shimla	56.	Kapurthala
5.	Tetri Bazar	31.	Palampur	57.	Bhatinda
6.	Khalilabad	32.	Chamba	58.	Gurdaspur
7.	Azamgarh	33.	Jaipur	59.	Mansa
8.	Mau	34.	Jodhpur	60.	Nawashahr
9.	Gorakhpur	35.	Udaipur	61.	Hoshiarpur
10.	Agra	36.	Kota	62.	Panchkula
11.	Meerut	37.	Bikaner	63.	Amritsar Airport
12.	Etah (UPW)	38.	Jaisalmer	64.	Mohali
13.	Bijnor	39.	Dausa	65.	Durgapur
14.	Dehradun	40.	Nagaur	66.	Haldia
15.	Haldwani	41.	Pali	67.	Behrampur
16.	Nainital	42.	Chittaurgarh	68.	Asansol
17.	Rishikesh	43.	Rawatbhata	69.	Burdwan
18.	Mussoorie	44.	Banswara	70.	Midnapur
19.	Haridwar	45.	Dungarpur	71.	Krishnagar
20.	Uttarkashi	46.	Sriganganagar	72.	Diamond Harbour
21.	Tehri	47.	Sawai Madhopur	73.	Bashirhat
22.	Ambala	48.	Karoli	74.	Bangaon
23.	Karnal	49.	Churu	75.	Contoi
24.	Kurushetra	50.	Baran	76.	Bholpur
25.	Hisar	51.	Hanumangarh	77.	Bamluck
26.	Hansi	52.	Kankroli	78.	Suri

*Services only soft launched, commercially launch will follow

Sl.No.	Name of City	Sl.No.	Name of City	Sl.No.	Name of City
79.	Jalpaiguri	90.	Jharsuguda	101.	Patna
80.	Raniganj	91.	Khurda	102.	Saharsa
81.	Ranchi	92.	Berhampur	103.	Bhagalpur
82.	Dhanbad	93.	Bolangir	104.	Gaya
83.	Jamshedpur	94.	Anugul	105.	Hajipur
84.	Guwahati	95.	Talcher	106.	Katihar
85.	Kolkata	96.	Kania	107.	Muzaffarpur
86.	Bhubaneshwar	97.	Bhawani Patna	108.	Motihari
87.	Puri	98.	Dhenkand	109.	Munger
88.	Cuttack	99.	Parala Khambi	110.	Darbhanga
89.	Sambalpur	100.	Somecur	111.	Supaul

Wi-fi Facilities

3531. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether Wi-fi internet facility has been provided in the State of Goa;
- if so, the names of towns, villages this facility has been made available;
- whether it is a fact that presently subscribers have to install modem for availing the facility;
- whether there are any plans of upgrading the facility;
- the total cost incurred in getting the present wi-fi facility installed; and
- the proposed future plans for expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Internet Broadband Services (including Wi-Fi Internet facility) are being provided by the licensees service providers in their respective service areas including the State of Goa. Names of towns and villages, where Wi-Fi Internet facility is available, is not being maintained presently.

(c) Wi-Fi Internet services are provided through Access Points using Wi-Fi router as per the requirement under the delicensed frequency Band. Access Points can be accessed *via* Wi-Fi enabled port of the user terminal equipment like Computer, mobile phone etc. However, if the Wi-Fi internet facility is to be availed using the wired line Internet connectivity, a Wi-Fi router is required to be installed to work as Access Point.

(d) to (f) Service providers are expanding and upgrading the Internet Services (including Wi-Fi internet facility) on continuous basis based on the demand of the customers.

Tariff for Internet Services (including Wi-Fi internet facility) is under forbearance. Cost of provisioning of Wi-Fi internet services varies as per the usage tariff plan of different service providers.

Protection of historical monumnets in Orissa

3532. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how much funds have been given for protection of the historical monuments at Jaugada, Ashokan rock edict, Brudhakhola/Biranchi Narayan Sun Temple in Ganjam District of Orissa in the last three years by the Centre;

(b) the works that have been done in these sites;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government to take up the protection of any other new sites; and

(d) if so, the detailed lists thereof alongwith the proposal for the Central Government contemplates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY) : (a) The details of funds utilized in the last three years for the conservation of centrally protected monuments at Jaugada, Ashokan rock edict and Group of Temples at Brudhakhla are as under :-

(Amount in Rs.)

Name of Monument	Funds allocated/Expenditure incurred		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Ashokan, Rock-Edict, Jaugada, Distt. Ganjam, Orissa	4,26,424	-	1,80,255
Group of Temples at Brudhakhla, Distt. Ganjam, Orissa	-	5,400	1,16,000

The Biranchi Narayan Sun Temple is not a protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) The works executed comprise of structural repairs to the monuments as well as routine maintenance and upkeep of the sites.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has requested for central protection of seven monuments which at present are under State protection. The list of these monuments is enclosed as Statement (See below).

Out of these, two monuments *i.e.* Biranchi Narayana Temple at Buguda and Group of Temples at Ranipurjharial, Distt. Bolangir have been recommended for Central Protection in the first phase.

The protection proposal for remaining monuments would be finalized only after assessment of their historical, archaeological, artistic importance and verification of revenue details.

Statement

List of Monuments proposed by State Government for Central Protection

Sl. No.	Name of Monuments
1.	Nursinghanath Temple, Paikamal
2.	Madhavananda Temple, Madhava
3.	Leaning Temple, Huma
4.	Jaleswar Temple, Kalarahanga
5.	Nilamadhava Temple, Kantilo
6.	Biranchi Narayan Temple, Buguda
7.	Monuments at Ranipurjharial

Foundation of Taj Mahal

3533. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that it has been observed that the foundation of Taj Mahal at Agra is infested by termites causing damage to the foundation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to preserve and protect the Taj Mahal at Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Taj Mahal is in a good state of preservation. The scientific studies carried at the behest of Archaeological Survey of India, Dehradun and Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee have shown that the foundation of the monument as well as its super structure are stable and secure. Essential conservation works on the monument are regularly carried out by the ASI.

Auction of articles of great Indian Personalities

3534. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether frequent auctioning of memorabilia of great Indian personalities such as Gandhiji, Nehruji and other countries has come to Government's notice; and
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a standing authority to look into this and acquire all such articles on our own from around the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Regarding the works/letters/manuscripts written by Mahatama Gandhi which are put on auction/sale, a Committee of eminent Gandhians has been constituted to examine and make recommendations, as and when the occasion arises.

Diaster warning system for Tsunami and Cyclones

3535. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IIT, Delhi, had developed a low-cost disaster warning system for Tsunamis and cyclones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner the above system is different from the existing warning system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) IIT, Delhi has attempted to develop a low-cost ocean information dissemination prototype so as to communicate information on potential fishing zones and ocean state forecasts generated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The prototype can also disseminate warnings related to coastal hazards such as tsunamis and cyclones by receiving due information from operational warning centres such as India Meteorological Department (IMD) and INCOIS. This project is funded by INCOIS/MoES.

(c) The current prototype is different from the existing system in terms of its easy deployment/maintenance; low power consumption with multi-power sources (utility power and solar power); redundant connectivity to multiple networks; automatic updation of information from the server; built with off-the-shelf hardware and open source software tools etc. It is now planned to test the developed prototype alongside the existing system of warning dissemination at INCOIS for its detailed performance evaluation.

Purification of Sea Water

†3536. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea water can be purified to be turned into potable water;

(b) if so, the details of cost involved in process of purifying one litre of sea water to turn into potable water;

(c) whether there is any place in India where sea water is being turned into potable drinking water, if so, the name of the place; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) an autonomous body of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has indigenously designed developed and demonstrated the desalination technology for conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water. The estimated cost of production of Kavaratti Plant was 10 paise per litre.

(c) Yes, Sir. A LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh litre per day production of fresh water was developed and installed in May 2005, at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep Island which is a land based plant. Another plant of 1.0 lakh liter per day capacity was set-up at North Chennai Thermal Power Station in Chennai in May 2009.

(d) Does not arise.

Inflow in Himalayan Rivers

3537. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any exercise to monitor the inflow in Himalayan rivers to determine whether there is any reduction in the volume of water due to the impact of global warming;

(b) whether any detailed survey has been carried out about the shrinking of the Himalayan glaciers, the main source of major rivers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government has any plan to carry out the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) River flow from glacierized areas in the Himalaya is influenced both by annual variations in precipitation (snow/rain) and temperature, and by longer term changes in glacier ice. High specific discharge from ice melt often dominates flow for considerable distances downstream, particularly where other sources of runoff are limited, given the difference in climate between the drier western and monsoonal eastern ends of the region. The Himalayan eco-system (snow and ice) supports three major river systems, Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra & Barak having an average annual stream flow of 7.31 Billion cubic meters (BCM), 525.02BCM and 585.60BCM respectively. Preliminary studies have been taken up in this regard by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee.

Glaciers, in general, including the Himalayan glaciers, are receding. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been conducting studies on the recession of the Gangotri glacier since 1935 or so and this glacier is one of the best documented glaciers for its recession in Indian Himalayas. In the eastern Himalayas, which sit in the Ganga basin, have reported glacier melts.

The rate of shrinking of 30.2 km. long Gangotri Glacier in the last three decades has been found to be more than the rate during the earlier decades. Range of recession for this period is about 18-25 meter/year. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) is studying the melting of Himalayan Glaciers in the Garhwal Himalaya, namely, Dokriani and Chorabari glaciers. The Dokriani and Chorabari glacier have been receding at an average rate of 17.5 m/year between 1991 and 2005, and 10m/year between 2003 and 2006 respectively.

The major part of the river discharge is contributed by snowfall and precipitation which is likely to change with global warming. The continuous retreat of glaciers may lead to marginal shortage of water in the Himalayan Rivers.

(d) In addition to the above, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) envisages launching a Mission for sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system to evolve management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan glaciers and mountain eco-system. The Mission is expected to seek to understand, whether and the extent to which, the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

Allegation of Indian Interference in Baluchistan

†3538. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Pakistan has made an allegation of Indian interference in Baluchistan region;
- (b) whether this topic was raised during the meeting held at the time of Prime Minister's last foreign visit;
- (c) if so, whether this was denied at that time; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government if this allegation was levelled later on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Yes

(d) The allegations are unfounded. We have no interest in destabilizing Pakistan and our conduct is an open book.

Relationship with China

3539. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a spat of recent editorials has blamed India for ratcheting up tension on the Indo-China border at Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that IAF deployed Sukhoi fighter in Tezpur and there is a growing feeling of tensions of war in the mind of local people of the area;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, whether there is any growing strains in the relationship with neighbouring China; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Deployment of a defence aircraft is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirement of the Services from time to time. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular political contacts between the leaders of the two countries. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all level to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Bilateral trade and economic relations have shown perceptible growth. The two sides have held two joint military training exercises. The functional cooperation between India and China is expanding in a number of areas. Both sides have agreed that they are committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations.

Indians in UN Peace Keeping Mission

3540. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indians in UN Peace Keeping mission have suffered the largest number of casualties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as compared to personnel from developed countries; and
- (c) the number out of them that have been awarded with bravery award by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. Since the inception of UN peace keeping in 1948, 131 Indians have lost their lives, as on 30 June, 2009. During the same period, among the developed countries, the highest fatalities were from : Canada (114), UK (99) and France (98).

(c) One; Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria (1st Gorkha Rifles), was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) for having made the supreme sacrifice in Congo on 05 December, 1961.

Chinese advice regarding Indian Ocean

3541. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has been seized of the Chinese advice reportedly communicated to the Commander of the United States' Pacific Fleet insisting upon recognizing the Indian Ocean as a Chinese sphere of influence to be managed by Chinese nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue was brought up during his recent talk with Chinese President in the sidelines of BRIC summit at Yekaterinburg;

(d) if so, Chinese response thereto; and

(e) the salient details of the strategic and/or diplomatic initiatives being taken, if any, to countering/pre-empting the impact of growing Chinese aggressive postures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Government has seen media reports to such effect. The Chinese side has clarified that this matter was never discussed with the United States and that the media reports are incorrect.

(c) and (d) No. Does not arise.

(e) India and China have Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all levels to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.

Pressure from US to resume talks with Pakistan

3542. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been witnessing growing pressure from the United States administration to resume dialogue with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the issues specifically being advised, if any, by the US administration on India to resolve;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the statement reported to have been made by the US Under Secretary of State William Burns in the Press Conference in our capital on June 11, 2009 insisting on "keeping the wishes of Kashmiris" under consideration in the future dialogue between India and Pakistan; and

(d) the details of India's response thereto communicated, if any, to the US Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is aware that Mr. William Burns, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, US State Department in response to a question on Kashmir during a press conference in New Delhi on 11 June said "It remains our view that resolution of the Kashmir issue has to take into account wishes of Kashmiri people."

(d) Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Sharing of Intelligence Information

†3543. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan Governments have agreed to share intelligence information related to Islamic extremists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) benefit to accrue to India from sharing intelligence information on extremists between it and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) PM met Prime Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of the NAM Summit in Sharm-El-Sheikh on 16-7-09 and both leaders agreed that the two countries will share real-time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threats.

(c) If real-time, credible and actionable information were received from Pakistan, it could be of utility in countering terrorist threats.

India Pak Joint Statement during NAM Summit

3544. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various political parties and their leaders have expressed concern over the latest India-Pakistan joint statement issued in Egypt during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has surrendered himself on the role in Balochistan before Pakistan and issued a statement jointly; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of Government/Prime Minister on such joint statement made during the NAM summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes. Concerns have been expressed by some parties.

(b) No.

(c) Government's position has already been stated by the Prime Minister in Parliament on 17th July, 2009.

Visit of US Secretary of State

3545. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether the US Secretary of State has recently visited India and discussed many issues with political leaders and experts;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held with her and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government has discussed the issue of terrorism in the country; and
- (d) if so, the response of the US Secretary of State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with the External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The revised dialogue architecture establishes new formalized interaction in the fields of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic issues. Discussions on regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, the global financial crisis and UN reform were also held during the visit.

(c) and (d) EAM and Secretary Clinton discussed cooperation in counter terrorism and reaffirmed the commitment of both their Governments to build on recent increased coordination in counter terrorism. They also expressed their commitment to early adoption of a UN Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism which would strengthen the framework for global cooperation in addressing terrorism.

Rate of fee payable to consultants

3546. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government proposes to revise the rate of fees payable to consultants after the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission; and
- (b) the entitlement with regard to leave etc. for the consultants appointed in the Ministries/Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. All cases of engagement of Consultants in Government of India is regulated under the provisions as envisaged in General Financial Rules, 2005. It provides for hiring of external professionals, consultancy firms or consultants for a specific job which is well defined in terms of content and time frames for its completion and lays down fundamental principles applicable to all Ministries or Departments regarding engagement of Consultants. GFRs do not specify any rate of fees payable to a Consultant.

Effect of delay in VISA on tourists

3457. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to delay in issue of visa by different Indian High Commissions, the tourists to our country are badly affected; and

(b) the time which is taken by Indian High Commission and Embassies in different countries to issue tourists visas and other visas to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No. There has been no delay in issue of tourist visas.

(b) Tourist and other visas are issued within one to three days, if the applicant applies for the same within the country of his residence or domicile. If the visa is applied for in a country other than the applicant's own country, visa is issued after three working days from the date of application. In cases falling under 'Prior Reference Category', visas are issued only after getting the clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Discussions during the visit of US Secretary of State

3548. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Secretary of State visited India in the month of July and had discussed on various issues including pact on nuclear site;

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein;

(c) to what extent India's relations with US has been further strengthened; and

(d) if so, to what extent both sides signed on end use technology and equipment and offering another two nuclear sites to the US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The revised dialogue architecture establishes new formulated interaction in the field of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic issues. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate

change, the global financial crisis and UN reform among other issues. EAM and Secretary Clinton broadly discussed implementation of the 123 Agreement.

(c) Secretary Clinton reiterated that depending of the Indo-US relationship was a priority for the US Government and a personnel priority for her. External Affairs Minister reciprocated the commitment of the US Government to the bilateral relationship and conveyed the importance India attaches to Indo-US strategic partnership.

(d) During the visit, the two sides agreed to a formulation on End Use Monitoring (EUM) to be included in letters of offer and acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipment to be acquired by Government of India from the US Government. No document on nuclear sites was signed.

SAARC Food Bank

3549. SHRI P.R. RAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of SAARC food bank initiative; and
- (b) the details of the initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) The current status of the Food Bank initiative is that the Agreement to set up the SAARC Food Bank was signed during the 14th SAARC Summit (3-4 April 2007, New Delhi). India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives have ratified the Agreement. Meetings of the SAARC Food Bank Board in Colombo from 15-16 October, 2008 and 10-11 February 2009 have made the Bank operational and ready to transact business.

(b) The details of the initiative are as follows : With the assessed share of Afghanistan to the Food Bank at 1420 metric tonnes, the total reserves of the Food Bank are 2,43,000 tones. The assessed share of reserves of each SAARC Member State is as follows :-

Sl.No.	Member States	Share (in Metric Tonnes)
1.	Afghanistan	1,420
2.	Bangladesh	40,000
3.	Bhutan	180
4.	India	1,53,200
5.	Maldives	200
6.	Nepal	4,000
7.	Pakistan	40,000
8.	Sri Lanka	4,000
TOTAL :		2,43,000

Member States have conveyed details of locations where assessed reserves are maintained and also storage methods and quality control measures, enabling finalization of guidelines. A member State can draw on the reserve of the requested member State based on mutually agreed financial terms.

American experts inspecting defence equipments

†3550. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to ink a deal with America whereby American experts would be empowered to inspect defence equipment sold to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the justification for providing such a power to America; and
- (d) whether this deal is likely to derail India's defence policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) During the visit of US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton to India from 17-21 July 2009, India and the US agreed on a new standard End Use Monitoring clause that will be included in letters of Offer and Acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipment to be acquired by Government of India from the US Government. No blanket agreement has been signed. The agreed formulation provides that when the US Government desires to undertake the end use monitoring of specific equipment, they shall undertake consultations with India and that it shall be pursuant to such consultations and mutual agreement that the relevant articles would be made available for verification at an agreed date, place and time.

(c) As per the stipulations of the US Arms Export Control Act of 1976, the US Government is required to undertake end use verification of transferred defence articles. The joint verification arrangement that India has entered into does not give a unilateral right or power to the US Administration. The key advantage is that by putting in place a joint verification arrangement that Government of India finds acceptable, India now has the option of purchasing high end defence technology from the United States Government if it requires such articles.

(d) No. The End Use Monitoring arrangement in no way dilutes India's defence policy-but rather enhances India's access to the best technology required to meet her security requirements.

Diversion of flow of Brahmaputra River

†3551. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China proposes to divert the flow of Brahmaputra river for hydro-electricity project;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether due to this the river would be filled with silt due to decrease in flow of Brahmaputra river in India;

(c) the Government's action in this regard;

(d) whether China has completed the road linking Lhasa to Medog under the first phase of 40,000 MW electricity generation project in Madak area of Tibet which is just 30 KM from Arunachal Pradesh border and keeping this in view whether there is chance of encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh by China; and

(e) if so, Government policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (c) Government has seen media reports that China proposes to divert the Brahmaputra river. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has denied such reports. Government is regularly monitoring the flows in the Brahmaputra river. India and China have established an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on all issues regarding trans-border rivers. The India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans Border Rivers had held three meetings in September 2007, April 2008, and April 2009. Government takes up all issues relating to Brahmaputra river, with the Chinese side through this Expert Level Mechanism.

(d) and (e) China has constructed a road linking Lhasa to Medog country in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

Posts available in foreign missions

3552. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any posts of Second Secretary (Punjabi) and Cultural Attache (Punjabi) exists in our foreign mission abroad;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government proposes to create the said posts in foreign mission, in view of the ever-increasing punjabi diaspora in foreign countries;

(d) if so, by when these would be created; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Missions and Posts are mandated to provide services to all persons of Indian origin.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Conditions for coming into UAE

3553. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Arab Emirates has put a condition that those who come to UAE for jobs have to earn Rs. 60,048 per month from the present Rs. 36,048 to bring their families to UAE;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the facts thereof;
- (c) the comments of the Ministry there upon; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Ministry to remove such condition in consultation with the talks with UAE?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no change in UAE laws pertaining to sponsoring of family members by expatriate workers. An expatriate workers in UAE earning a monthly salary of AED 3000/- (Rs. 39,000/- approximately) with accommodation, or AED 4000/- (Rs. 52,000/- approximately) continues to be eligible to sponsor his family members to UAE.

Reopening of stil well road for commercial use

3554. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter of re-opening of the stilwell road for commercial use with Government of Myanmar and China;
- (b) if so, the response and progress thereof;
- (c) if not, whether this would find place in the future agenda of Government; and
- (d) the details of study made, if any, on the feasibility and prospects of opening this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) This matter is not under consideration of the Government.
- (d) No feasibility study on the opening of the Stilwell Road has been conducted by the Government.

Visit of Hillary Clinton

3555. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Secretary of State of US, Hillary Clinton visited India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the issues discussed and decisions arrived at so far;
- (d) the assurances got so far for various projects especially for Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the present status of US-India 3.0 in the present third era?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (c) The U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on Leader of Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US relations bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The revised dialogue architecture establishes new formalized interaction in the fields of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic issues. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, the global financial crisis and UN reform among other issues.

(d) EAM and Secretary Clinton broadly discussed implementation of the 123 Agreement and reiterated the commitment of both Governments to the ongoing process of implementation of the Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed by both governments on October 10, 2008.

(e) Secretary Clinton stated that depending of the Indo-US relationship was a priority for the US Government and a personal priority for her. External Affairs Minister conveyed to Secretary Clinton that India attaches importance to the further development of cooperation between India and the United States, and to the Indo-U.S. strategic partnership.

Committee for affordable housing

3556. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted any Committee affordable housing for all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the report of such committee; and
- (d) if not, by when such a committee would be formed to provide affordable housing for the weaker sections like muslims in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had set up a High Level Task Force under the Chairmanship of Mr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC Ltd. to look into various aspects of providing 'Affordable Housing for All'.

(c) The High Level Task Force has presented the report on 29.12.2008.

The Task Force has strongly recommended the need for “Affordable Housing” and mentioned that delay in addressing the affordable housing problem would seriously affect India’s economic growth and poverty reduction strategies. The Task Force notes that housing is central to economic growth and has multiplier effects on employment, poverty reduction etc. The Task Force estimates that alleviating the urban housing shortage could potentially raise the rate of growth of GDP and have a decisive impact on improving the basic quality of life.

The major recommendations of the Task Force are :-

- (i.) ‘Affordable Housing’ be put at the centre of public policy.
 - (ii) Government may undertake a separate exercise to estimate the number of households in need of affordable housing. The Task Force visualizes the size of the household as five members.
 - (iii.) Upward revision in the FAR/FSI, across cities of different sizes commensurate with investment in infrastructure that it will necessitate.
 - (iv.) *In-situ* development on public lands for addressing affordable housing issues in partnership with the Government.
 - (v.) ‘Security of tenure’ be recognized as an important and integral tool for relieving pressures on the housing market. This may be undertaken through regularisation of settlements, community or cooperative ownership, security *via* lease, use rights, which enables *in-situ* development to take place.
 - (vi.) The recommendations on land related issue *i.e.* bringing in additional lands, upward revision in the FAR/FSI and *in-situ* development have to be implemented in an integrated manner.
 - (vii.) Role of State Housing Boards be revamped and the Boards be encouraged to focus on playing a more active role in the provision of affordable housing, even if is through public private partnerships.
 - (viii.) Bring ‘affordable housing’ under the infrastructure definition.
- (d) Does not arise.

IHSDP and BSUP

3557. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider public-private partnership model for implementing the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP); and

(b) whether Government would come out with a national programme for development of integrated satellite towns to ease the housing problem in view of the paucity of Government lands in metropolitan cities for housing development?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Under the Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), one of the reforms to be implemented is public-private partnership. It is upto the State Government to put up project proposals under public-private partnership model under BSUP and IHSDP.

(b) The housing shortages are being addressed through the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) Components (i) BSUP covering 65 select cities and (ii) IHSDP for other cities/towns including the satellite towns. The scheme for affordable Housing in Partnership is also aimed at easing the housing shortages in towns and cities across the country. The new scheme of Rajiv Awas Yojana is proposed to be launched for slum dwellers and the urban poor. Rajiv Awas Yojana would extend support to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas. The Government's effort would be to create a slum free India through the Rajiv Awas Yojana in the next five years.

Slum Free India

3558. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is committed to make our country slum free over the next five years;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the extent of the slums to be cleared;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) how many dwelling units are sought to be built and the amount of money proposed to be spent for the purpose over the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Government has decided to launch a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers and the urban poor. Rajiv Awas Yojana would extend support to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas. The Government's efforts would be to create a slum free India through the Rajiv Awas Yojana in the next five years.

(b) and (c) Urban Development/slum being a State subject, it is upto the concerned States/UTs to assess the slums to be upgraded in their respective States. However, for purpose of planning, the slum population figures derived from the Census 2001 are used to make projections.

(d) The number of dwelling units and the amount likely to be spent under Rajiv Awas Yojana in coming years will depend upon the parameters of the scheme and State specific plans.

Rajiv Awas Yojana

3559. MS. MABEL REBELLO :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of 100 day agenda her Ministry has to launch Rajiv Awas Yojana which apart from providing property rights to slum dwellers and urban poor will provide basic amenities like water supply, sewerage, drainage, internal and approach roads, street lighting and social infrastructure facilities in slum and low income settlements;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has estimated a cost of Rs. 4500 crore plan;

(c) if so, the States/places where the scheme would be introduced; and

(d) by what time work on this project would start?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to introduce a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers and the urban poor. Rajiv Awas Yojana would extend support to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas for provision of housing and basic amenities like water supply, sewerage, drainage, internal and approach roads, street lighting and social infrastructure facilities in slums. Ministry is understood to formulate the scheme in 100 days. The requirement of finances and budgetary allocation and the time frames would be projected as a part of this formulation.

Survey of slum dwellers and employment schemes

†3560. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government undertakings the work of survey of the people living in slums in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the basis of urban employment schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The Census of India, 2001 conducted enumeration of slum population in 640 cities and towns with population of 50,000 or more. Subsequently, at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the Registrar General of India conducted enumeration of slum population in 1,103 towns with population between 20,000 and 50,000, which revealed that the slum population in these

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1,743 cities and towns, was 52.4 million. Extrapolating from this data, the percentage of slum population works out to 23.5 per cent of the total city/town population.

Further, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has released funds under Urban Statistics for HR and Assessments (USHA) to 65 identified cities under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and other cities with more than one lakh population covered under Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for preparation of slum, household and livelihood profiles.

(d) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis since 01.12.1997. The scheme now revamped with effect from 01.04.2009, strives to provide self-employment through skill upgradation, assistance to women self held groups, setting up of micro-enterprises and also wage employment through utilising the labour of urban poor in constructing socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is being executed through States/Union Territories and targets the urban poor living below the poverty line.

Rajiv Awas Yojana

3561. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is launching Rajiv Awas Yojana;
- (b) if so, the details worked out, so far;
- (c) the views of each State including Andhra Pradesh in the implementation;
- (d) the plan allocation thereof in the current Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the preference being given to muslim weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to launch a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers and the urban poor. Rajiv Awas Yojana would extend support to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas for provision of shelter and basic infrastructure and civic amenities in slums. Consultations on concept note have been held with a wide range of stakeholders in which the Government of Andhra Pradesh was also included. Their views have been noted, which broadly endorsed the policy direction and strategy and gave suggestions and views pertinent to implementation.

- (d) A token allocation of Rs. 150 crores has been made in the current year's plan allocation.

(e) The scheme of Rajiv Awas Yojana is aimed at improving the quality of life of slum dwellers, which would include the economically and socially deprived sections of the society.

Projects in Rajasthan

3562. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

SHRI DARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ongoing works and projects of her Ministry in Rajasthan;
- (b) the projects which are likely to be completed in time and those running behind original schedule;
- (c) the amount in each work and projects; and
- (d) whether the entire budgeted allocation was spent and not diverted for any other cause, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Sanctioned and ongoing works and projects are as follows :-

(i) Two projects with total project cost Rs. 277.14 crores and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) Rs. 169.20 crores under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 34 projects with total project cost Rs. 418.82 crores and Additional Central Assistance Rs. 287.90 crores under Integrated Housing and Urban Development Programme (IHSDP). Details of the projects are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*). BSUP and IHSDP projects are implemented by the State Level Nodal Agency in accordance with sanctioned covenants of the Schemes. These projects are likely to take two years time. All the BSUP and IHSDP projects sanctioned in year 2005-06 and 2006-07 are running behind schedule. A total of 2565 Dwelling Units (DUs) are under progress and 1767 DUs have been completed. Against the original 7 year allocation of Rs. 702.25 crore, Central Share of Rs. 457.10 crore has been approved under the BSUP and IHSDP components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). No case of diversion has so far been reported.

(ii) Remaining houses under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) are enclosed as Statement-III (*See below*)

(iii) Housing project for construction of 10000 dwelling units for police personnel at a project cost of Rs. 536.58 crores for which Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has committed a loan of Rs. 451.25 crores. The scheme was sanctioned in February, 2007 and expected to be completed in one year time.

Statement-I

*Total Projects Approved under JNNURM-Basic Service
to the Urban Poor (Sub Mission II)*

Sl.No.	Mission Cities	Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (New+ Upgradation)	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	Ist Installment Sanctioned (25% of) Central Share)	Total ACA Released by M/o Finance	Date of Sanction
1.	Ajmer-Pushkar	DPR for Basic Services to Urban Poor in Ajmer-Pushkar	107.71	5337	84.57	23.14	21.14	21.14	21.3.2007
2.	Jaipur	Redevelopment Project for Sanjay Nagar Bhatta Basti for Jaipur	169.43	12000	84.63	84.81	21.16	21.16	21.3.2007
	2 Cities	2 Projects	277.14	17337	169.20	107.95	42.30	42.30	

Statement-II

Total Projects Approved under Integrated Housing and Slums Development Programme (IHSOP)

Status as on 15.7.2009 (Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Towns/ ULBs	Total No. of Projects Approved	Total Projects Cost Approved	Total number of dwelling units Approved (new+Up- gradation)	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	Ist Installment (50% of Central Share approved)	2nd Installment approved	Total ACA released by M/o Finances	Date of Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Alwar	1	19.71	2456	14.60	5.11	7.30		7.30	19.10.2007
2.	Asind	1	5.08	694	3.91	1.18	1.95		1.95	28.9.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Bali Nagar	1	3.30	523	2.64	0.66	1.32		1.32	28.9.2006
4.	Balotra	1	8.48	447	5.47	3.01	2.73		2.73	24.1.2008
5.	Baran	1	9.70	407	7.37	2.33	3.68		3.68	8.12.2006
6.	Barmer	1	23.71	1281	15.22	8.50	7.61		7.61	24.1.2008
7.	Bhawani Mandi	1	1.82	114	1.43	0.38	0.72		0.72	28.9.2006
8.	Bhilwara	1	19.13	1704	15.10	4.03	7.55		7.55	21.3.2007
9.	Bikaner Phase-I	1	3.32	0	2.66	0.66	1.33		1.33	30.3.2006
10.	Bikaner (Phase-II)	1	35.57	1216	20.23	15.34	10.11		10.11	30.9.2006
11.	Chhabra	1	4.47	312	3.58	0.89	1.79		1.79	28.9.2006
12.	Chittorgarh	1	6.70	540	5.12	1.58	2.56		2.56	28.9.2006
13.	Falna	1	4.46	361	3.52	0.95	1.76		1.76	11.10.2006
14.	Gangapur	1	3.52	161	2.46	1.06	1.23		1.23	26.9.2007
15.	Gulabpura	1	1.24	0	1.00	2.25	0.50	0.50	1.00	30.3.2006
16.	Hanumangarh	1	22.25	651	17.54	4.71	8.77		8.77	21.3.2007
17.	Jaisalmer	1	16.76	1042	12.64	4.12	6.32		6.32	26.9.2007
18.	Jaitaran	1	4.84	214	2.96	1.88	1.48		1.48	14.8.2008
19.	Jhalaratan	1	4.21	413	3.16	1.05	1.58		1.58	28.9.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Jhalawara	1	4.58	245	3.48	1.10	1.74		1.74	21.3.2007
21.	Jhalore	1	7.90	291	4.50	3.40	2.25		2.25	30.9.2008
22.	Jodhpur-Phase I	1	20.56	883	12.14	8.41	6.07		6.07	24.1.2008
23.	Jodhpur Phase-II	1	44.40	1832	26.52	17.87	13.26		13.26	27.2.2008
24.	Kota	1	21.62	1478	17.04	4.58	8.52		8.52	21.3.2007
25.	Pali	1	22.06	2722	17.64	4.41	8.82		8.82	21.3.2007
26.	Patparganj	1	11.20	711	7.20	4.00	3.60		3.60	26.9.2007
27.	Rani Nagar	1	0.79	19	0.63	0.16	0.32		0.32	28.9.2006
28.	Sadri	1	1.29	46	1.03	0.26	0.52	0.52	1.03	28.9.2006
29.	Seawai Madhopur	1	13.48	976	9.93	3.56	4.96		4.96	29.10.2007
30.	Sikar	1	5.44	556	4.35	1.09	2.18		2.18	28.9.2006
31.	Sojat	1	.316	196	2.53	0.63	1.27		1.27	8.12.2006
32.	Suratgarh	1	35.05	1493	20.66	14.39	10.33		10.33	30.9.2008
33.	Tonk	1	4.46	136	3.57	0.89	1.78	1.78	3.57	30.3.2006
34.	Udaipur	1	24.55	1737	16.07	8.48	8.03		8.03	20.12.2007
TOTAL : 32		34	418.82	25857	287.90	130.93	143.95	2.80	146.75	

Statement-III

*Status Note on the implementation of Valmiki Ambedkar
Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) in Rajasthan*

Year	Gol Subsidy Released (Rs. in Lakh)	Dwelling Units Targeted	Toilets Seats Targeted	Physical Progress (As on 30.06.2009)			
				*			
				Dwelling Units Comp.	Toilet Seats In progress	Comp.	In progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2001-02	300.00	1500	0	1500	0	0	0
2002-03	760.00	3300	0	3196	0	0	0
2003-04	52.985*	200	0	200	0	0	0
2004-05	650.00	2700	0	1491	0	0	0
2005-06	16.88	67	0	67	0	0	0
2006-07	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1779.865	7767	0	6454	0	0	0

*This includes funds amounting to Rs. 13.48 lakh for training of staff for effective implementation of the Scheme.

Status of furnishing of Utilisation Certificate:

(a)	Total GOI subsidy released	-	Rs. 1779.865 lakh
(b)	Utilization Certificate received against the same	-	Rs. 1108.225 lakh
(c)	Balance Certificate due	-	Rs. 671.640 lakh

Construction of Affordable Houses

3563. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many total affordable houses were constructed by her Ministry during financial year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08; and

(b) how many above units were constructed in the cities of Mumbai, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The details of houses sanctioned for construction under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) - Components of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and that sanctioned by Housing and Urban Development Corporation during financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in enclosed Statement-I and II respectively (See below).

(b) The details of houses sanctioned in the cities of Mumbai, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of houses sanctioned under BSUP and IHSDP under JNNURM

Scheme	Number of Houses sanctioned by HUNDCO		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
BSUP	54764	441188	296559
IHSDP	136	145131	114793
TOTAL :	54900	586319	411352

Statement-II

Details of houses sanctioned in the year

Type of Houses	Number of Houses sanctioned in the year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
EWS	182646	118371	80490
LIG	2181	612	2772
TOTAL :	184827	118983	83262

Statement-III

Details of House sanctioned in various cities

(A) Details of houses sanctioned under BSUP and IHSDP under JNNURM

Sl.No.	Name of City	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Mumbai	0	46037	8964
2.	Surat	0	30420	11736
3.	Vadodara	0	6668	0
4.	Ahmedabad	0	32640	0
5.	Rajkot	0	2640	3400
6.	Jamnagar	0	864	0
7.	Bhavnagar	0	0	0
	TOTAL :	0	119269	24100

(B) Details of EWS/LIG houses sanctioned by HUDCO

Sl.No.	Name of City	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Mumbai	0	0	0
2.	Surat	0	0	0
3.	Vadodara	0	0	0
4.	Ahmedabad	0	0	0
5.	Rajkot	1560	0	0
6.	Jamnagar	0	0	0
7.	Bhavnagar	0	0	0
TOTAL :		1560	0	0

Malpractices by Recruitment Agencies

3564. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any official mechanism to prevent malpractices by recruitment agencies;
- (b) the number of registered recruitment agencies functioning in Kerala; and
- (c) whether any legal proceeding have been taken by the Central Government against the recruitment agencies which were doing malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers against registered recruiting agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some foreign employers are received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisements regarding job vacancies overseas, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits to lure job seekers. On receipt of such complaints this Ministry initiates action against such elements.

The number of registered recruitment agencies functioning in Kerala is 263 as on April, 2009.

In the case of Registered Recruiting Agents (RA), on receipt of a complaint, a show cause notice is issued to the RA and comments of concerned office of Protector of Emigrants are obtained. If the RA fails to redress the grievance of the complainant, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his Bank Guarantee. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Registered Recruiting Agents were 41 during 2005, 167 during 2006, 98 during 2007, 118 during 2008 and 81 during 2009 (upto June).

During the last five years the number of registration certificates suspended/cancelled were 24 during 2005, 65 during 2006, 22 during 2007, 45 during 2008 and 23 during 2009 (upto June, 2009)

Complaints against Unregistered/Unauthorized agents are referred to the concerned State police authorities for investigation and action under the law. Concerned Protector of Emigrants (POEs) also is instructed to initiate due action. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of illegal/Unauthorized Recruiting Agencies were 53 during 2005, 78 during 2006, 40 during 2007, 93 during 2008 and 63 during 2009 (upto June). During 2008 and 2009 (upto June), 56 and 09 prosecution sanctions were issued respectively.

The Foreign Employers (FEs) who are found to be harassing the Indian Workers are placed in the Prior Approval Category. As on today, 355 FEs are placed under Prior Approval Category List.

Registration of Indian Students Abroad

3565. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN :

SHRI N.K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate steps to enforce a compulsory registration regime for the Indian students studying abroad as against the existing voluntary registration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Embassies in the foreign countries have been asked to open websites to streamline the registration process; and

(d) if so, the time by which the process of compulsory registration of Indian students studying abroad would be started?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has undertaken an 'E-Governance in Emigration' project to transform the process of mobility of Indian workers and students going abroad into a simple, orderly and transparent process through an electronic platform.

As part of this project the details of Indian students going overseas for education will also be registered. This will help establish a data base of Indian students going abroad.

The project is being implemented with the technical assistance of the National Institute of Smart Government and is targeted for completion by the end of 2010.

Norms for Recruitings Agents

3566. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently tightened norms for recruiting agents to check human trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strategies have been formulated to effectively monitor the role of recruiting agents in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules, 2009 *w.e.f* July, 2009 which provide for :

- (i) Increase in the amount of security to be deposited by the recruiting agent from Rs. 3-10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.
- (ii) Increase in application fee for registration certificate from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25,000/-.
- (iii) The application for registration now will have to be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's bachelor's degree or two years diploma or equivalent, balance sheet of the previous financial year or a statement of accounts showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant, income tax returns for the last three consecutive yearss and an affidavit executed by the applicant before a Magistrate or Notary Public.
- (iv) A recruiting agent can now collect services charges from the worker equivalent to his wages for 45 days as under the employment contract, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- . However, he must issue a receipt to the worker for the amount collected.
- (v) The recruiting agents have been entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities with a view to safeguard the interest of the emigrant worker. They will also have to maintain certain minimum basic facilities. They will be required to issue only such advertisements that are genuine and factually correct and shall refrain from any inducement or misrepresentation in this regard. They shall also file copies of all advertisements to the Protector General of Emigrants immediately after their publication or release.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to enact a new Emigration Law. The proposed legislation is aimed at transforming emigration into a simple, transparent, efficient and humane economic process, facilitate legal migration, prevent illegal migration and human smuggling, enable ethical recritment practices, enhance protection and welfare of emigrants, and manage student mobility and matters connected therewith. The draft Bill is being finalised through inter-ministerial consultations for obtaining cabinet approval.

The Government is also implementing an e-governance project which will keep track of the recruitment for overseas employment on real-time basis and prevent/detection any malpractices by unscrupulous recruiting agents.

Ministry has also assigned a task to Public Affairs Foundation, Bangalore, for preparation of report card on Recruiting Agents, develop a rating system for the recruiting agents and prepare the blueprint for setting of an apex body for the recruiting agents in the country.

University for PIOs

3567. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up a University for PIOs;
- (b) the rationale for such an institution when the scholarships programmes and reserved seats in higher education institutions are already available to the diaspora children;
- (c) whether Government is considering expanding the existing schemes; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has taken a final decision on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

Expressions of Interest for setting up four more universities at places other than Bangaluru have been invited.

(b) Though provision for supernumerary seats in higher educational institutions except those imparting medical education, have been by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), these are for all foreigners including PIOs. Higher educational institutions of excellence, *e.g.* IITs, IIMs, which are the institutions sought after by PIOs, do not have capacity to enroll PIO students.

The proposed NRI/PIO University would be at par with the best universities in the world in terms of the standard of education and would cater to the needs of the diaspora children.

There is no scholarship scheme available exclusively for the PIO students.

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

Bipartite Agreement with UAE

3568. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY :

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of bipartite agreement signed between India and UAE on protection of Indian Emigrants working in UAE?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of manpower was signed between the Government of India and UAE on 13th December, 2006. The bipartite MoU provides for the following :-

- (i) Declaration of mutual intent to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers.
- (ii) The host Country to take measures for protection and welfare of the workers in organized sector.

- (iii) Statement of the broad procedure that the foreign employer shall follow to recruit Indian workers.
- (iv) The recruitment and terms of employment to be in conformity of the laws of both the Countries.
- (v) A Joint Working Group (JWG) to ensure implementation of the MoU and to meet regularly to find solutions to bilateral labour problems.

Complaints of Unscrupulous Agencies

3569. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN :

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints Government has received against unscrupulous agencies who recruited emigrant Indian workers during the last five years; and
- (b) the actions Government has taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) During the last five years, the number of complaints against unregistered/unauthorized RAs are as under :-

Year	No. of Complaints	Prosecution Sanction issued	Cases referred to State Government/POE for action
2005	53	8	45
2006	78	21	57
2007	40	7	33
2008	93	56	37
2009 (upto June)	63	09	54

These complaints mainly pertain to cheating, overcharging, contractual violations by employers such as non-payment/delayed payment of salary, non-availability of medical facilities and proper food, unhygienic living conditions etc. Such harassment include withholding of passports and even physical abuse by the employers.

Any recruitment of Indian nationals for employment abroad without Registration Certificate under Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983 is an offence punishable under Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983. Since such agents are not registered with Protector General of Emigrants (PGE), Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the complaints are referred to concerned State Police authorities for investigation.

Complaints against registered recruiting agents are enquired into by the PGE and, if substantiated, the registration of the RA is cancelled.

Incidents of discrimination on Indians abroad

3570. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of incidents of discrimination, misbehaviour and attacks against Indians abroad;

(b) whether Government of India has taken this matter in the United Nations or any other agency for the safety of the students and people working abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) 238 incidents of attack/assault on Indian nationals in various countries have been reported in the last 3 years.

(b) to (d) Such incidents are taken up with the Governments of the country concerned through official channels.

Instructions to various Departments/Organisations

3571. SHRI SABIR ALI :

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the instructions given by his Ministry to various Departments and Organisations for dealing with the Members of Parliament and their communications;

(b) whether it is a fact that those instructions being observed more in violation than in compliance by most of the Departments and Organisations; and

(c) the further steps Government propose to take to ensure proper observance of the instructions relating to Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMI) : (a) Apart from the provisions in the Conduct Rules, and the Manual of Office Procedure, Government has issued detailed instructions on the conduct of Government servants in official dealings and correspondence with Members of Parliament. The instructions have been reiterated from time to time.

(b) No, Sir. On a few occasions when complaints were received, they were taken up with the authorities concerned and pursued.

(c) The need for observance of the instructions is reiterated from time to time as and when felt necessary.

SC/ST/Muslims in Selection Committees/Boards

3572. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB :

SHRI SABIR ALI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions of Government to various Departments and Organisations to include representatives of SC/ST and Muslims in the Selection Committees and Selection Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those Departments and Organisations which are not implementing it; and

- (d) the steps that are being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Instructions are there that wherever a Selection Committee/Board exists or has to be constituted for making recruitment to 10 or more vacancies in Group C and D posts/services, the Committee/Board should have one member belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Class and one member belonging to minority community. In case of less than 10 vacancies, all efforts are made for inclusion of such members in the Committees/Boards.

- (c) Information is not centrally maintained.

(d) All Ministries/Departments etc. are required to follow the instructions. An officer who disobeys such instructions may be penalized under the disciplinary rules.

Allowance to Pensioners not covered by Health Scheme

3573. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government pensioners not covered by CGHS or any other health care facilities were in receipt of an allowance of Rs. 100 per month with pension before 1st January, 2006;

(b) whether similar allowance has been allowed *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2006 along with the pensions revised from that date;

(c) if so, the rate thereof and when the orders were issued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Fixed Medical Allowance @Rs. 100 per month was sanctioned *w.e.f.* 01.12.97 and is continuing in respect of Central Government pensioners/family pensioners who at the time of retirement/death were governed by Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972 and were eligible for medical facilities after retirement.

(d) Does not arise.

Disproportionate assets cases probed by CBI

†3574. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases pertaining to offence of disproportionate assets being probed by the CBI;

(b) the percentage of challan produced in courts during last ten years, and punishment given;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the number of cases pending prosecution for last ten or more years;
- (d) the number of cases pending probe for ten or more years; and
- (e) the steps being taken to correct this slow pace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) During the period from 01-01-2000 to 30-06-2009, 920 cases of Disproportionate Assets were registered by the CBI.

(b) During the period from 01-01-2000 to 30-06-2009, charge-sheets were filed in 529 cases and 60 cases of Disproportionate Assets resulted in conviction.

(c) 139 cases of disproportionate assets are pending trial in various courts for more than ten years.

(d) No Disproportionate Assets case in pending investigation for ten or more years.

(e) CBI files charge-sheet as soon as investigation in a case is completed. The time taken for investigation of cases by the CBI depends on the nature of cases, number of voluminous documents requiring scrutiny and the number of voluminous documents requiring scrutiny and the number of witnesses. CBI endeavors to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest. There is a laid down system of holding monthly and quarterly review meetings where the cases under investigation are examined with a view to finalise them early.

Also, 39 Special Courts exclusively for trial of CBI cases have been set up all over the country for speedy disposal of CBI cases.

Information Commission in States/UTs

†3575. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Information Commission' has been constituted in all the States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the number of Commissioners appointed with unit-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of information provided so far and number of pending applications, the State-wise and Union Territory-wise details thereof; and

(d) the plans with Government to make this programme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) All the 27 States to which the Right to Information Act, 2005 applies, have constituted the Information Commissions. Union Territories are covered by the Central Information Commission.

(b) and (c) State-wise information are not centrally maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Government has initiated a centrally sponsored scheme on 'Strengthening, Capacity Building and Awareness Generation for Effective Implementation of the RTI Act' by providing funds to State Information Commissions for their IT enablement and propagation of right to information; imparting training to various stakeholders; and generating awareness through media etc.

Number of Central Sponsored Schemes

‡3576. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1000 schemes sponsored by Central Government have been operational in the country during 2008-09;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and exact number thereof;

(c) whether Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System had made an announcement of collection of data in terms of monitoring of schemes and States; and

(d) if so, the details of declaration and progress made in this direction by the end of June, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per data maintained by Controller General of Accounts office (CGA), the number of central plan schemes in the Scheme listing of Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System was 1238 during 2008-09.

(c) and (d) Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2008 had announced the setting up of a Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) for establishing a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) and Decision Support System (DSS) for the Central Plan Schemes. The Part 'A' of the Scheme as approved by the Finance Minister has been made operational.

CPSMS has been under implementation since 1st April '08 on the CGA web portal and during these fifteen months progress achieved is as follows :

(i) Mapping of Account Heads as per the Detailed Demand for Grants of the Ministers with the respective Plan Schemes.

(ii) All fund disbursement under the Plan Schemes is now identified through a unique Sanction ID that enables tracking of releases from the Central Government under the Plan Schemes.

(iii) Capture of data on sub-sanctions and component-wise expenditure filing from the lowest level of implementation on a pilot basis for two Schemes *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and *National Child Labour Project* in the States of Punjab and Karnataka.

(iv) Registration of implementing agencies (along with bank details) under Plan Schemes receiving funds from the Government of India and their geographical mapping.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (v) A central repository of information on the centrally sponsored and central sector Plan Schemes has been created.

The application developed has integrated the report generation capabilities with the transaction databases that have been created in the first phase of implementation. Accordingly for 2008-09 State/Scheme-wise reports on release under Flagship Schemes were generated. During 2009-10 this has been extended to all Schemes and it is now possible to generate State/Scheme-wise releases for all Plans Schemes.

World Bank's estimate of BPL population

3577. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA :

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had estimated India's population living below poverty line at 41 per cent in 2005;

(b) if so, whether the population living below poverty line has come down in the meantime; and

(c) Government's plan and targets fixed in this respect to be achieved by the end of 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY) : (a) As per the World Bank Report entitled "Global Economic Prospects for 2009", the percentage of people in India living on less than \$1.25 a day is 41.6 per cent for the year 2005.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below poverty line at national and State level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. As per the latest available estimates for the year 2004-05, the number of persons living below poverty line is estimated to be 301.7 million accounting for 27.5% of the total population. As such, official estimates on poverty after 2004-05 are not available. The World Bank document 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009' has given the poverty estimates for 2005 and has projected that the percentage of persons living on less than \$1.25 a day in the country would decline to 25.4 percent by 2015.

(c) No targets have been fixed by the Planning Commission for population living below the poverty line by the end of 2010. However, the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points. The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as : National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), etc.

Prediction for Export Growth

3578. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR :

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission predicted in February, 2009 that export growth could be as little as 3 percent during 2009-2010;

(b) whether Government is aware of the predictions of the World Bank in their publication released in February, 2009 'Global Economic Prospects's that world GDP growth was set to contract 1.7 percent during 2008-2009; and

(c) if so, in what manner this position is going to be addressed during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) The Planning Commission has projected the growth rate of exports to be 3 % during the year 2009-10 based on an internal exercise carried out on the assumption that India's exports depend on the growth rate of advanced economics rather than the growth rate of the World economy.

(b) As per the World Bank's documents "Global Economic Prospects-2009" the real GDP for the world is expected to increase by 0.9% during the year 2009. However, as per the document "Global Development Finance - Charting a Global Recovery" of the World Bank, the real GDP of the world, measured at 2000 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) weights, is expected to contract by 1.7% during the year 2009.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken both fiscal and monetary measures in order to restore the growth momentum, including measures for providing impetus to export sectors as well as manufacturing sector. The fiscal measures, *inter-alia*, include increased plan expenditure, reduction in indirect taxes, levies etc. The monetary and credit related measures taken by the RBI related to provisioning of adequate liquidity and credit delivery, reduction in cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios (CRR & SLR) for banks, etc. These measures have been supplemented with sector specific credit measures for exports, housing micro and small enterprises and infrastructure.

Package based report of Knowledge Commission

3579. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced any package in the form of Stimulus I and Stimulus II based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission;

(b) if so, the salient features of each of the packages; and

(c) the outcome of these packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, the Government has not announced any package in the form of Stimulus I and Stimulus II.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation and Utilisation under SCSP

3580. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) from 2004 to 2009, as per Government's policy;
- (b) the amount actually disbursed during the period;
- (c) the amount actually utilised; and
- (d) the details therefor, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Sir, the details indicating the amount allocated under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) from 2004 to 2009 State-wise and Year-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Information relating to Part (b), (c) and (d) is being collected from all the State Governments and UT Administrations and will be tabled in the House as and when received and compiled.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise Allocation of SCSP during 2004-2009

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2004-05 Amount Allocated	2005-06 Amount Allocated	2006-07 Amount Allocated	2007-08 Amount Allocated	2008-09 Amount Allocated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1181.04	1878.26	1557.65	4355.90	7630.42
2.	Assam	54.07	75.69	241.98	81.09	100.70
3.	Bihar	718.36	985.57	1518.36	2131.21	2428.26
4.	Chhattisgarh	331.47	284.36	339.56	2722.31	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	13.15	25.74	13.52
6.	Gujarat	385.27	486.90	894.56	1134.40	186.50
7.	Haryana	458.35	642.13	636.90	1023.00	1433.27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.97	173.12	195.36	231.00	594.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	47.58	319.20	330.42	368.6	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	532.19	767.00	3539.70	1012.75
11.	Karnataka	667.40	628.80	1457.83	29.16	3232.45
12.	Kerala	402.55	465.28	609.20	681.80	755.95
13.	Madhya Pradesh	740.36	956.67	1372.98	2745.88	2209.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Maharashtra	962.87	1122.00	1592.00	2060.00	2332.80
15.	Manipur	0.00	27.59	24.43	33.04	48.30
16.	Orissa	411.32	334.87	531.12	843.96	1239.75
17.	Punjab	886.00	934.62	1154.00	1330.00	1792.00
18.	Rajasthan	1069.82	1296.81	1362.17	1787.77	2081.80
19.	Sikkim	9.49	2.74	16.56	34.70	42.60
20.	Tamil Nadu	1543.44	2104.55	1360.00	1649.85	2379.20
21.	Tripura	81.16	84.36	161.50	205.22	242.19
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2026.00	2830.00	3990.00	5307.00	7430.00
23.	Uttaranchal	300.00	483.30	720.00	749.82	854.73
24.	West Bengal	295.56	576.19	1845.60	2328.83	2677.83
25.	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.34	0.00
26.	Chandigarh	10.07	19.62	0.00	46.72	45.98
27.	Damand & Diu	0.00	1.84	1.99	2.23	4.65
28.	Delhi	311.74	456.00	878.80	1525.13	1694.15
29.	Pondicherry	99.47	108.71	138.73	235.71	283.33
TOTAL :		13109.36	17811.37	23711.85	37296.11	42746.94

Plan outlay for Orissa

3581. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the annual plan outlay for Orissa from 1999 to 2009, year wise;
- (b) whether Orissa State could utilize the total plan outlay from 1999 to 2009; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY) : (a) to (c) The details of the year-wise plan outlay allocated to Orissa from 1999 to 2009 and their utilization are as under :

(Rs. in Crore)			
Year	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	% Utilization
1	2	3	4
1999-2000	3309.17	2484.00	75.06
2000-2001	2665.00	2562.07	96.14

1	2	3	4
2001-2002	3000.00	2450.44	81.68
2002-2003	3100.00	2474.11	79.81
2003-2004	3200.00	2436.90	76.15
2004-2005	2500.00	2738.73	109.55
2005-2006	3000.00	2818.82	93.93
2006-2007	3500.00	3630.51	103.73
2007-2008	5105.00	6015.34	117.83
2008-2009	7500.00	7571.83	100.96

Under-Utilization of funds for CSS

3582. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have not been able to utilize funds given to them for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on the timely and full implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) State-wise release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), as well as monitoring of their utilization by each State, is undertaken by the respective Central Government Ministry/Departments implementing the CSS. Details pertaining to release of funds, their utilization etc. State-wise are available with the Central Government Ministries/Departments concerned.

A scheme titled Plan Accounting and Public Finance Management System also called as Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) has been launched in 2008-09. The scheme is being implemented by the Controller General of Accounts and will generate State/Scheme wise releases of Central plan schemes.

Intellectual property rights

3583. SHRI P. R. RAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government allowed any intellectual property rights to lawyers to operate in India;

(b) whether IISc, IIT and CSIR have sold any of their product or process patents to any of the US based companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The Intellectual property rights are private rights and the right holder

can assign, license, transfer or sell the rights to others depending upon his commercial and other interests.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following 12 patents have been assigned/licensed to various US based companies by Indian Institute of Technologies (IIT), Delhi and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) :

Patents Assigned/Licensed to various US based companies

Sl.No.	Institute	Number of Patent(s)	Assigned/Licensed
1.	IIT (Delhi)	1	M/s SIP Industries, Houston, USA (Assigned)
2.	CSIR	1	GE, USA (Assigned)
		3	Signal Stop LLC, USA (Assigned)
		6	M/s IndUS Pharmaceuticals, USA (Licensed)
		1	Nostrum Pharmaceuticals Inc., USA (Licensed)

Melting of Glaciers

3584. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the glaciers in India are melting due to the global warming;
- (b) whether this phenomenon has affected the Ganges and its other tributaries; and
- (c) if so, the preventive measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The world is experiencing a phase of inter-glacial period since 10,000 years, during which melting of glaciers and its eventual recession, with minor fluctuations in between, is a natural phenomenon. This holds true for glaciers in India also.

(b) Out of the total catchment area of 10, 16, 124 Km² of Ganges, only 19,700 Km² lie under the influence of glaciated terrain i.e. upto Deo Prayag. At Deo Prayag, reports indicate only 28.7% of flow is contributed by the glacier melt, while the contributions from base flow and rainfall is estimated at 71.3%. As only 5% of utilizable water comes from the glacier melt, shrinking of glaciers, if any, is not expected to impact the per capita availability of water significantly.

(c) The Government of India, has constituted the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate action for a national strategy in the context of global climate change. A 'National Action Plan on Climate Change' (NAPCC) has been evolved to enable the country adapt to climate change

and enhance the ecological sustainability in its development path. Under the NAPCC a 'National Water Mission' and a 'National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Eco-System' are being evolved for finding scientifically backed eco-friendly strategies through multi-pronged, long term and integrated studies.

Non-strategic data

3585. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to make non-strategic data accessible to public;
- (b) if so, what would be the mode of its accessibility; and
- (c) whether the information will be made available under the RTI mechanism, or it will be simply put on official website of the Ministry and department concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has made non-strategic data available to public through Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences to have mechanisms of updating their respective websites with non-strategic data that is used by public. In addition, non-strategic information is also being provided to individuals against their application made under the RTI etc.

Global warming

3586. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recent reports stating that due to global warming Himalayan glaciers have been receding at a faster pace than thought to earlier have come to his notice;
- (b) the actual position in the matter with relevant details;
- (c) the environmental, hydrological and demographic implications of this apparently alarming development for country over coming decades; and
- (d) the action Government proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Recent kinematic Global Positioning System (GPS) survey of glacier terminus of Gangotri and Milam glacier indicate a 'slow down' in the rates of recession post 1971 from 17.15 meters per annum (approximately) to 11.95 (+/-0.04) meters per year.

(d) The Government of India under its National Action Plan on Climate Change has identified a National Mission on 'Sustaining Himalayan Eco-System' to have a deeper understanding of the glacier dynamics in the Himalaya in the context of the climate change and envisages to investigate the impact on the entire Himalayan eco-system and the life and livelihood of the population. As a part

of this initiative, the Government has established a National Centre for Research in Glaciology at Dehradun to institutionalize glaciology research in India, and is endeavoring to strengthen the observational and monitoring networks as well as, network the knowledge institutions and strengthen their research capacity for co-ordinated research.

Thin Film Composite

3587. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a CSIR laboratory has developed a Thin Film Composite (TFC) reverse osmosis (RO) high flux memorandum for recovering process water for industrial use from domestic sewage through tertiary treatment;

(b) whether the technique has been used on a mass scale for treatment of water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, Gujarat, (a constituent lab. of CSIR) has developed and scaled up Thin Film Composite (TFC) Reverse Osmosis (RO) membrane technology. The technology is used primarily for drinking water application through desalination of brackish and seawater.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ten technique has been used on a mass scale for treatment of water.

(c) A list of various water treatment units that have been set up by CSMCRI is provided in the enclosed Statement (*See below*). Since 2000, CSMCRI has installed 53 RO desalination plants of various capacities which also includes. 1 plant in Kenya and 6 plants in Afghanistan. It has also designed and developed 2 mobile RO units which have been used to provide relief in natural Calamity affected areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of RO desalination plants installed by CSMCRI since 2000

Sl. No.	Location of Plant	State	Capacity LPH*	Year of installation	App. Feed water salinity (ppm)**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mocha	Gujarat	1500	2000	8,000
2.	Kisari	Rajasthan	2000	2002	5,000
3.	Barmer Airforce station	Rajasthan	1500	2003	3,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Nelamadur, Ramanathapuram, Dist	Tamil Nadu	300	2004	Seawater
5.	Ervadi, Ramanathapuram, Dist.	Tamil Nadu	900	2004	8,000
6.	Akkarapattai, Nagapattinam Dist.	Tamil Nadu	2000	2005	6,005
7.	Hasnabad	West Bengal	700	2005	3200
8.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	700	2005	3000
9.	Nagaur	Rajasthan	2400	2005	7000
10.	Barmer	Rajasthan	2500	2005	3,000
11.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	Union Territory	1000	2005	3,500
12.	Campbel Bay Island	-do-	1000	2005	12,000
13.	Nelamadur, Ramanathapuram, Dist.	Tamil nadu	1000	2005	Sea water
14.	Muilimunai, Ramanathapuram Dist.	Tamil Nadu	1000	2006	Sea water
15.	Thirupalikudi Ramanathapuram, Dist.	Tamil Nadu	1000	2006	Sea water
16.	Karankudu Ramanathapuram, Dist.	Tamil Nadu	1000	2006	Seawater
17.	Tilonia	Rajasthan	700	2006	2500
18.	Dwarka	New Delhi	2500	2006	2500
19.	Surat	Gujarat	2500	2006	4500
20.	Abadkuliadanga	West Bengal	2500	2006	15000
21.	Barge Mounted	West Bengal	150	2006	15000

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Barmer	Rajasthan	2500	2006	3000
23.	CSIR, Maharani Bagh	New Delhi	5000	2006	2800
24.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	2000	2006	2600
25.	Bhuj Airforce station	Gujarat	2000	2007	2500
26.	Bhuj Airforce station	Gujarat	600	2007	2000
27.-28	CMFRI, Mandapam	Tamil Nadu	2000	2007	7000
29.	Kensalt	Kenya	2000	2007	Sea water
30.	MARS, Mandapam	Tamil Nadu	500	7000	
31.-36	Six Villages	Afghanistan	600-1000	2008	2000-3000
37.	CGCRI, Kolkata	West Bengal	500	2008	2000
38.	Mahua	Gujarat	600	2008	2200
39.	Vadodara	Gujarat	500	2008	2800
40.	Kosuru	AP	4000	2008	2000
41.	Air-Force, Naliya	Gujarat	2000	2008	2000
42.	Air-Force, Naliya	Gujarat	500	2008	2000
43.	Air-Force, Samana	Gujarat	500	2008	2000
44.	Air-Force, Samana	Gujarat	500	2008	2000
45.	Nagaur Dist.	Rajasthan	2000	2008	5000
46.	Churu Dist.	Rajasthan	2000	2008	5000
47-51.	Five Villages	Afghanistan	600-1000	2009	2000-3000
52.	Chachiyawas	Rajasthan	1000	2009	2900
53.	Siripuram	AP	4000	2009	2000

*Litres per hour

**Parts per million

S & T Activities

3588. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes and schemes undertaken by the West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology in promotion, planning and coordination of S & T activities with the help of his Ministry in the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of assistance provided to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology by his Ministry to carry out above programmes during the last three years, year-wise and scheme/programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology provides core support to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology to facilitate in promotion, planning and coordination of Science and Technology activities and also for implementation of various programmes, viz. Natural Resources Data Management Systems (NRDMS), Biotechnology, Patents, Biofuels, Water Quality Assessment, Solar lighting, etc. A Statement detailing programmes/schemes and assistance provided to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology during the last three years (2006-09) by Ministry of Science and Technology is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Programme-wise Year-wise Financial Assistance provided to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology for promotion planning and coordination of S & T activities with the help of Ministry of Science and Technology during last three years

Year	Project/Programme	Amount Released (Rs.)
1	2	3
2006-07	1. Mapping of S & T needs-Identification and Geographical Information System (GIS) based documentation for location specific problems and needs for Science & Technology intervention	1,94,000/-
	2. 12th West Bengal State Science Congress	2,00,000/-
	3. Core support to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology	10,17,697/-
	4. Support to Patent Information Centre	2,09,697/-
	5. Development of GIS based Information System on academic and R & D institutions for S & T activities.	2,00,000/-
	6. Production and demonstration of high quality Jatropha plantation	6,00,000/-

1	2	3
	7. Geo spatial resource management with computer simulation of flood inundation for Mayurakshi and Ajoy rivers basin in Jharkhand and West Bengal using GIS Remote Sensing	18,00,000/-
	8. Damage Assessment mapping of Tsunami affected areas of A & N Island	2,00,000/-
	9. Workshops on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)/Patents	60,000/-
	TOTAL :	44,80,697/-
2007-08	1. Implementation oriented Parcel-wise Database creation on S & T Needs for Development of Fishery and Sericulture Sectors in Most Backward Villages, Nadia and Murshidabad districts, West Bengal	10,50,000/-
	2. 14th West Bengal State Science Congress	2,45,429/-
	3. 15th West Bengal State Science Congress	2,25,000/-
	4. Core Support to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology	13,38,000/-
	5. West Bengal Space Spatial Data Infrastructure	2,00,00,000/-
	6. Support to Patent Information Centre	1,76,097/-
	7. Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)/Patents	2,70,000/-
	8. Production and demonstration of high quality planting material of Jatropha Curcas	5,05,000/-
	TOTAL :	2,38,09,526/-
2008-09	1. Development of Light Emitting Diode (LED) based solar home lighting system for rural areas	15,64,420/-
	2. Core Support to West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology	10,65,000/-
	3. Support to Patent Information Centre	11,77,000/-
	4. Ground Water Quality assessment and Zonation in the Arsenic Affected Districts of West Bengal	3,12,000/-
	5. Workshops on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)/ Patents	65,000/-
	6. Production and demonstration of high quality planting material of Jatropha Curcas	4,28,000/-
	TOTAL :	46,11,420/-

Employment Generation Through Herbicide Crops

3589. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has assessed the impact on employment generation with herbicide-tolerant crops which are being experimented in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, what does his Ministry intend to do about such crops and their impact on rural employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) The impact of herbicide tolerant crops on rural employment, assessment of its impact on employment generation etc. do not come under the purview of Department of Biotechnology. Department of Biotechnology is involved in matters relating to research and development work involving biotechnology and biotech crops.

Assistance to Disabled Persons

3590. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than two crore people in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotive disabilities;
- (b) the number of disabled persons provided assistance to purchase aids and appliances;
- (c) the details of physical annual targets fixed under scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP); and
- (d) whether the targets have been achieved and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) As per census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in the country.

(b) to (d) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), the target and the number of disabled persons who were provided assistance during 2007-08 & 2008-09 are as follows :-

Year	Target in lakhs	No. of beneficiaries (in lakhs)
2007-08	2.00	2.07
2008-09	2.00	2.80 (estimated)

Prevention of atrocities

‡3591. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken to enhance annual income limit for guardians of students;
- (b) whether the State Governments are likely to get meager amount in the current plan under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Protection of Civil Rights Act, if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) No income ceiling has been prescribed for some of the scholarship schemes. In others, it is revised from time to time, keeping in view availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The budget allocation for 2009-10 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is Rs. 43 Crores. There is an increase of Rs. 3.00 crores for the current year over previous year's allocation.

Mentally retarded children

3592. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any figures of the total number of mentally retarded children in the country;
- (b) whether Government has any figures or details of NGOs who are working in this field to provide succour to these children;
- (c) whether Government has any policy to work in PPP mode with these NGOs or to provide financial assistance to such NGOs; and
- (d) if so, the criterion to select such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) As per Census 2001, the number of persons with mental disability in the age group of 0 to 19 years is 7.96 lakhs.

(b) There is no centralized data-base of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are working in this field. However, in 2008-09, 238 NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Children were provided financial assistance under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS).

(c) and (d) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), the Government provides funds to NGOs for running projects for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, which

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

includes mentally retarded children. Some of the important eligibility criteria for selection of NGOs under the Scheme are as below :

- (i) The organization should be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860) or any relevant Act of the State/Union Territory; or a public trust registered under the law for the time being in force; or a charitable company licensed under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958;
- (ii) The organization should be registered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;
- (iii) The organization should have a legally constituted managing body;
- (iv) It should not be running for profit to any individual or body of individuals;
- (v) It should have at least 2 years experience in running the project for which the grant-in-aid has been applied;
- (vi) It should have engaged qualified staff as prescribed under the Schemes.

The NGOs are provided grant-in-aid on the basis of the recommendations of the concerned State Governments Union Territory Administration.

Persons with disabilities

3593. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had called a meeting of the central coordination committee on July 21, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has decided to include Dyslexia and Autism in the list of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) by bringing out an amendment in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when this Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) The Central Coordination Committee met on 21.7.2009 to consider, *inter-alia*, the proposed amendments to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act, 1995.

- (c) No decision has been taken so far in this regard.
- (d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.
- (e) The Bill can be introduced only after completion of the consultation process.

Scheduled Caste Sub Plan

3594. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware that the allocations of Special Component Plan/Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) were not being spent in different States as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission;
- (b) if so, the action taken and the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of expenditure incurred on different heads in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) Allocations under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) have not been spent in different States as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission. The outlay and expenditure of SCSP and TSP are reviewed in the Annual Plan discussions of State in the Planning Commission. State Governments are also advised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, to ensure adequate earmarking/expenditure of funds, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Planning Commission. The headwise details of expenditure incurred are not Maintained by the Ministry.

Pre-matric and post-matric scholarship

†3595. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of scholarship being provided to pre-matric, post-matric, hostler and non-hostler students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class families which are engaged in scavenging, skinning and tanning, sanitation and other similar activities alongwith separate details thereof;
- (b) the time when this scholarship was fixed;
- (c) whether the scholarship amount is sufficient;
- (d) the system put in place to ensure that all the students are able to get this scholarship; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that no State in the country is being disbursed with the full amount as demanded by them even after repeated demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) Details of the amount of scholarships and year of last revision are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

- (c) The rates are revised from time to time subject to availability of funds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The schemes are being implemented through the State Govt./UT Admn. for distribution of scholarship to the students in a timely manner. Utilisation Certificates are also obtained to ensure that funds are properly utilized.

(e) Efforts are made to meet the demands of various States, in the light of their committed liability, submission of utilization certificates and the availability of funds.

Statement

Details of the amount of Scholarships and year of last revision

(A) Pre-matric scholarship scheme to children of those engaged in unclean occupation

(Rates last revised in 2008)

Rate of Scholarship (for 10 months)-

Sl. No.	Class	Rate of Scholarship/Stipend	
		For Hostellers (in Rs.)	For Day Scholars (in Rs.)
1.	I to II	-	110
2	III to X	700	110

In addition, ad-hoc grant is also payable for both day scholars and hostellers.

(B) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC Students

(Rates last revised in 2003)

Rate of Scholarship (for 10 months)-

Sl. No.	Level	Rate of Scholarship/Stipend	
		For Hostellers (in Rs.)	For Day Scholars (in Rs.)
1.	Group I	740	330
2.	Group II	510	330
3.	Group III	355	185
4.	Group IV	235	140

In addition, various types of allowances are payable to different categories of students.

(C) Pre-matric scholarship scheme for OBC Students

(Rates last revised in 1998-99)

Rate of Scholarship (for 10 months)-

Sl. No.	Rate of Scholarship/Stipend			
	For Day Scholars (in Rs.)		For Hostellers (in Rs.)	
1.	Class I to V	25	-	-
2.	VI to VIII	40	Class III to VIII	200
3.	IX to X	50	IX to X	250

In addition, *ad-hoc* grant and maintenance allowance are also payable for both day scholars and hostellers.

(D) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students

(Rates last revised in 1998-99)

Rate of Scholarship (for 10 months)-

Sl.No.	Rate of Scholarship/Stipend			
	For Day Scholars (in Rs.)		Hostellers (in Rs.)	
1.	Group A, B & C	190	Group A	425
2.	Group D	120	Group B & C	290
3.	Group E	90	Group D	230
4.			Group E	150

In addition, various types of charges are given for various purposes.

(E) Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students.

All compulsory non-refundable fees being charged by the educational institutions are provided to ST students. Besides this, maintenance allowance is provided for hostellers ranging from Rs. 235/- p.m. to Rs. 740/- p.m. and for day scholars from Rs. 140/- p.m. to Rs. 330/- p.m. depending upon the level of courses. The scholarship rates were revised with effect from 1.4.2003.

Practice of untouchability

†3596. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- whether freedom has simply become a misnomer for the Scheduled Castes;
- whether the practice of untouchability against the people of Scheduled Castes is still in vogue despite country stepping into the 21st century; and
- whether Government is making efforts to usher these people in the social and national main stream with the help of a more stringent law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) As provided in Article 17 of Constitution of India, "Untouchability" has been abolished; its practice in any form forbidden and enforcement of any disability arising out of "Untouchability" is an offence in accordance with law. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are two stringent laws and prescribe punishment for offences related to untouchability and atrocities, respectively.

The State Government/Union Territory Administrations, which implement provisions of the Acts, are addressed from time to time to implement their provisions in letter and spirit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chandrayaan-I

3597. SHRI N.K .SINGH :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's first mooncraft, Chandrayaan-I has developed snag and also collapsed;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the factors responsible for the failure of the 'star sensor' and 'Bus management units' of the Chandrayaan-I have since been examined; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Chandrayaan-I has developed a problem in its star sensor, but the mission has not collapsed.

(b) Chandrayaan-I's star sensor, which provides orientation of the spacecraft, has failed on May 2, 2009, after satisfactorily working for seven months. However, the orientation of Chandrayaan-1 is done by the alternate mode by using gyro scopes and the RF sensors, onboard the spacecraft.

(c) and (d) A combination of high temperature and high radiation faced by Chandrayaan-I in orbit, has been the cause for the star sensor failure and partial failure of bus management unit. After the failure, however, the mission has been carried out using the contingency recovery procedures, which are part of the methodology adopted for counteracting failures in such complex spacecraft systems.

Chandrayaan Project

3598. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual cost for the 'Chandrayaan' project;
- (b) whether the reports regarding the failure of Chandrayaan are correct;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if not, the benefits that have occurred to the national by this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

(a) The total cost of 'Chandrayaan-1' project is Rs. 386 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Chandrayaan is still functional. However, due to the failure of a star sensor, an alternate method of orienting satellite, has been arrived and Chandrayaan-1 is operating satisfactory. About 90% of the mission objectives have been achieved.

(d) Chandrayaan-1 has demonstrated the technology capability of Indian launch vehicle to take satellites to a distance of 400,000 km and precisely place in Moon's orbit. Chandrayaan-1 has collected valuable scientific data from the 11 instruments onboard this spacecraft. The deep space tracking network established as part of the project, is a permanent asset for future planetary missions.

Development of tourist places in Jharkhand

3599. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that tourism sector in the State of Jharkhand has been neglected during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total amount spent by Government on the development of tourist places in Jharkhand during the past one year, project-wise; and
- (d) the plans of Government to project tourist places abroad through Government of India tourist offices?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development, promotion and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them which are complete in all respects as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds. The details of the tourism projects sanctioned in Jharkhand by the Ministry of Tourism during the 11th Plan are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(d) India Tourism Offices abroad promote tourist attractions of India through advertising promotions, road shows, seminars and distribution of tourist literature and other collaterals.

Statement

Details of the projects sanctioned to Jharkhand during 11th Five Year Plan

		(Rs. in lakh)
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
2007-08		
1.	Integrated Development of Dassam fall - Panchganga fall Ranchi (Tagore hill & Hatia Dam) - Makhushiganj Tourist circuit	394.23
2.	Development of Deoghar as a tourist destination	335.26
3.	Development of Hazaribagh as a tourist destination	266.21
4	Rural Tourism at Village Amadubi	17.44 (software) 49.95 (hardware)
5	Rural Tourism at Village Deuridih, Distt. Saraikela Kharsawan (CBSP)	17.44 (software) 49.94 (hardware)

Tourism promotion in NE States

3600. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that allocations to the NE States for tourism promotion have gone underutilized;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is considering to relax the permit regime to promote tourism in North Eastern Region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The review of restrictions pertaining to Restricted Area Permit (RAP)/Protected Area Permit (PAP) for tourists is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposal from the concerned States and in consultation with security agencies.

Ministry of Home Affairs have conveyed relaxation of Protected Area Regime in the following circuits of Arunachal Pradesh.

- (i) Along-Mechukha.
- (ii) Existing Pasighat - Jenging - Yiungkiong to be extended up to Tuting.
- (iii) Daprojo-Nacho Circuit Taliha and sayum.
- (iv) Ziro-Palin-Nyapin-Sangram-Kaloriang.
- (v) Doimukh-Sagalee-Pakee-Kasang-Seppa.

Government of Arunachal Pradesh has also been authorised to issue Protected Area Permit (PAP) in respect of the following :—

- (1) To the visiting foreign tourists in a group of two or more persons (as against the existing requirement of group strength of four or more persons) for a maximum period of 30 days.
- (2) To a group of two foreign tourists even if they are not married couples and to foreigners married to Indian national belonging to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for visiting the State on tourist visas.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals

3601. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA :

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism in India, which contributes to 6.23 per cent of G.D.P. provides employment to 50 million plus people, was hit hard, by the Mumbai terror attacks, as 5.22 lakh

foreigners arrived in India in December 2008; down from 5.75 lakh the same period in 2007, thus, in December alone, India lost about 50,000 foreign tourists—a drop of 9.2 per cent;

(b) whether Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA) growth, in whole of 2008 was half of its growth as it stood at 5.6 per cent compared to 2006 and 2007 when FTA grew by 12-14 per cent; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to boost foreign tourist arrivals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) As per the Tourism Satellite Account of India, the share tourism sector, both direct and indirect, in the country's GDP was 5.83%, and it accounted for 38.6 million jobs in the country, in the year 2002-03.

The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during December 2008 was estimated at 5.22 lakh, as compared to 5.97 lakh in December 2007, registering a decline of 12.5%. This decline may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(b) The growth rate in FTAs in India in 2008 over 2007 was 5.6% as compared to 14.3% in 2007 over 2006.

(c) To boost FTAs in India, Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism office overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

Further, the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical and Convention and Conference Tourism in the country.

Promotion of Tourism Potential of AP

3602. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is planning to have an active dialogue with global travel and tourism operators to promote tourism potential of the State;

(b) whether Union Ministry has also provided financial help and assistance to the State to improve tourist spots in the State;

(c) whether her Ministry has been working out picnic spots in various States and has agreed to give full assistance to the States to improve potential tourism in States; and

(d) if so, how much amount has so far been provided to States and to what extent it has given boost to improve tourism in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourists interests is primarily undertaken by the Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) on the basis of project proposals received from them, complete in all respects subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority every year under the following schemes :

- (i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations/Circuits
- (ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
- (iii) Fairs/Festivals/Events
- (iv) Information Technology

A total of 514 projects with an amount of Rs. 155307.55 lakh had been sanctioned to States/Union Territory Administrations during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 for integrated development of tourism. The efforts of the Ministry of Tourism resulted in 5.37 million (provisional) Foreign Tourist Arrivals and USD 11747 million (estimated) Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2008.

Tourism Villages

3603. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up Tourism Villages at appropriate places to attract tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of Tourism including Rural Tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development in rural sites having core-competency in art, craft, culture, handlooms/textiles etc. Community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are supported through Government of India-United Nations Development Programmes Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

So far 142 projects for Rs. 8742.70 lakh have been sanctioned for development and promotion of Rural Tourism in the country.

Tourism proposals from Karnataka

3604. SHRI RAJVEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/requests submitted by the State Government of Karnataka to the Centre for improving and expanding tourism in the State and for receiving financial assistance, as on 1st August, 2009; and

(b) the details in each case and by when each of them is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The following project proposals have been received in the Ministry of Tourism from the Govt. of Karnataka :

Sl. No.	Name of the project
1.	Destination development of Alamatti Dam, Bijapur District
2.	Destination development at Amir Barid Tombs, Bidar District
3.	Destination development at Bidar Fort, Bidar District
4.	Destination development at Sleeping Buddha Hills, Gulbarga District
5.	Development of Eco tourism Park at Kaginele, Haveri District
6.	Destination development works under Restoration of Magadi Fort, Magadi, Town, Bangalore.
7.	Destination development at Gulbarga, Gulbarga District
8.	Destination development at Vanivilas Sagar Dam in Chitradurga District
9.	Destination Development at Chaukhkhandi and Ashtoor Tombs, Bidar District
10.	Destination development of Satyagraha Soudha at Vidhuraswatha
11.	Development of tourism infrastructure in Temple Tourism Circuit of North Karnataka
12.	Development of infrastructure Malnad circuit at Hossur Chikamagalure and Shimoga District

Project proposals that are complete in all respects, are appraised as per scheme guidelines on *inter-se*-priority and funds sanctioned, subject to availability under the respective head.

The Project Destination Development of Satyagraha Soudha at Vidhuraswatha has been sanctioned for Rs. 296.59 lakh during the current financial year 2009-10.

Religious tourist places

†3605. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the religious tourist places of India like Haridwar (Har ki Paudi), Rishikesh, Neelkanth, Badrinath are full of dirt due to which tourists have to face a lot of problem;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has made any type of budgetary provision for cleanliness of these places especially, Har ki Paudi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism including cleanliness and upkeep of the tourist places/pilgrim places is the responsibility of the State Governments. Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure including the pilgrim places on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the basis *inter-se*-priority and availability of the funds. Development projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism in the 10th and 11th Plan at Haridwar, Rishikesh and Badrinath, including components for providing sanitation and tourist amenities are as follows :

		(Rs. in crore)
Sl.No.	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned
1.	Integrated Development of Badrinath Tourist Circuit (2004-05)	7.02
2.	Development of Haridwar-Rishikesh-Munikireti-Swargashram as mega circuit (2008-09)	44.52

Promotion of Tourism

†3606. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the plan with the Central Government for promoting tourism in States and Union Territories;

(b) the names of the tourist places which have been provided grants during last five years, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government agrees that the growth of tourism can increase revenue; and

(d) if so, the detailed plan of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The plan of the Ministry of Tourism for development and promotion of tourism in the country includes development of infrastructure at important tourist destinations and circuits, targeted marketing campaigns in overseas and domestic markets and broad basing of hospitality education and training for meeting the demand of trained manpower for the tourism industry.

The State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of projects and amounts sanctioned during the last five years are given in the enclosed Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise/UT-wise details of projects and amount sanctioned for 2004-05 to 2008-09

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	No. of projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	2827.19	7	2615.82	3	1540.56	9	2629.48	7	9980.58
2.	Assam	8	986.03	10	2,140.00	9	2453.39	5	1271.90	4	2107.61
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	1325.50	10	2240.16	12	1887.80	10	3330.12	13	3147.20
4.	Bihar	7	1901.43	3	1212.23	2	1937.29	3	1194.75	9	1798.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	1117.94	7	1775.59	16	3540.17	4	1274.09	1	1133.82
6.	Goa	3	110.00	1	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	4314.91
7.	Gujarat	2	138.93	5	2011.58	7	443.65	5	576.58	7	2133.66
8.	Haryana	6	693.55	7	639.71	5	1836.16	11	2260.27	7	2495.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	2680.00	6	1645.00	8	1871.00	12	2286.22	9	2977.66
10.	J & K	5	819.25	22	6,656.01	29	5233.82	36	6851.15	25	3827.57
11.	Jharkhand	2	945.91	5	1227.27	3	956.35	7	1130.47	0	0.00
12.	Karnataka	12	2461.76	8	1706.52	4	1323.89	5	2004.71	4	4273.21
13.	Kerala	10	2283.63	13	4858.88	18	4474.02	10	3124.31	12	4269.52
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1595.19	12	3047.39	10	3668.47	16	3952.66	11	3141.11
15.	Maharashtra	10	1620.62	9	2075.04	13	2839.05	5	1279.44	3	4110.05
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	2	49.80	9	939.35	5	1110.77	9	2943.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
17.	Meghalaya	2	963.30	1	5.00	9	1435.29	2	674.40	6	1238.54
18.	Mizoram	6	1086.35	10	2273.41	9	2613.38	5	1692.94	4	318.38
19.	Nagaland	7	2250.69	9	2528.97	8	2340.32	21	2241.35	11	2544.66
20.	Orissa	8	1320.74	10	2309.61	13	2826.84	12	2376.30	6	4115.38
21.	Punjab	7	724.68	5	1437.67	13	3223.37	1	397.89	3	1968.10
22.	Rajasthan	13	2516.61	7	2591.87	8	953.84	2	1554.46	8	4189.56
23.	Sikkim	8	660.81	14	2844.56	13	2609.42	27	6036.48	23	7076.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	1308.92	19	4264.62	11	1866.41	13	2831.80	15	3595.72
25.	Tripura	1	20.00	3	716.26	4	291.27	11	1110.76	6	360.94
26.	Uttarakhand	7	2199.98	13	2738.00	16	1907.50	5	2081.04	3	4468.72
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	1044.93	18	3905.23	7	3329.06	7	2833.03	6	3839.64
28.	West Bengal	10	513.04	5	989.35	10	2978.32	12	3243.17	9	3319.33
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	467.00	1	13.70	2	15.00	2	20.00	5	799.11
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	2	29.79	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	24.88
32.	Delhi	8	628.85	2	20.00	5	2400.09	7	749.08	1	15.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	4	262.28	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	12.50
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0	1	7.00	1	782.73	0	0.00
35.	Puducherry	2	451.00	2	469.39	1	500.00	6	1610.88	4	252.80
TOTAL :		217	37663.83	253	61316.96	278	64242.08	277	64513.23	237	90794.32

Hotel and hospitality infrastructure in Orissa

3607. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that due to lack of hotels and other hospitality facilities tourists are not safe from naxal attacks in Orissa and due to which tourists visiting to Orissa has gone down in present scenario ;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any corrective measures such as hotel infrastructure and other hospitality facilities to ensure safety of the tourists in the State from these naxal attacks; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Central Government to explore the number of tourist flow remains high in the State of Orissa and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The number of domestic tourist visits to Orissa during the year 2008 stood at 63,58,445 (provisional) showing an increase of 7% over the previous year while the number of foreign tourist visits for the same period stood at 43,966 (provisional) showing an increase of 5% over the previous year .

Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity and highly capital intensive with a long gestation period. Ministry of Tourism has been in constant touch with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Orissa, which has been advised to follow investor friendly land policies like creation of land banks, single window clearance for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting hotel sites on revenue sharing basis and granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels for the convenience of tourists. Ministry of Tourism has recently revised the 'Guidelines' for Classification of hotels wherein the issues pertaining to safety and security have been addressed.

Development and promotion of tourist destinations is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities with the objective of increasing foreign tourist arrivals including to the State of Orissa.

Sunderban as a tourist site

3608. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state whether Government has any plan to develop Sunderban as a world tourist site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes :

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

During the financial year 2008-09 Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 457.60 lakh for Sajnekhali Eco-Tourism complex-cum-destination project in south 24 Paragnas West Bengal, in Sunderban region.

Development of Kurukshetra as a tourist destination

†3609. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any project is under consideration with her Ministry for making the historical city Kurukshetra, Haryana as an attractive tourist destination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a mega project Integrated Development of Panipat-Kurukshetra-Pinjore Circuit in Haryana in two phases. Phase I was sanctioned in 2006-07 at the total amount of Rs. 1630.03 lakhs out of which Rs. 833.88 lakhs was sanctioned for this mega project. In phase II of this project Rs. 1545.22 lakhs were sanctioned in 2008-09, out of which Rs. 650.31 lakh have been sanctioned for this mega project.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an Institute of Hotel Management in the 10th Plan in Kurukshetra and has provided central financial assistance of Rs. 1139.02 lakh for the Institute till date.

Development of tourism spots in Haryana

†3610. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects implemented/being implemented by her Ministry to develop the tourism spots in Haryana during last five years and current year;
- (b) by when the projects currently underway are likely to be completed; and
- (c) the details of projects to be undertaken for the development of tourism in Haryana during current financial year?

THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 23 projects in Haryana amounting to Rs. 82.77 crore during the last five years and current year as per the enclosed Statement (*See below*). Implementation of the tourism projects is the responsibility of the State Government of Haryana. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors the implementation of the projects through review meetings with the State Government officials and site visits and the State Governments are impressed upon to complete these projects on time.

Statement

Details of the projects sanctioned in Haryana (Infrastructure, Rural Tourism and HRD Projects) with Central Financial Assistance during the last five years (2004-05 to 2008-09)

		(Rs. in lakh)
Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2004-05		
1.	Construction of Multipurpose Hall at Kingfisher Tourist Complex at Ambala	27.44
2.	Integrated Development of Surajkund as a Tourist Destination	81.37
3.	Preservation and Restoration of old monuments at Yadavindra Gardens, Pinjore (Distt. Panchkula)	403.69
4.	GOI-UNDP Engogenous project at village Jyotisar, district Kurukshetra	20.00
2005-06		
1.	Development of Karna Lake at Uchana (District Karnal)	159.00
2.	Development of Tilyar Tourist Complex at Rohtak	441.00
2006-07		
1.	Integrated Development of Panipat-Kurukshetra-Pinjore-Circuit as Major Project	1,630.03
2.	Development of Badkhal Lake tourist complex as tourist destination	181.13
2007-08		
1.	Dev. of Eco-Tourism in Morni-Pinjore Hills-Sultanpur National Park	329.00
2.	Dev. of Eco-Tourism at Kalesar in Haryana	319.00
3.	Dev. of Hodal Tourist complex in Haryana	365.02
4.	Dev. of Suraj Kund in Haryana	367.25
5.	Dev. of Dharuhera Tourist Complex	360.66
6.	Dev. of Morni Hills Tikkar Taal in Haryana	474.50
2008-09		
1.	Dev. of Panipat Kurukshetra-Pinjore Circuit Ph-II	1545.22
2.	Dev. of way side amenities at Rai, Sultanpur & Barbet Sohna as a Tourist Destination	374.06
3.	Dev. of Damdama at Saras as a Tourist Destination	290.24

1	2	3
4.	Dev. of Hisar as a Tourist Destination	240.97
5.	State Institute of Hotel Management, Rohtak	1000.00
6.	Programme of board basing of hospitality education in ITI, Karnal	200.00
7.	Programme of board basing of hospitality education in ITI, Rohtak	200.00
8.	Programme of broad basing of hospitality education in ITI, Toshan	200.00
2009-10		
1.	Programme of broad basing of hospitality education in Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidhalaya	200.00

Pilgrimage Centres in Orissa

3611. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to tap the vast potential of pilgrimage centres available in Orissa;

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

(c) the developmental measures proposed to be undertaken in each pilgrimage centre of the state; and

(d) the amount of funds allocated by the Central Government to the State and the funds utilized so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administration for tourism related infrastructure projects under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits which are identified in consultation and interaction with them and sanctioned, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

During the first two years of the 11th plan *i.e.* 2007-08 & 2008-09 projects worth Rs. 6442.43 lakh have been sanctioned to the Government of Orissa for integrated development of Tourism including Pilgrimage Tourism in the State.

Incidents with foreign tourists

†3612. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of misbehaviour, plundering and other such incidents with foreign tourists are on the rise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of foreign tourists have been declining owing to such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. The data on incidents of crimes against tourists, including foreign tourists is not compiled by Ministry of Tourism. However, in order to ensure safety and security of the tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(c) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2008 increased as compared to 2007, though at a lower growth rate. During the period January-June 2009 there has been a decline of 9.3% in FTAs. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June 2009 over June 2008. The decline in FTAs may be due to various reasons including the global economic meltdown and terrorist attacks in some cities of India including Mumbai. The details of FTAs in India during 2007, 2008 and January — June 2009 are as follows:—

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* (January-June)	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

Achievements of JNNURM

†3613. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the time when Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was introduced and the amount allocated for the same;

(b) the details of amount released and spent during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) the number of States to which funds have not been released, the details thereof, State-wise, and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the works had to be done under the Mission and the achievements thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Government of India launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2005. It envisages mobilisation of Rs. 1.00 lakh crore out of which Rs. 50,000.00 crore will be provided as assistance from the Central Government over a period of 7 years. (2005-12). The indicative allocation by Planning Commission under the Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM, State-wise for the 7 years period 2005-06 to 2011-12 is Rs. 25,500 crore. In 2008-09, an additional amount of Rs. 100 crore for all Million Plus cities and State Capitals and Rs. 50.00 crore for other mission cities was allocated under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) by the Planning Commission.

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

(c) The State of Goa has not been approved any project so far under UIG component of JNNURM as it has not submitted. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in conformity with the guidelines of JNNURM.

(d) Under the UIG component of JNNURM, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is sanctioned for projects related to admissible components viz. Water Supply including Sanitation, Sewerage, Solid Waste Management, Road network, Urban Transport and redevelopment of inner (old) city areas with a view to upgrading infrastructure therein, shifting industrial/commercial establishments to conforming areas, etc. The details of Projects approved under UIG component of JNNURM sector-wise is given in the enclosed Statement

Statement

Sector-wise details of the projects approved under UIG component of JNNURM

Sl.No.	Sector	Number of projects sanctioned
1.	Drainage/Storm Water Drainage	60
2.	Roads/Flyovers	75
3.	Water Supply	141
4.	Sewerage	99
5.	Urban Renewals	9
6.	Mass Rapid Transport System	19
7.	Other Urban Transport	13
8.	Solid Waste Management	40
9.	Development of Heritage Areas	2
10.	Preservation of Water Bodies	4
11.	Parking	1
TOTAL :		463

Projects under JNNURM

3614. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nodal agency of the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has asked for augmentation of the total outlay under the scheme from Rs. 5055.55 crores to Rs. 9903.59 crores; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the projects are related to development and protection of Mithi river and the delay in deciding on the proposal is likely to cause considerable loss of life and property in the coming monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA), the State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) for the State of Maharashtra has submitted 162 projects for funding under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is fact that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted for approval of a project titled "Development and protection of Mithi River and its surroundings - Phase-II" which is under consideration. Further, over and above the allocation of Maharashtra under UIG component of JNNURM, Government of India has approved the Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage (BRIMSTOWAD) project for improving storm water drainage system for Mumbai city with 100% central assistance of Rs. 1200.53 crore. Also, Government of Maharashtra has completed the works on the project entitled "Development and protection of Mithi River and its surrounding, phase-I" involving deepening, widening, retaining wall, service roads etc. as a result of which the major bottle-necks in the flow of Mithi River and Vakola Nallah have been removed and the river has been adequately widened in the entire stretch from Mahim Causeway to Vihar lake resulting in the Substantially improved draining capacity of Mithi River and minimising of events of storm water flooding.

Relaxation by DDA

3615. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB :

SHRI SABIR ALI :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1155 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 2009 and state :

(a) what progress has so far been made in the matter; and

(b) by when the matter is likely to be resolved finally?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Unstarred Question No. 1155 related to the issue of certain relaxation in the 2006 scheme of execution of Conveyance Deed in the name of purchaser/GPA holder in respect of the flats allotted by DDA on freehold basis after 1992. More information has since been collected. However, since the issues involved are complex, consultations are going on with the DDA. All efforts to expedite the decision shall be made. No time frame can be indicated at this stage.

NGOs under the Ministry

3616. SHRI DARA SINGH :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of NGOs registered with his Ministry;
- (b) the NGOs whose work has been found to be satisfactory;
- (c) those which have been blacklisted so far alongwith the reasons for the same;
- (d) the criteria for registering such NGOs; and
- (e) the list of NGOs receiving foreign aid in cash or kind alongwith details of such receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY) : (a) No NGO is registered with Ministry of Urban Development. However, NGOs and educational institutions etc. may support the community/implementing agency in project formulation and preparation of proposals under Community Participation Fund (CPF) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), but the same are not eligible for accessing Government Funds.

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

World Bank loan for urban development

3617. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether World Bank has assured India of providing a loan amounting to Rs. 25000 crores for urban development;
- (b) if so, the main items on which this amount would be spent;
- (c) whether State Government have been asked to submit their plans for urban development;
- (d) if so, how much out of it has been distributed among the States; and
- (e) whether World Bank has put a condition that the loan should be utilized towards development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY) : (a) to (e) Ministry of Urban Development has send a proposal to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to seek external assistance of 5.3 billion US Dollars from the World Bank for development of Urban Infrastructure, Urban Water Sanitation and Urban Transport for urban development. As the proposal for World Bank assistance is in preliminary stage, the State Governments have not been asked to submit plans so far.

Accommodations to Delhi Government Employees from Central Pool

3618. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees/officers of Delhi Government have been allotted accommodations from Central Government residential pool;

(b) if so, the details of persons to whom accommodation have been allotted in DIZ area name-wise/category-wise, since when;

(c) the number of people encroaching upon space in front of their accommodations and action taken against them under rules for allotment;

(d) when Delhi Government does not allot its accommodations to employees of Central Government then reasons for allotting accommodations to Delhi Government's employees from Central Pool; and

(e) whether Government would consider cancellation of such allotments?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir, the employees/officers of eligible offices of Delhi Government have been allotted accommodations from General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA).

(b) As per enclosed Statement (*See below*) :

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) A decision was taken on 21.9.1955 in the Ministry of Home Affairs to construct separate pool of accommodation for Delhi Administration and its employees and also permit them to have concurrent eligibility from general pool. The matter was reviewed in 1975 and it was decided to allow continued eligibility of General Pool accommodation in respect of Delhi Administration offices subject to the condition that Delhi Administration would certify that no person junior to the particular applicant, who is offered general Pool residential, accommodation has been allotted accommodation from the Delhi Government Pool.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

*List of persons working in Delhi Government to whom
Central Government accommodation has been allotted*

Sl.No.	Type	Name of Allottee S/Shri:	Quarter No.	Date of Occupation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Karamvir	3-A/Sec. IV, Diz Area	24.11.1994
2.	1	Pawan Kumar	70-B/Sec. IV, Diz Area	23.02.2009
3.	1	Pramod Kumar Thakur	78-C/Sec.IV, Diz Area	28.09.2007

1	2	3	4	5
4.	1	Bhajanand Singh	78-F/Sec. IV, Diz Area	11.09.2005
5.	1	Kunwar Singh	7-H/Sec. IV, Diz Area	11.02.2004
6.	1	Vinod Kumar	80-D/Sec. IV, Diz Area	09.04.2009
7.	2	M.C. Wankhede	76/248, Sec.I, Diz Area	05.12.1992
8.	2	Parmanand	82/338, Sec. I, Diz Area	21.02.2000
9.	2	Sanjay Gosain	88/425, Sec.I, Diz Area	26.04.1995
10.	2	Pushpa Giri	83/342, Sec. I, Diz Area	02.02.2005
11.	2	Jagbir Singh	83/351, Sec. I, Diz Area	01.08.2007
12.	2	Pushpa Sharma	83/348, Sec. I, Diz Area	21.04.2006
13.	2	Satwant Singh	84/371, Sec. I, Diz Area	10.10.200
14.	2	A. Ram Dass	16-M,, Sec. 4, Diz Area	20.05.2002
15.	2	B.S. Varada Raju	18-C, Sec. 4, Diz Area	29.06.1989
16.	2	Dinesh Pandey	94-T, Sec. 4, Diz Area	11.12.1991
17.	2	Arun Kumar Sharma	37-B, Sec. 4, Diz Area	29.08.2006
18.	2	Harender Mahto	108-C, Sec. 4, Diz Area	18.01.2005
19.	2	Mahesh	96-K, Sec 4, Diz Area	08.05.1998
20.	2	Meenu Baurai	43-K, Sec. 4, Diz Area	22.12.2008
21.	2	Jyoti Sana	25-N, Sec. 4, Diz Area	02.04.2002
22.	2	Santosh Sharma	19-M, Sec. 4, Diz Area	25.01.1996
23.	2.	Subhash Chand	35-K, Sec. 4, Diz Area	24.02.2009
24.	2	Smt. Anju Gupta	108-M, Sec. 4, Diz Area	02.09.1999
25.	2	Shobha Rani	62-K, Sec. 4, Diz Area	19.11.1993
26.	2	Girish Chander	89-H, Sec. 4, Diz Area	15.04.2004
27.	2	Smt. Agatha D'souza	46-H, Sec. 4, Diz Area	13.04.1999
28.	2	Vijay Kumar	52-M, Sec. 4, Diz Area	10.01.1990
29.	2	Subhadra Mani	51-B, Sec. 4, Diz Area	12.09.1996
30.	2	Alka Gupta	92-H, Sec. 4, Diz Area	31.01.1989
31.	2	Girraj Singh	93-E, Sec. 4, Diz Area	16.07.2002
32.	2	Swarankar Anjani Kumar	95-D, Sec. 4, Diz Area	18.11.1991
33.	2	Parveen Sayeed	83-K, Sec. 4, Diz Area	18.07.1989
34.	2	Mandan Lal	57-H, Sec. 4, Diz Area	16.11.2006
35.	2	Manju Dutta	31/2-D, Sec. 2 Diz Area	29.07.1989

1	2	3	4	5
36.	2	Lathika S.D.	11/2-A, Sec. 2, Diz Area	28.04.1989
37.	2	Majeet Kaur	1/1-A, Sec. 2, Diz Area	01.12.2008
38.	2	Rakesh Kumar	2/2-D, Sec-2, Diz Area	21.12.2006
39.	2	Baldev Raj	4/3-D, Sec-2, Diz Area	09.09.2008
40.	2	Prabhat Kumar Thakur	34/1-C, Sec. 2, Diz Area	21.03.1995
41.	2	Dal Chand	24/4-A, Sec. 2, Diz Area	27.05.1994
42.	2	Ram Khilawan	3/3-D, Sec. 2, Diz Area	21.12.1998
43.	2	Birender Singh Negi	24/2-B, Sec. 2, Diz Area	24.12.1997
44.	3	Virender Singh	14/493/Sec.I, Diz Area	03.08.1992
45.	3	Vivekananda Sharma	62/3-C/Sec II, Diz Area	15.05.1994
46.	3	S.K. Mudgal	62/2-B/Sec II, Diz Area	19.01.1996
47.	3	Smt. Vijay Lakshmi	6/1-C/Sec II, Diz Area	16.03.1995
48.	3	Smt. Tripalk Kaur	5/2-B/Sec II, Diz Area	01.10.1996
49.	3	Smt. Manju Bhalla	8/2-C/Sec II, Diz Area	08.12.2008
50.	3	Smt. Kusum Mahajan	6/3-B/Sec II, Diz Area	03.11.1989
51.	3	Smt. Pushpa Chahal	63/1-B/Sec II, Diz Area	21.07.1989
52.	3	Nirman Sachdeva	14/499/Sec I, Diz Area	16.11.1994
53.	4	Om Prakash	BG/2, Peshwa Road	14.11.2007

Complaints to CPWD regarding repair

3619. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of complaints regarding repairing of floors, fixing of extra loop tank in kitchen, replacement of window doors, etc. are pending with CPWD Enquiry Service Centre, Peshwa Road, especially Sector-D, Mandir Marg, New Delhi since January, 2008;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints are received from Peshwa Road, New Delhi but the concerned Junior Engineer did not attend those complaints; and

(c) the reasons for not attending these complaints so far and the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Such complaints are pending because the tenders for this work had to be recalled earlier on two occasions due to higher rates and withdrawal of lowest tender.

Major complaints are generally attended to through contracts only. Therefore, such complaints could not be attended due to non-finalization of tenders. Tenders have been accepted now and work will start soon. However, other minor complaints are already being attended to.

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

3620. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government has taken any final decision to identify the site around India Gate where the statue of Mahatma Gandhi is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : No, Sir.

Funds for Capital of Chhattisgarh

†3621. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State of Chhattisgarh has demanded the funds for establishing “New Raipur” as its new capital;
- (b) whether it has been sanctioned;
- (c) if so, the amount thereof;
- (d) the funds allotted and plan about the balance funds; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Naya Raipur, a satellite city within the Urban Agglomeration of Raipur, is covered under the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The indicative allocation of fund by Planning Commission for entire Mission period (2005-12) for the State of Chhattisgarh under UIG component of JNNURM is Rs. 148.03 crore. In 2008-09, an additional amount of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated under UIG component of JNNURM by the Planning Commission for the million plus cities and capital cities including the capital city of State of Chhattisgarh. No fund has been specifically allocated for establishing ‘New Raipur’ as the new capital of Chhattisgarh.

So far, two projects viz. Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme including extended area of Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) and Water supply for Naya Raipur have been sanctioned under UIG of JNNURM at a cost of Rs. 459.87 crore. The committed Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is Rs. 342.91 crore. Rs. 121.44 crore has been released so far for the project Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme including extended area of RMC. The first installment of ACA in respect of approved project of Water Supply for Naya Raipur has not been released as the State has not signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The second and subsequent installments of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for projects are released only upon receipt of proper utilization certificate from State Governments. The Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) before releasing the second and subsequent installments of ACA satisfies itself as regards the physical and financial progress of the projects under implementation and achievement of milestones as agreed upon by the States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for implementation of reforms.

Complaints to CPWD

3622. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that CPWD takes several days to attend to complaints of families residing in Government quarters in Delhi;
- (b) the main reason for not attending to repeated complaints of families residing in various blocks of Sector II, DIZ Area, Gole Market, New Delhi to replace the broken sewer pipeline; and
- (c) the details of the action taken to rectify the problem?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir. However, some major complaints are attended to through contractors the process of which takes time due to contractual formalities and some times, due to budgetary constraints.

(b) In Diz Area including Sector-II, sewer lines after 1st manhole have been transferred to NDMC. No complaints for blockage/broken sewer line is pending with CPWD for Sector-II, DIZ Area, New Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Metro Mishap

3623. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of reasons identified for Zamrudpur Metro Mishap;
- (b) the number and the details of persons dead and injured in the said mishap;
- (c) whether Zamrudpur Metro Mishap was a result of irregularities mentioned in the report of CAG; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that the High Powered Committee set up by it to investigate the Zamrudpur Metro Mishap has identified the reasons for the accident as follows :-

- (i) Serious deficiency in design of the cantilever arm; and

- (ii) The concrete not having adequate strength probably due to lack of adequate curing of the concrete.
- (b) The number and details of persons dead and injured in the said mishap on 12.7.2009 and 13.7.2009 are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II respectively. (See below).
- (c) No, Sir. The CAG report was with reference to performance audit of Delhi Metro Phase-I.
- (d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

*Details of the Accident victims in DMRC's site at Zamrudpur
on 12.07.2009 (status as on 30/07/2009)*

Sl. No.	Name	Age (Years)	Father's Name	Address
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Anshuman Pratihari (Died at Accident Site)	28	Shankar Prasad Pratihari	Vill-Sukgora, P.O. Galia, P.S. Jajpur, Distt. Bankura, W.B.
2.	Niranjani Yadav (Died at Accident Site)	18	Avadhi Prasad Yadav	Vill-Lattipur P.O. Bihpur Dist, Bhagalpur, State-Bihar
3.	Badan Singh (Died at Accident Site)	35	Hari Bilas	Vill/P.O.-Budhara, P.S. Porsa, Distt- Morraina, MP
4.	Amit Kumar (Died at accident site)	22	Laddu Yadav	Vill-Lattipur, P.O. Bihpur Distt. Bhagalpur, State-Bihar
5.	Pappu Yadav (Died at Accident Site)	23	Devnandan Yadav	Vill-Lattipur, P.O. Bihpur Distt, Bhagalpur, State-Bihar
6.	Bhan Singh (Died at Accident Site)	30	Chitra Singh	Rajasthan
7.	Aman Singh (Died on 24.07.09 at AIIMS' Trauma Centre)	30	Bhawan Singh	Vill/P.O.-Budhara, P.S. Porsa, Distt. Morraina, MP
Major Injuries				
1.	Prakash	35	Sukhdev Yadav	Vill-Lattipur, P.O. Bihpur Distt., Bhagalpur, State-Bihar
2.	Chabi Raj		Munna Lal	Vill/PO-. Budhara P.S. Porsa, Distt- Morraina, M.P.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Mustaq Ahmed	30	Md Hasan	Vill-Bairam Pachpadwa, Puran Bazar, Distt. Balrampur, State-U.P.
4.	Mahadev			Vill-Budhara, The- Porsa, Distt.- Morrainia, MP
5.	Anil Yadav	28	Rajdev Yadav	Vill-Kuchmuchpahi, P.O.-Nainsand, Distt- Jaunpur,U.P.
6.	Amarnath Choudhary	32	Ramchander Choudhary	Vill-Bhandiwar, Distt. Begusarai, Bihar
Minor Injuries				
1.	Gopal Sen	24	Rabinder Sen	Nachini, Vill-Babapadar, Distt.-Khurda, State-Orissa
2.	Ravinder Kumar	20	Subhas Singh	Vill-Gauripur, P.O.- Laxmipur, Distt-Jamui, Bihar
3.	Hari Pad Sahu	25	Surender Nath Sahu	Ghatapurshottampur, Vill-Patasur, Distt- Purba Medinipur, W.B.
4.	Papu	26	Harvilas	Vill/PO-Budhara, P.S. Porsa, Distt- Morraina, MP
5.	Dhananjay Pandey	23	Parsuram Pandey	Vill-Nafanitpir, P.O.- Hamar, Rosara, Distt-Balia, UP
6.	Birju Yadav	20	Bhola Yadav	Vill-Jagat,P.O.- Kapilaeshwarsthan Distt-Madhubani, State-Bihar
7.	Dalip Kumar	20	Abhayas Yadav	Vill-Lattipur, P.O. Bihpur Distt, Bhagalpur, State-Bihar
8.	Manoj Singh	28	Ramiqbal Singh	Malli, P.O.-Garkha, Distt Chapra, Bihar

Statement-II

Details of the victims in the Crane Toppling Incident on 13.07.2009

Sl.No.	Name & Hospitals Admitted	Age	Father's Name	Address	Amt. of ex-gratia disbursed (Rs.)
1.	Sh. Tarvinder Singh (Crane-Driver-IJM) (AIIMS Trauma Centre)	23 Years	Sh. Nanak Singh	P.O.-BB/36A Shalimar Bagh, Delhi	Case has been approved for consideration under Major injury by M.D.
2.	Kedar Singh (Electrician-IJM), Admitted in AIIMS Trauma Centre initially but was subsequently admitted and operated in Mool Chand Hospital	45 Yrs.	Ram Chander Singh	Vill-Jenerawa, P.O.-Areraj, Distt- East Champaran (Bihar)	10,000/- ex-gratia is already paid further the case has been approved for consideration under Major injury by M.D.
3.	Sh. Satnam Singh (Mechanical Engineer/ Launching-IJM), Admitted in Mool Chand Hospital and has been advised Bed Rest	27 Yrs	G.S.. Flora	X/999, Chand Mohalla Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031	Case has been approved for consideration under Major injury by M.D.
Minor Injuries					
1.	Atteque-Ur-Rahman, JE/Civil/DMRC (AIIMS Trauma Center)	24 Yrs.	Wahid-ur-Rahman	Moh-Mastan, P.O.- Richha, Distt., Bareilly U.P.	10,000/-
2.	Manish Datta (Project Manager-Gammon) AIIMS Trauma Centre	35 Yrs.	Not Available	Not Available	Has been contacted many times but he has not turned up for receiving his ex-gratia.
3.	Satnam Singh (Crane Driver-IJM), (AIIMS Trauma Centre)	30 Yrs.	Prithvi Pal Singh	P.O.-Manik Ketan, Distt- Hosiarpur, State-Punjab	10,000/-

Fire safety of conference centre

3624. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to Delhi Fire Service, India's premier conference centre, where VIPs are invited frequently, is without a fire safety mechanism;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in April, 1990, following a major fire, Government had asked CPWD to restore the building that was not equipped with the safety mechanism; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir. India's premier conference centre, the Vigyan Bhavan, is fully equipped with the necessary fire safety mechanism duly cleared by Chief Fire Officer, Delhi.

(b) Renovation of the building was carried out during 1991-92 after the fire incident which included the fire safety mechanism as per recommendations of the Chief Fire Officer, Delhi in accordance with fire safety norms and NoC was issued by the Chief Fire Officer.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Jhuggies on Government Land

3625. SHRI MANGALA KISAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for which a large number of jhuggies have come up on Government land in CPWD Colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi;
- (b) whether the present CPWD officials are involved in setting these jhuggies;
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to remove these jhuggies; and
- (d) the action contemplated against the said CPWD officials?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There are no jhuggies within CPWD Colony at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, as such.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Kolkata under Water Metro Project

3626. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is indifferent to the previously announced Kolkata under water Metro-Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of coordination among the two Ministries of the Union Government and the State Government in connection with this project; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Union Government had earlier approved on 30.7.2008 the implementation of East-West Metro corridor project in Kolkata covering a length of 13.77 km. from Howrah Railway Station to Salt Lake

Sector-V at a total estimated cost of Rs. 4676 crore by Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (KMRCL). The Union Government has further approved on 19.2.2009 the extension of the alignment by about 900 metres and shifting of Howrah terminal point to Howrah Maidan and dropping of Bowbazar Station at a revised completion cost of Rs. 4874.58 crore.

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

Central Assistance

3627. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding various sectors, utilities, amenities in which Central assistance is being given during 2004-2009.
- (b) whether his Ministry provides financial assistance to States for civil facilities, bathroom, urinals, etc. for women in various cities; and
- (c) if so, the details of total assistance given to various States during financial year 2004-05 to 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The details of various sectors, utilities and amenities under the schemes of this Ministry in which Central assistance is being given during 2004-2009 are as under :-

(i) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) :- Government of India as launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 which envisages an assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore over the Mission period of 7 years (2005-12).

Ministry of Urban Development is entrusted to implement the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM in selected 65 Mission cities. Also, the Ministry is entrusted to implement the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) which is a subcomponent of JNNURM for all other towns and cities.

This JNNURM subsumed the schemes of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) and Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) in its UIDSSMT and UIG components respectively.

The admissible components under the schemes are as under :-

- Urban Renewal *i.e.* redevelopment of inner (old) city areas - this would include items like widening of narrow streets, shifting of industrial/commercial establishments from non-conforming (inner-city) to conforming (outer-city) areas to reduce congestion, replacement of old and worn-out water pipes by new/higher capacity ones, renewal of sewerage/drainage/solid waste disposal systems, etc.
- Water Supply (including de-salination plants) and sanitation.
- Sewerage and Solid Waste Management;
- Construction and improvement of drains/storm water drains;
- Construction/Upgradation of roads, highways/expressways;

- Parking lots/spaces on Public Private Partnership basis;
 - Development of heritage area;
 - Prevention and rehabilitation of soil erosion/landslides only in case of Special Category States where such problems are common and;
 - Preservation of water bodies;
 - Urban Transport & procurement of buses.
- (ii) National Urban Information System (NUIS) :- The Ministry of Urban Development has launched National Urban Information System (NUIS) Scheme on pilot basis to develop Geographic Information System (GIS) databases for 152 towns/cities in the country in two scales *i.e.*, 1:10000 and 1:2000. Apart from Urban Spatial Information System Component (USIS), the Scheme has another component *i.e.* National Urban Data Bank and Indicators (NUDBI). The major objectives of the Scheme are to : (i) develop attribute as well as spatial database for various levels of urban planning, ii) Use modern data sources, iii) develop standards, iv) develop urban indices, and v) capacity building. Generation of digital maps and GIS database is being done through Survey of India (SOI).
- (iii) Pooled Finance Development Scheme : The Central Government has set up a Pooled Finance Development Fund (PFDF) to provide credit enhancement to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to access market borrowings based on their credit-worthiness through State-Level-Pooled Finance Mechanism.
- (iv) Lumpsum provision for the Projects/Schemes for the benefit of North-Eastern States including Sikkim : - The Scheme was launched during the financial year 2001-02. It is now under implementation as per guidelines of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Under the scheme, 10% of the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of the Ministry is earmarked for the development of Urban infrastructure of North Eastern region. The admissible components under the scheme are water supply, solid waste management, sewerage, storm water drainage, bus terminus, roads, flyovers, etc.
- (v) Schemes of Urban Transport Planning : - The Ministry of Urban Development provides central financial assistance upto 80% of the total provides central financial assistance upto 80% of the total cost of traffic and transportation studies, feasibility studies, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) (limited upto 50%) etc. as Grant to States/UTs on case to case basis. The Scheme covers wide gamut of urban transport matters for promoting comprehensive and integrated urban transport planning, integrating landuse, Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), preparation of DPR, clean development studies, Intelligent Transport System studies etc.
- (vi) Solid Waste Management and Drainage in Air Field Towns :- In order to save costly defence aircrafts and invaluable lives of pilots from mishaps due to bird hit, this Ministry started a Central Sector Scheme for Solid Waste Management and Drainage in 10 selected towns, having airfields of Indian Air Force.
- (b) and (c) The financial assistance given by this Ministry under the Scheme for “Civic facilities” *inter-alia* benefit women. A list of such projects sanctioned for the North-Eastern States/cities which *inter-alia* benefit women is given as enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of projects sanctioned for North-Eastern States/Cities which inter-alia benefit women

List of projects sanctioned for North Eastern States/Cities which inter- and benefit women														
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Estimated Amount	Sanctioned Amount	Executing Agency	Release of Instalments (Date and Amount) (Rs. in Lakh)				Total	Amount			
						Ist	IIInd	IIIrd	IVth	Amount	to be	Disbursed	released	
Arunachal Pradesh														
1.	Working Women hostel old age and community toilet at Basar	2007-08	124.24	111.82	State Govt.	29.03.08	32.27					37.27	74.55	
2.	Construction of working hostel, marriage hall, old age home and community toilet at Nirjuli town	2007-08	200.51	180.46	State Govt.	29.03.08	60.15					60.15	120.31	
Manipur														
1.	Construction of Community Toilets Complex in Imphal, Manipur	2004-05	176.75	176.75	State Govt.	28.02.05	88.38					88.38	88.37	
Nagaland														
1	Construction of Pay & Use Toilets at Kohima, Nagaland	2004-05	16.54	14.62	State Govt.	02.02.05	7.31	18.03.08	7.31			14.62	0	
2	Construction of Sanitation and Waste Box at Mokokchung Town, Nagaland	2006-07	87.68	78.91	State Govt.	12.01.07	39.46					39.46	39.45	

Condition of Reservoirs

†3628. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of reservoirs have completely deteriorated across the country due to deficient rainfall in June and July;

(b) if so, the condition of reservoirs across the country till date; and

(c) the State-wise number of such important reservoir in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) and (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the storage position of 81 important reservoirs across the country. The total storage capacity of these 81 reservoirs at their full reservoir level is 151.77 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). The weekly storage position from 18.6.09 to 30.7.09 is given below :

Feature	As on	As on	As on	As on	As on	As on	As on
	18.06.09	25.06.09	02.07.09	09.07.09	16.07.09	23.07.09	30.07.09
Live storage (BCM)	15.068	14.184	14.318	16.003	20.731	34.327	52.79
As % of total live capacity	10%	9%	9%	11%	14%	23%	34.78%
As % of last year's live capacity during corresponding period	50%	44%	42%	43%	48%	79%	111.99%
As % of last 10 years average live capacity during corresponding period	73%	65%	55%	48%	55%	78%	101.63%

(c) State-wise list of important reservoirs, monitored by CWC, is given below:

State	No. of reservoirs
1	2
Himachal Pradesh	2
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	3

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
Jharkhand	5
Orissa	7
West Bengal	2
Tripura	1
Gujarat	8
Maharashtra	11
Uttar Pradesh	2
Uttarakhand	2
Madhya Pradesh	5
Chhattisgarh	2
Andhra Pradesh	5
Karnataka	14
Kerala	5
Tamil Nadu	6
TOTAL :	81

Projects under AIBP

3629. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government monitors the Centrally assisted irrigation projects of various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome as a result of monitoring of these projects, State-wise, till date;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for proper implementation of the programme;
- (d) whether Government propose to review all the ongoing irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) Yes, Sir. The projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) are monitored by the Regional offices of the Central Water Commission.

(b) and (c) The major and medium projects under AIBP are to be monitored by the Regional Offices of the Central Water Commission twice a year by paying field visit and discussions with the project execution agencies of the State Governments. Subsequently, monitoring reports are prepared incorporating *inter-alia* physical and financial achievements of the project, bottlenecks in implementation of projects and suggestions for expediting project execution.

The monitoring reports are sent to all concerned including concerned State Governments. The surface minor irrigation schemes are monitored by the State Governments themselves and Central Water Commission and Ministry of Water Resources are to monitor them on sample basis. The Ministry of Water Resources reviews performance of projects from time to time by convening Review Meetings with the officers of the State Governments. The officer of the Ministry of Water Resources also monitors physical and financial performance of the projects by field visit and discussions with the State Government officers.

(d) to (f) AIBP Review meetings are already held by the Ministry of Water Resources on various issues during May-June 2009 which *inter-alia* includes physical and financial achievements during 2008-09, programme of state governments for 2009-10, grant requirements of the State Governments for 2009-10, bottlenecks in implementation of projects and likely solutions.

Construction of river dam

†3630. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is any tension prevailing between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh due to construction of river dam in border areas of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case has reached the court;

(d) whether Centre has taken any step to solve this dispute;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether any memorandum has been submitted to the Centre on behalf of both the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) to (f) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up construction of the Polavaram project which is being opposed by the Government of Orissa demanding that project should be formulated that no submergence takes place due to back water of the project in the territory of Orissa. The Government of Orissa has also taken up the matter with the Government of India and also in Court.

Inter-State agreement dated 2.04.1980 among the Basin States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) and Orissa provides for construction of Polavaram project with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

FRL/MWL 150 ft by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The agreement *inter-alia* provides for either construction and maintaining protective embankments in Orissa and Chhattisgarh or paying compensation to land and property likely to be affected above RL 150 feet due to all effects including backwater effect at the cost of Polavaram Project. As per this agreement, the option is to be exercised by the affected States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh at the time of construction. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has kept provision in the Detailed Project Report of the Polavaram project for construction of protective embankment.

There is no consensus among the party States on the extent of submergence from the project. Cases have been filed by Government of Orissa in Supreme Court which are continuing in the court.

Availability of ground water

3631. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system available in the country for assessing the availability of ground water in various regions; and

(b) if so, the trends in the depth at which ground water is available in different regions over the last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) Availability of ground water in the country is assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the State Ground Water Organizations.

(b) The details of water level range in different States of the country have been given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise water level range in the country (January, 2009)

States/UTs	Depth to ground water (in meter)	
	Min.	Max.
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	21.15
Assam	0.33	17.09
Bihar	0.17	11.45
Chandigarh	2.3	15.01
Chhattisgarh	0.42	28.13
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.65	9.48
Delhi	1.03	61.33

1	2	3
Gujarat	0.01	53.77
Haryana	0.32	48.08
Himachal Pradesh	0.67	55
Jammu & Kashmir	0.28	32.25
Jharkhand	1.1	16.8
Karnataka	0.05	29.2
Kerala	0.35	22.88
Madhya Pradesh	0.65	47
Maharashtra	0.01	62.3
Meghalaya	0.15	7.45
Orissa	0.08	12.42
Punjab	0.4	34.94
Rajasthan	0.00	110.74
Tamil Nadu	0.00	51.66
Tripura	1.16	8.45
Uttar Pradesh	0.16	37.27
Uttarakhand	1.73	59
West Bengal	0.09	20.17

Ground water potential

3632. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the ground water potential of each State in India and how much of it has been exploited so far;

(b) the States that are likely to be hit for want of sufficient ground water potential and what could be the possible measure to recharge and maintain them; and;

(c) whether the Ground Water Act been effective or redundant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) The State-wise availability of annual replenishable ground water and the stage of its exploitation are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Government circulated to the States/UTs the Model Bill to facilitate regulation and control of ground water development. 11 States/UTs have enacted ground water legislation.

Statement

State-wise ground water resources availability and stage of development (Assessment Year 2004)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resource (BCW/yr)	Stage of ground water development (%)	No. of over-exploited and critical Blocks/Talukas/Mandals	Critical
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36.50	45	219	77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.56	0.04	0	0
3.	Assam	27.23	22	0	0
4.	Bihar	29.19	39	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	14.93	20	0	0
6.	Delhi	0.30	170	7	0
7.	Goa	0.28	27	0	0
8.	Gujarat	15.81	76	31	12
9.	Haryana	9.31	109	55	11
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.43	30	0	0
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.70	14	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	5.58	21	0	0
13.	Karnataka	15.93	70	65	3
14.	Kerala	6.84	47	5	15
15.	Madhya Pradesh	37.19	48	24	5
16.	Maharashtra	32.96	48	7	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Manipur	0.38	0.65	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	1.15	0.18	0	0
19.	Mizoram	0.04	0.90	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0.36	3	0	0
21.	Orissa	23.09	18	0	0
22.	Punjab	23.78	145	103	5
23.	Rajasthan	11.56	125	140	50
24.	Sikkim	0.08	16	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	23.07	85	142	33
26.	Tripura	2.19	9	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	76.35	70	37	13
28.	Uttarakhand	2.27	66	2	0
29.	West Bengal	30.36	42	0	1
	TOTAL STATES :	432.42	58	837	226
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.330	4	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	0.023	0	0	0
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.063	14	0	0
4.	Daman & Diu	0.009	107	1	0
5.	Lakshadweep	0.012	63	0	0
6.	Puducherry	0.160	105	1	0
	TOTAL UTs :	0.597 (~0.60)	33	2	0
	GRAND TOTAL	433.02	58	839	226

Non-Potable Water

†3633. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that upon research it has been found that the polluted and non-potable water is available in the form of underground water in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal;

(b) if so, whether Government has decided to undertake research work on the similar lines in other States too; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) The studies carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have revealed occurrence of polluted and non-potable underground water in certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and some other States.

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

National Ganga River Basin Authority

†3634. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Ganga River Basin Authority has been set up to improve water management in country;

(b) if so, facts thereof and responsibilities assigned to the Authority;

(c) whether annually available quantity of water in Ganga basin, has been estimated;

(d) if so, the average amount of water obtained from this basin; and

(e) what percentage of this available quantity of water to average water available annually across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009 has set up the "National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)." The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) The average annual water resources potential in the Ganga Basin has been estimated to be 525 Billion Cubic Meter by Central Water Commission. This is about 28% of the total average annual water resources potential in the country.

System deficiencies of channels

3635. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the approval of 27 project proposals amounting to Rs. 45.60 crores for correction of system deficiencies of channels upto 150 cusec capacity in Chambal command area of Rajasthan State;

(b) if so, the action taken so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Government of Rajasthan for correction of system deficiencies in 27 distributary systems of up to 150 cusec capacity in the Chambal command area of Rajasthan amounting to Rs. 45.60 crores has been approved by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Sharing of Ravi Beas water

3636. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per 1981 agreement for sharing of Ravi Beas water there is a provision "until such time Rajasthan is in position to utilize its full share, Punjab may utilize the water surplus to Rajasthan's requirement;

(b) whether Government intends to direct BBMB to restore remaining 0.60 MAF to Rajasthan;

(c) if so, by what specific time; and

(d) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) The 1981 agreement re-allocating the mean supply of surplus Ravi-Beas waters contains a provision which states "until such time as Rajasthan is in position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirements".

(b) to (d) On 12.07.2004, the State of Punjab enacted the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating the 1981 agreement and all other agreements relating to Ravi Beas waters. The report of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on a Presidential Reference filed before it on 22.07.2004 questioning the constitutional validity of the Act will facilitate further course of action in the resolution of the issue of restoration of remaining 0.60 MAF to Rajasthan.

Lining of water courses

3637. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Rajasthan has submitted proposals for lining of water courses on completion of lining works of distributaries/minors of Gang Command under Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (RWSRP) so that full benefits of expenditure incurred under above scheme may be ensured;

(b) whether any project proposal amounting to Rs. 538.00 crores for implementation of Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme in the command area of Gang and demonstration of bio-drainage is pending with his Ministry;

(c) if so, the time schedule for sanctioning the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) In accordance with the guidelines of the scheme, a project proposal amounting to Rs. 538.00 crore submitted by Government of Rajasthan for implementation of Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme including Lining of Water Courses in the command area of Gang canal has been approved subject to the condition that sanction order for inclusion of Gang canal under CADWM Programme will be issued only after submission of the completion report on one of the on-going CADWM Projects by the Government of Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan has, so far, not submitted completion report of any of the on-going CADWM projects. Regarding demonstration of bio-drainage, no such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan.

(c) The issuance of sanction order for inclusion of Gang canal under CADWM Programme would depend on submission of completion report of one of the on-going CADWM Project by the Government of Rajasthan.

(d) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects

3638. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA :

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 89 major and 116 medium irrigation ongoing projects in the Eleventh Plan, which could not be completed as per schedule, major projects being of 1992 vintage;

(b) whether total ultimate irrigation potential of these projects is 12.30 mha. of which potential of 5.792 mha. is likely to have been created by end of Tenth Plan, the balance potential of 6.508 mha. is yet to be created;

(c) the total loss to the nation, as 'cost escalation', due to delay; and

(d) whether above scenario is matter of serious concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) Normal period for completion of irrigation projects are taken as 15 to 20 years for Major projects and 5 to 10 years for medium projects. Accordingly, the major projects started during or before 1992 and medium projects started during or before VIII Plan which have been continuing as ongoing projects in XI Plan, may be considered as delayed projects. As per the assessment of the Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Plan, there are 89 major and 116 medium ongoing projects in the XI Plan. These projects are having 12.30 mha of ultimate irrigation potential out of which 5.792 mha (anticipated) have been created till end of X Plan, leaving 6.508 mha of balance irrigation potential to be developed. Total Latest Estimated Cost of these projects is Rs. 1,45,746.50 Crore out of which Rs. 84,185.89 crore is anticipated to have been incurred till end of X Five Year Plan.

However, the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Five Year Plan had also anticipated that 48 Major and 91 Medium projects would be completed during X Plan, out of which, some of the projects could not be completed, adding 11 Major and 40 Medium delayed projects to the above and thus totaling to 100 Major projects started during or before 1992 and 156 Medium projects started during or before VIII Plan which are ongoing.

(c) and (d) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding and priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments. The projects are usually delayed due to resettlement and rehabilitation issues and shortage of funds with State Government which results in thin spreading of the resources. Concerned with the large number of ongoing projects, the Union Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 in order to provide financial assistance to State Governments for expeditious completion of ongoing projects. So far, Union Government has provided central assistance amounting to Rs. 36533.5132 crore to various State Governments. Since launch of the AIBP, 103 major/medium projects/protect components are reported to have been completed so far.

Fifth Asian Regional Conference

3639. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian national committee on Irrigation and Drainage has decided to host 60th International Executive Council and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage together with its Fifth Asian Regional Conference in 2009;

(b) whether theme of conference is improvement in efficiency of irrigation projects through technology upgradation and better operation and maintenance; and

(c) if so, how many countries are there and the main subjects discussed in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) to (c) The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is organizing Fifth Asian Regional Conference (ARC) and 60th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting at New Delhi during December 6-11, 2009 jointly with Ministry of Water Resources. The Theme of the ARC is "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operating and Maintenance". The Sub-theme for the Conference are (a) Modernization of Public/State Operated Irrigation System and Services (b) Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation Development and Management (c) Integrated Approach in Agricultural drainage (d) Capacity Development for Modern Irrigation Management (e) Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources Availability and Crop Productivity (f) Legal Aspect in Sharing of Water Resources. A special session on ground water recharge has also been planned on the concluding day. ICID has informed that it expects participation of delegates from about 60 countries.

Command Area Development Programme

3640. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to implement Command Area Development Programme (CADP) as State Sector Scheme;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the number of projects under CADP undertaken from the West Bengal in the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the progress of above programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme has been approved as a State Sector Scheme for four years of XI Five Year Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12) with an outlay of Rs. 1600 crore.

(c) Four projects namely (i) DVC System, Burdwan, (ii) Kangasbati, Bankura, (iii) Mayurakshi, Suri-Bribhum and (iv) Teesta Project, Siliguri have been continuing as on-going under the CADWM Programme in the State of West Bengal for the last five years *i.e.* 2004-05 to 2008-09.

(d) An amount of Rs. 521.746 lakh has been released and an area of 19505 ha. has been covered with On Farm Development (OFD) works during the last five years in the State of West Bengal.

Hydrology Project

3641. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes/schemes undertaken under Hydrology Project Phase-II in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether the programmes/schemes undertaken under Hydrology Project Phase-I have been completed in the State of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) Hydrology Project is not being implemented in the State of West Bengal. Therefore, no programmes/schemes are undertaken or completed in the State under Hydrology Project Phase-I and Phase-II.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Study of Ganga

3642. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new study of major river systems of the world has revealed that Ganga is rapidly losing its water;

(b) if so, the reasons for this phenomenon, according to study;

(c) whether the feasibility of taking any short-term measures has been examined; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) A paper titled "Changes in Continental Freshwater Discharge from 1984 to 2004" based on a study carried out by Mr. Aiguo Dai and others has been published in the Journal of Climate. The authors have concluded that the results reveal large variations in yearly stream flow for most of the world's large rivers and for continental discharge.

From the paper, it appears that the flow of river Ganga at Farakka has been used for which the observational record for the period from January, 1976 to December, 2000 is reported to be derived

using observation at a nearby or upstream station through linear regression. However, there is no specific mention in the paper about extent of variation in the flow of river Ganga.

The analysis of available data at important sites by Central Water Commission do not indicate any significant trend about change in flow pattern of river Ganga.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Kishanganga Project

3643. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have begun bilateral talks on Kishanganga project through the joint water commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that differences continue among Pakistan officials over India's position on the project; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of these differences being resolved in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) The Kishanganga HE project, as run of the river hydroelectric project, has been discussed in the 99th, 100th, 101st and 103rd meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission held in May/June 2007, May/June 2008, July 2008 and May/June 2009 respectively.

(b) and (c) Pakistan is of the view that differences/disputes over the project have arisen and need to be resolved under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 relating to the Settlement of Differences and Disputes. India has fully explained the compliance of the project with the provisions of the Treaty and has therefore affirmed that the stage of differences/disputes has not arisen and the issues can be further discussed at Commission level.

The Treaty provides for the settlement of issues at Permanent Indus Commission level or at Government level by mutual agreement or, through a Neutral Expert and /or Negotiators/Court of Arbitration and the resolution of the issues is contingent upon either of these.

National Rivers

†3644. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the time has come for Government to improve the condition of all the rivers in the country after the declaration of Ganga as a National River;

(b) whether Government is realising the urgency of paying proper attention towards other main rivers like Yamuna, Gomati, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery Brahmaputra, etc.; and

(c) whether it is deemed urgent to give all these rivers the status of National Rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) to (c) The National River Conservation Plan of Ministry of Environment and Forests covers pollution abatement works for polluted stretches of 37 rivers in 166 towns of 20 States. The main rivers covered include Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Satluj, Damodar, etc. The Central Government has declared Ganga as a National River and constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority to adopt a holistic and integrated approach with river basin as the unit of planning.

Funds under AIBP

†3645. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has planned to make funds available to State Governments for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the funds provided to States under AIBP, so far, State-wise;

(c) whether several States have demanded to Central Government for amending the guidelines meant for AIBP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of central assistance provided to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) so far are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*)

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The liberalization of the AIBP guidelines as per demands of the State Governments is a continuous process taken up by the Union Government is consultation with State Government and other stake holders from time to time. The prominent demand of the State Government is for liberalization of funding by the Union Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*State-wise details of Central Assistance (CA)/grant released under
AIBP from 1996-97 to 2009-10*

Sl. State		Amount (in Rs. Crores)														
No.		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.2500	74.0000	79.6700	65.0150	95.0200	281.6600	33.1860	205.5300	87.5470	311.3815	843.4220	987.7692	855.1800	662.6610	4617.2917
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	7.5000	7.5000	15.0000	1.5000	20.0000	10.0000	18.0000	27.0000	47.1800	33.9580	0.0000	187.6380
3.	Assam	5,2300	12.4000	13.9500	14.5400	24.0770	14.5210	16.2738	19.2015	16.9300	34.9332	30.2685	77.3380	405.9540	116.8989	802.5169
4.	Bihar	13.5000	5.1500	36.1850	129.6950	151.7750	3.4200	14.4805	74.6440	37.2150	16.2380	3.2300	62.2400	109.7029	18.6300	676.1054
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.0000	4.5000	9.5000	10.5200	13.9300	48.2000	104.0000	74.6300	2.9250	7.6645	10.7050	96.9640	193.0402	60.8853	637.4640
6.	Goa	0.0000	5.2500	0.0000	3.5000	61.6500	58.0000	0.0000	2.0000	0.6500		1.9100	32.4800	39.2300	0.0000	204.6700
7.	Gujarat	74.7730	196.9000	423.8200	272.7000	421.8500	581.6900	1000.3300	650.3590	530.5000	339.6000	121.8885	585.7200	258.6100	0.000	5458.7405
8.	Haryana	32.5000	12.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	18.0000	7.7350	11.1350	6.0000	3.1700	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	90.5400
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0000	6.5000	5.0000	11.0470	18.0150	3.2440	8.1500	14.6920	3.6900	30.0785	3.9300	114.0500	119.3178	0.0000	337.7143
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.3000	0.0000	0.0000	4.6800	10.4600	11.0700	34.9990	21.5450	12.7445	36.6878	37.7716	199.2251	393.0661	0.0000	763.5491

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11.	Jharkhand	0.0000	8.8900	11.6400	14.3450	5.7150	10.8200	9.6700	1.8330	21.2850	5.0370	1.2900	9.2244	3.7200	0.0000	103.4694
12.	Karnataka	61.2500	90.5000	94.500	0157.1400	171.0000	492.5000	620.8500	266.74780	396.2965	140.7759	160.3729	349.9000	442.4190	182.7980	3626.7790
13.	Kerala	3.7500	15.000	0.0000	0.0000	22.4000	11.2750	5.6650	31.0000	49.4400	9.3591	16.6468	0.0000	0.9045	3.8120	169.2524
14.	Madhya Pradesh	63,2500	110.0000	81.2500	95.3250	151.3280	215.4100	220.0000	568.4400	516.7010	168.0966	48.3100	500.3450	473.7824	446.7544	3658.9924
15.	Maharashtra	14.0000	55.0000	50.8600	49.8750	97.0200	39.1000	133.1341	164.3950	529.2860	167.3822	465.5213	972.2500	2257.8318	1.9785	4997.6339
16.	Manipur	4.3000	26.0000	10.7800	21.8100	1.5000	9.3600	19.5000	15.5000	13.0000	76.7035	156.3042	103.9870	221.6733	0.000	679.4180
17.	Meghalaya	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.6938	5.5120	4.4700	1.5000	1.0880	1.7438	1.5760	0.7500	1.1600	24.8009	0.0000	45.2935
18.	Mizoram	0.0000	0.000	0.0000	1.4330	1.4330	2.0000	0.7500	9.3000	5.0000	9.3150	14.2354	34.3434	50.7176	0.0000	128.5274
19.	Nagaland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.7300	5.0000	5.0000	2.6590	8.0000	4.0000	7.9987	10.5995	40.5100	48.5979	0.0000	135.0951
20.	Orissa	48.4500	85.0000	71.5000	90.2500	100.3200	168.4750	179.5700	154.6850	24.2230	151.3742	133.8846	624.3590	724.4387	201.7852	2758.3174
21.	Punjab	67.5000	100.0000	0.0000	42.0000	55.6200	113.6900	36.6600	0.0000		26.3166		13.5000	9.5400	0.0000	464.8266
22.	Rajasthan	2.6750	42.008	140.0500	106.6650	78.4670	96.3150	174.3850	499.8370	352.9040	90.2952	11.6000	156.5300	178.6200	8.1100	1938.4532
23.	Sikkim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.3600	0.0000	2.4000	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500	0.9113	3.3236	3.2400	0.0000	0.0000	13.4849
24.	Tripura	3.7730	5.1000	3.9750	34.6530	13.8830	21.0630	13.3947	13.3769	11.0000	31.9960	22.5131	8.1000	43.1750	0.0000	226.0017
25.	Tamil Nadu	20.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000				0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	20.0000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	43.65000	78.0000	76.5000	286.0000	315.9000	364.6900	359.0000	274.7850	175.9200	133.1280	81.8954	150.6900	315.4732	9.0000	2654.4816
27.	Uttarakhand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	25.1625	25.5525	38.9917	80.4387	84.7298	265.6509	371.6580	35.5032	927.6864
28.	West Bengal	5,0000	20.0000	10.0000	25.0000	26.8250	38.6080	28.1330	3.1440	13.4610	0.0287	6.7000	8.9500	22.8100	0.9144	209.5741
TOTAL :		500.0010	952.1900	1119.1800	1450.4768	1856.2000	2601.9810	3061.7026	3128.5009	2867.3372	1900.3142	2301.9722	5445.7051	7598.2213	1749.7309	36533.5132

Water for irrigation

†3646. SHRI AJAY CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of water required for irrigation in Haryana and how the same is met;
- (b) the quantum of irrigation water provided to each district in Haryana; and
- (c) whether farmers would get sufficient quantum of water out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) As per information made availability by the Government of Haryana, the quantum of water required for irrigation in Haryana is 36 Million Acre Feet (MAF) including water required for drinking purposes and the quantum of water available in Haryana from all sources is 14 MAF.

(b) Government of Haryana have also stated that the quantum of water provided is System-wise and not District-wise. Further, the water indented is 6.942 MAF and available through Bhakra System is 6.743 MAF. The quantum of water required/available through Yamuna System is 3.382 MAF. The quantum of water available from other sources like rains, tubewells etc. is about 4 MAF.

(c) The State Government has further stated that efforts are being made to fulfill the requirements of water for irrigation in Haryana by introducing various schemes for optimum use of rain water like Dadupur Navi Canal, Mewat Canal and Naraingarh Branch etc.

Flood in Orissa

3647. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that major flood is looming large over Orissa State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of people have been ruined in this flood; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) Orissa is a flood prone State and it experiences flood almost every year with varying magnitude. This year, the State has received 32% more rainfall than the normal by the end of July 2009 causing floods in 14 districts.

(c) and (d) As per the information made available by the State Government of Orissa, around 3.54 lakh people have been affected and the crops in 1.26 lakh hectares area in 14 districts have been damaged by the flood.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chrome in ground water

3648. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether hazardous chrome is found in the ground water of some State especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps being taken to protect the common man from such chrome in the future; and
- (e) the allocation made and amount spent during the last five years in this regard especially in the rural agency areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) and (b) As per information received from Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), occurrence of chromium in ground water in excess of 0.05 parts per million (desirable limit as per Drinking Water Standards 10500:1991) has been reported at some locations in Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration), Delhi, Himachal Pradesh (Kala Amb industrial area), Jammu & Kashmir (Kathua and Rajouri districts), Orissa (Sukinda valley, district Jajpur), Tamil Nadu (Ambattur Industrial area, Chennai), Rajasthan (Udaipur, Kota, Alwar & Jaipur districts), Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi), West Bengal (North 24 Paraganas and Murshidabad districts)

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted a study on ground water quality in Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam cities of Andhra Pradesh during 2002-07. In the metropolitan city of Hyderabad, all the ground water samples were found well within the desirable limits for drinking water. As regards, the metropolitan city of Visakhapatnam, almost all the samples were found well within the desirable limit for drinking water.

(c) As per information received from CGWB and CPCB, the source of chromium may be either geogenic or due to disposal of chromium bearing wastes in urban and industrial areas.

(d) and (e) The steps taken by the CPCB to protect common man from chromium contamination include :

- i. Prohibition on disposal of chromium bearing wastes on land under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008.
- ii. Provision of common facilities for treatment and disposal facilities (TSDF) of hazardous wastes including chromium bearing wastes.
- iii. Inventory and monitoring of hazardous waste generation including chromium waste.

- iv. Issuance of authorization for handling such hazardous wastes like chromium waste under the Hazardous Wastes (Management Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008.

Hundred Days Programme

3649. SHRI SABIR ALI :

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the hundred days programme of the Ministry;
- (b) the other programmes that would be taken up after hundred days period; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure full utilization of current year's budget?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) As per the Hundred Days Programme, this Ministry proposes to execute the following:-

- * Launch of Mega Summer Camp and Adventure Camps for NSS volunteers
- * National Launch of Traditional Skills and Employability Project for Rural Youth by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
- * Completion of Youth Hostel in Taran Taran, Punjab
- * Review of the service conditions of Youth Hostels Wardens
- * Holding of a Conference of State Sports Ministers in the month of August 2009
- * Launch of National Campaign for Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Kehl Abhiyan (PYKKA)/National Rural Sports Programme
- * Completion of infrastructure projects undertaken by Sports Authority of India (SAI)
- * Strengthening of Laxmibai National University of Physical Education (LNUPE), Gwalior by way of opening of four extension centres
- * Holding of a National Conference on National Playing Field Association of India (NPFAI)
- * Selection of sportspersons, coaches and corporate entities for various National Sports Awards viz., Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dhyan Chand Award, Dronacharya Award and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar
- * Sanction of funds from National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)
- * Proposals for training of Elite athletes for Asian Games 2010

- * Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Hungary and Turkey and review and workout action plan under the existing MoUs with Indonesia, Cuba and UK under International Cooperation Programme.
- * Monitoring of all projects and issues concerning the preparations for Commonwealth Games 2010.
- * Creation of Communit Sports facilities in Delhi as part of Legacy Planning CWG 2010
- * Finalization of Action plan for preparation of Asian Games, 2010
- * Finalization and implementation of New Schemes viz. Scheme for promotion of Sports and Games amongst Disabled Scheme for the Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools, Colleges and Universities

(b) The other programmes that would be taken up by this Ministry after hundred days period are as given below :-

- * 122 new Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) would be made operational in phased manner.
- * Work of construction of Office-cum-Training Centre for Nehru Yuva Kendra, Alipur (Delhi) would be completed in a phased manner.
- * Posts of Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Executive Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) would be filled up.
- * Revision of the Youth Hostel scheme and completion of the construction of the following Youth Hostels:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kadapah (Andhra Pradesh) | 2. Roing (Arunachal Pradesh) |
| 3. Thoubal (Manipur) | 4. Churachandpur (Manipal) |
| 5. Jalandhar (Punjab) | |

(c) Funds allocated to the Department of Sports and the Department of Youth Affairs for the year 2009-10 will be utilized fully through regular monitoring of expenditure.

International boxers serving guests

3650. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that International level boxers are made to serve guests;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

- (c) whether Government has proposed to conduct an enquiry into the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of explanation Government has called on ill-treatment which our players are being subjected to at National Institute of Sports (NIS)?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (e) The news report that appeared in the Delhi Edition of Hindustan Times has come to notice of Government. An internal enquiry conducted into the incident has revealed that diploma students of the institute had served refreshments to the members of the selection committee comprising eminent sportspersons, who visited the institute in connection with selection trials for participation in the World Boxing Championship, which is a normal courtesy extended to such distinguished visitors. The students are not engaged in any cleaning, cooking or serving activity in the mess. Further, there has been no complaint of any such maltreatment from any student or player at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

Amount spent on Rural Sports Scheme

†3641. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount spent on each item of work under the Rural Sports Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that India has bagged highest number of gold medals in Asian Games; and
- (c) if so, the details of the schemes especially meant for promoting these sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) Government has, for the first time, introduced a centrally sponsored scheme titled 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan' (PYKKA) with national coverage for the promotion of basic sports infrastructure and sports competitions in all village and block panchayats of the country. The XIth Five Year Plan outlay for this scheme, which was launched in the financial year 2008-09, is Rs. 1500 crore. The scheme envisages to cover around 2.50 lakh village panchayats and 6,400 block panchayats (including their equivalent units) in a phased manner over a period of 10 years at an annual coverage of 10%. The scheme is implemented through the State Governments/UTs. Under the scheme, schools are original overriding for the development of playing fields.

Details of funds released State-wise under the Scheme of PYKKA are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Details of Funds sanctioned/released under PYKKA during 2008-09
and 2009-10 (Upto 10th January, 2009)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Village Panchayats approved	No. of Block Panchayats approved	Total Amount Sanctioned	2008-09 Funds released	2009-10 (As on 10.7.2009)	
						Funds Released	Funds Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2190	113	25.98	12.99		
2.	Assam	333	22	4.81			
3.	Bihar	847	53	10.44	5.22		
4.	Chhattisgarh	982	14	10.11			5.06
5.	Goa	19	4	0.35			
6.	Gujarat	1369	22	14.20		5.55	1.55
7.	Haryana	619	12	6.51	3.25		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	324	8	4.02	2.01		
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	413	14	5.32	2.66		
10.	Kerala	100	15	1.60	0.80		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2304	31	23.65	11.82		
12.	Maharashtra	2689	35	27.55	8.91	1.83	3.03
13.	Manipur	79	4	1.08	0.87		
14.	Mizoram	82	3	1.07	0.85		
15.	Nagaland	110	5	1.4	1.18		
16.	Orissa	623	31	7.34	3.67		
17.	Punjab	1233	14	12.55	6.27		
18.	Rajasthan	869	24	9.43	3.71		1.01
19.	Sikkim	16	10	0.67	0.54		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Tamil Nadu	1261	38	13.82	5.00		1.91
21.	Tripura	104	4	1.36	1.09		
22.	Uttar Pradesh	5203	82	53.90	10.00	11.05	5.90
23.	Uttarakhand	750	10	8.89	3.00	0.60	0.85
24.	West Bengal	335	33	4.63			
SUB-TOTAL		22,854	601	250.77	83.85	19.02	19.92

Funds released for organizing annual Competitions through SAI NSNIS, Patiala

8.15

GRAND TOTAL 92.00

Programmes run through NGOs

3652. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes being run/implemented by department of Sports and department of Youth Affairs separately, through NGOs in various States, State-wise;

(b) the details of fund allocated for each programme during last three years;

(c) the details of eligibility criteria for NGOs, programme-wise;

(d) the details of funds allocated to various NGOs, State-wise and NGO-wise for last three years;

(e) whether new Government has started any new programme to be run/implemented through NGOs; and

(f) if so, the details, State-wise alongwith the eligibility criteria, programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) A scheme namely, National Programme for Youth and Adolescents Development (NPYAD) is being implemented by the Department of Youth Affairs with effect from 01.04.2008 under which financial assistance is given to the NGOs, State Governments/Union Territories, Educational Institutions etc. for holding various youth programmes/activities. There is no NGO related scheme at present in the Department of Sports.

(b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in an effort to provide opportunity for holistic development of youth, has formulated a scheme with effect from 1.4.2008, christened as National Programme for Youth and Adolescents Development (NPYAD) by merger of four Central sector

grant-in-aid schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports during 10 Plan namely, Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, Promotion of National Integration, Promotion of Adventure and Development and Empowerment of Adolescents. The funds allocated under these schemes for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as under :-

(Rupees in crores)

Name of Scheme	Funds allocated	
	2006-07	2007-08
Promotion of National Integration	10.00	13.00
Promotion of Adventure	3.50	4.00
Promotion of Youth Activities and Training	4.53	3.50
Development and Empowerment of Adolescent	5.70	11.00
Funds allocated for National Programme for Youth and Adolescents Development (NPYAD)		Rs. 34.70 crores during financial year 2008-09

(c) All India level Organizations recognized by the Ministry, State Governments, State Departments/Directorates for Youth Affairs/Youth Welfare and other District Level Offices in States, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, Educational Institutions including Polytechnics and Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and Voluntary Agencies registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 (or other appropriate State law), public trusts and non-profit making companies who have completed at least 3 years of registration on the date of application and has average annual programme expenditure of Rs. 5.00 lakh or more during the last 3 years are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.

(d) The details of funds sanctioned to various NGOs, State-wise and NGO-wise for last three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09 are given at the Annexure [See Appendix 217 Annexure No. 22]

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

New National Sports Policy

3653. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a new National Sports Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has not consulted Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and National Sports Federation (NSF) while drafting the new National Sports Policy and they have rejected the revised draft of the new National Sports Policy; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to address the concerns of the IOA and NSF in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Government had earlier proposed to replace the existing National Sports Policy, but after going through consultations with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and recognized National Sports Federations, and taking into account the recent initiatives taken by the Government, for both broad-basing sports and promoting excellence in sports, it has been decided, to continue with the 2001 National Sports Policy.

Preparation for success in Commonwealth Games-2010

3654. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes/action plan formulated so far by Government for preparing the Indian team for success in the Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) the name/title of the sporting event for which special attention has been given;

(c) whether India, style wrestling, Power Lifting, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho sports etc. have been included in the Commonwealth Games;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for improving the level of performance of sports persons in the Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATEEK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) To improve the performance of the Indian contingent in the Commonwealth Games, 2010, a Scheme with allocation of Rs. 678.00 crore (2008-09 to 2010-11) is being implemented for providing training to elite sportspersons in all the disciplines of the Commonwealth games, 2010.

(b) The Scheme will cover all the sports disciplines included in the Commonwealth Games to be held at Delhi during 3rd to 14th October, 2010. These disciplines are Archery, Athletics, Aquatics, Badminton, Boxing (M), Cycling, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball (W), Rugby 7s(M), Shooting, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Weightlifting, Wrestling Elite Athletes with Disability (Athletics, Powerlifting, and Swimming).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Support as per the provisions of the Scheme for Preparation of Indian Team for Commonwealth Games, 2010 is being provided to the sportspersons for improving their performance.

Proposals Submitted for NOC

†3655. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of project proposals regarding Commonwealth Games submitted to Central and Delhi Government for No Objection Certificate during the period from 2007 to 2009;

(b) the total number of proposals sanctioned out of these proposals;

(c) the dates on which Sports Authority of India submitted proposals related to Nehru stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium and other Stadiums to Central Government and State Government and the time taken in sanctioning them;

(d) the names of the departments to which proposals were sent for preparation of Commonwealth Games; and

(e) the persons to be held responsible for not completing the preparation for Commonwealth Games on schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBUPU PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of project proposals, submitted by various agencies, to the Central and State Governments for obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' and number of proposals sanctioned, are indicated below :

Sl.No.	Name of the Agency	No. of proposals submitted	No. of proposals sanctioned
1.	Central Public Works Department	15	14
2.	Delhi Development Authority	24	21
3.	New Delhi Municipal Council	04	04
4.	University of Delhi	10	08
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia University	01	01
6.	All India Times Association	06	06

(c) and (d) Statement (stadium-wise) indicating the (i) date of submission of the project proposal by Central Public Works Department in respect of 05(five) stadium of Sports Authority of India viz. Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, SPM Swimming Complex and Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, (ii) date of approval by concerned authorities and (iii) the names of departments to which proposals were sent, is enclosed (See below).

(e) The sport infrastructure projects related to the Commonwealth Games, 2010, will be completed well in time for the Games.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details about various stadium of Sports Authority of India and the names of the department to which proposals were sent for the preparation of Commonwealth Games

I. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex

Sl.No.	Authority	Date	WADA	Main Roof and Support structure	Hostel	Weight lifting	Services
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Environmental Impact Assessment	Date of submission	-	28.02.07	-	-	-
		Date of approval	-	05.09.07	-	-	-
2.	Archological Survey of India	Date of submission	-	09.03.07	09.03.07	-	09.03.07
		Date of approval	-	-	29.10.07	-	29.10.07
3.	New Delhi Municipal Council/ Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Layout)	Date of submission	05.06.2007	19.03.07	14.07.08	20.12.2007	19.03.07
		Date of approval	21.11.2007	13.06.07	09.07.08	14.04.2008	13.06.07
4.	Airport Authority of India	Date of submission	-	July 06	-	-	July 06
		Date of approval	-	10.05.07	-	-	10.05.07
		Date of submission	05.06.2007	03.05.07	-	31.03.200	03.05.07
5	Delhi Urban Arts Commission	Date of approval	21.11.2007	13.06.07	Provisional approval given by Delhi Urban Arts Commission on 19.06.08	19.02.2009	13.06.07

6.	Fire Department	Date of submission	05.05.2007	03.05.07	15.04.08	11.03.2008	03.05.07
		Date of approval	13.07.2007	17.12.07	24.04.08	31.10.2008	17.12.07
7.	Delhi Jal Board	Date of submission	-	18.02.07	18.12.07	-	18.02.07
		Date of approval	-	22.05.08	22.05.08	-	22.05.08
8.	Tree Cutting	Date of submission	28.06.2007	29.06.07	29.06.07	28.06.2007	29.06.07
		Date of approval	20.12.2007	23.10.07	23.10.07	20.12.2007	23.10.07
9.	Delhi Pollution Control Committee	Date of submission	-	17.09.07	17.09.07	-	17.09.07
		Date of approval	-	13.05.08	13.05.08	-	13.05.08
		Date of submission	-	-	14.01.08	-	-
10.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Serivces) Sewerage	Date of approval	-	-	09.07.08	-	-
11.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Water)	Date of submission	-	-	18.02.07	-	-
		Date of approval	-	-	22.05.08	-	-
12.	Ministry of Environment and Forests (Regional office)	Date of submission	-	28.02.07	28.02.07	-	28.02.07
		Date of approval	-	05.09.07	05.09.07	-	05.09.07

II. Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex

Sl.No.	Authority	Date	Master Plan	IG Indoor Stadium (Gymnastics)	Wrestling Stadium	Cycling Velodrome	Hostel	Warm-up Hall for Gymnastics	Services
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Environmental Impact Assessment	Date of submission	06.07.07	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Date of approval	05.09.07	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Archeological Survey of India	Date of submission Date of approval	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
3.	New Delhi Municipal Council/Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Layout)	Date of submission Date of approval	- -	- -	17.12.07 15.09.08	11.06.08 Awaited	29.01.08 04.06.08	- -	- -
4.	Airport Authority of India	Date of submission Date of approval	- -	29.08.07 10.04.08	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
5.	Delhi Urban Arts Commission	Date of submission Date of approval	20.08.07 22.12.08	20.08.07 28.12.07	23.10.07 15.09.08	27.05.08 12.12.08	29.01.08 04.06.08	11.05.08 31.10.08	- -
6.	Fire Department	Date of submission Date of approval	20.08.07 12.03.08	12.12.08 16.04.09	17.12.07 15.09.08	11.06.08 18.09.08	29.01.08 04.06.08	11.05.08 02.02.08	- -
7.	Delhi Jal Board (Water)	Date of submission Date of approval	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	12.05.08 06.03.09
8.	Delhi Jal Board (Sewerage)	Date of submission Date of approval	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	12.05.08 08.04.09
9.	Tree Cutting	Date of submission Date of approval	07.11.07 16.06.08	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
10.	Delhi Pollution Control Committee	Date of submission Date of approval	20.09.07 15.05.08	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
11.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Town Planning)	Date of submission Date of approval	20.08.07 06.05.08	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
12.	Municipal Corporation of	Date of submission	-	-	-	-	-	19.05.08	-
		Date of approval	-	-	--	-	-	02.02.09	-
		Delhi (Building)							
13.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Water)	Date of submission	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.05.08
		Date of approval	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.02.09

III. Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium

Sl.No.	Authority	Date	New Open and VIP Gallery, external Development, repair of existing herigate building
1	2	3	4
1.	Environment Impact Assessment	Date of submission	29.03.07
		Date of approval	11.07.07
2.	Archeological Survey of India	Date of submission	-
		Date of approval	-
3.	New Delhi Municipal Council/Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Layout)	Date of submission	27.02.07
		Date of approval	14.01.08
4.	Airport Authority of India	Date of submission	29.05.07
		Date of approval	04.07.07
5.	Delhi Urban Arts Commission	Date of submission	19.12.06
		Date of approval	16.05.07

1	2	3	4
6.	Fire Department	Date of submission Date of approval	30.03.07 03.12.07
7.	Delhi Jal Board	Date of submission Date of approval	- -
8.	Tree Cutting	Date of submission Date of approval	- 31.01.08
9.	Heritage Construction	Date of submission Date of approval	30.03.07 11.07.07
10.	Central Vista Committee	Date of submission Date of approval	- 13.08.07
11.	Delhi Pollution Control Committee	Date of submission Date of approval	11.09.07 15.05.08

IV. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex

Sl.No.	Authority	Date	Upgradation and renovation of SPM Swimming Pool, New Delhi. SH: C/o New Insulated Metal Sheet Roof along with roof supporting structure and its integration with existing structure including E & M work
1	2	3	4
1.	New Delhi Municipal Corporation/Municipal Airport Authority of India	Date of submission Date of approval	04.04.07 26.02.08
2.		Date of submission Date of approval	28.05.07 16.05.08

3.	Delhi Urban Arts Commission	Date of submission	28.05.07
		Date of approval	09.01.08
4.	Fire Department	Date of submission	04.04.07
		Date of approval	10.03.08
5.	Tree Cutting	Date of submission	05.03.08
		Date of approval	11.04.08
6.	Delhi Pollution Control Committee	Date of submission	30.08.07
		Date of approval	13.05.08
7.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Service)	Date of submission	04.08.07
		Date of approval	12.11.08
8.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Water)	Date of submission	04.08.07
		Date of approval	16.07.07
9.	Redge Management Board	Date of submission	15.10.09
		Date of approval	30.11.07
10.	Central Empowered Committee	Date of submission	31.12.07
		Date of approval	08.01.08
11.	Supreme Court	Date of submission	22.01.08
		Date of approval	19.02.08
12.	Ministry of Environment and Forests (Regional Office)	Date of submission	05.03.08
		Date of approval	03.04.08

V. Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range

Sl.No.	Authority	Date	Upgradation and renovation of existing shooting range
1.	Environment Impact Assessment	Date of submission Date of approval	28.02.07 1.07.07
2.	Archeological Survey of India	Date of submission Date of approval	22.09.08 Dec.' 08
3.	Delhi Urban Arts Commission	Date of submission Date of approval	10.09.08 01.10.08
4.	Fire Department	Date of submission Date of approval	Submitted through MCD 18.03.09
5.	Delhi Jal Board	Date of submission Date of approval	10.09.08 01.10.08
6.	Tree Cutting	Date of submission Date of approval	11.07.08 26.12.08
7.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Services)	Date of submission Date of approval	05.08.08 Awaited
8.	Redge Management Board	Date of submission Date of approval	11.07.08 26.12.08
9.	Central Empowered Committee	Date of submission Date of approval	22.07.08 30.09.08
10.	Supreme Court	Date of submission Date of approval	30.09.08 24.10.08

MEMBERS SWORN—Contd.

Shri Govindrao Wamanrao Adik (Maharashtra)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MoU (2009-10) between Government of India and NPCC Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Water Resources) and the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), for the year 2009-10. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 648/15/09]

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Report and Accounts (2007-08) of TDB, New Delhi alongwith related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF THE 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, I lay on the Table:

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :
 - (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the Technology Development Board (TDB), New Delhi, 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. LT 650/15/09]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget for the year 2009-10 in respect of the Department of Atomic Energy. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 649/15/09] ...*(Interruptions)*
 - (i) **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of SZCC, Thanjavur alongwith related papers**
 - (ii) **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of NSD, New Delhi alongwith related papers**
 - (iii) **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of Nava, Nalanda Mohavihar, Nalanda alongwith related papers**
 - (iv) **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of CIHTS Varanasi alongwith related papers**

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Cultural Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 678/15/09]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National School of Drama, 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 School.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay, in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 677/15/09]
- (iii) (a) Annual Report of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2007-08.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 679/15/09]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi, for the year 2007-08.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi, for the year 2007-08 and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 680/15/09](Interruptions)

Notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Sir, I lay on the Table :

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs, under sub-section (3) of Section 156 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992 :
 - (1) G.S.R. 518 (E), dated the 14th July, 2009, publishing the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Stenographer) Group 'C' posts Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 651/15/09]

- (2) G.S.R. 502 (E), dated the 7th July, 2008, publishing the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Telecommunication Cadre (Group 'A' and 'B' posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2008, together with delay statement.
- (3) G.S.R. 501 (E), dated the 7th July, 2008, publishing the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (Group 'B' and 'C' posts of Hindi Translators) Recruitment Rules, 2008, together with delay statement. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 731/15/09]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification S.O. 1525 (E), dated the 22nd June, 2009, including Communist Party of India (Maoist) and all its formations and front organizations in the Schedule to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, under Section 53 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. [Placed in Library *See*. No. L.T. 652/15/09] ...*(Interruptions)*

Reports and Accounts (2007-08) of Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Ltd. and related Papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : Sir, I lay on the Table :

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (a) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Patna, 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 Corporation.
- II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above. [Placed in Library *See*. No. L.T. 692/15/09] ...*(Interruptions)*

Report (2007-08) of NCBC, New Delhi alongwith review by Government on the working of NCBC and related paper

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : Sir, I lay on the Table :

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 15 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 :
 - (a) Annual Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
 - (b) Review by the Government on the working of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above. [Placed in Library. *See*. No. L.T. 642/15/09] ...*(Interruptions)*

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the 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 agreed without amendment to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its Sitting held on the 20th July, 2009.”(Interruptions)

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two-Hundred and Seventh Report of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two-hundred and Seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.(Interruptions)

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One-hundred and Thirty-seventh report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One-hundred and Thirty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

RE. BIFURCATION OF SGPC

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Calling Attention, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.(Interruptions).. Mr. Ahluwalia, it was agreed....(Interruptions)... Please sit down(Interruptions) Please sit down.(Interruptions)

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : सर, यह राष्ट्र की सबसे पुरानी संस्था को तोड़ने का सवाल है ... (व्यवधान)... प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन में आएँ, वे हम लोगों को जवाब दें।

श्री उपसभापति : अहलुवालिया जी, आपने ज़ीरो आवर में नोटिस दिया है, tomorrow we will take up this subject....(Interruptions)... We have agreed to take up this subject... (Interruptions)... Please sit down....(Interruptions)... We have agreed....(Interruptions)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, यह राष्ट्र की सबसे पुरानी संस्था का सवाल है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We have important subjects ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : प्रधान मंत्री जी सदन में आकर इस बात का जवाब दें...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned till 1.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past twelve of the clock till one of the clock.

The House reassembled at one of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Tapan Kumar Sen to call the attention ...*(Interruptions)*....

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा (पंजाब) : सर ...*(व्यवधान)*... प्रधान मंत्री जी से ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु (कर्णाटक) : सर, एक मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप मेरी बात सुनिए। यहां जो issue उठाया गया है, वह एक भावनात्मक विषय भी है और एक important issue भी है। मैं उस issue में नहीं जा रहा हूं। इसके अलावा भी कई लोग हाउस में अपने-अपने issues को discuss करना चाहते हैं। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव यह है कि आप मुद्दा उठाने का मौका दीजिए। उस पर सरकार respond करे, उसके बाद आगे जाएंगे। Otherwise, ये लोग resist करते रहेंगे और उससे कोई समाधान नहीं निकलेगा।

श्री उपसभापति : श्री वेंकैया नायडु जी, यह बात तय हुई थी कि हम इसे कल जीरो ऑवर में लेंगे और इस पर बात उठाने की इजाजत दी जाएगी। क्योंकि आज Call Attention है, जीरो ऑवर नहीं था, इसलिए सुबह में यह बात भी हुई थी कि हम 3 या 5 लोगों को यह मुद्दा उठाने देंगे, उन्होंने इसे accept नहीं किया।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, ऐसी बात नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आज रेडी हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, आज रेडी हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... कल क्योंकि last day है, इसलिए कल यह अच्छा नहीं रहेगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : सर ...*(व्यवधान)*... मुझे हरियाणा का मुद्दा उठाने का मौका दिया जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ईश्वर सिंह (हरियाणा) : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : यह पंजाब हरियाणा का झगड़ा नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, यह पंजाब-हरियाणा का झगड़ा नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह राष्ट्र की सबसे पुरानी संस्था SGPC का मसला है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप उठाइए, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, मेरा सुझाव है कि इसे आप अभी करिए, यह हो जाएगा।...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी भी करिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आप इसे उठाइए, ...*(व्यवधान)*... देखिए, अब मैं कैसे कहूँ कि वह नहीं बोलेंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*... उनकी बात भी तो है ...*(व्यवधान)*... वे अगर उठाएंगे तो उन्हें भी मौका देना है न? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, ...(व्यवधान)... प्रधान मंत्री जी Leader of the House हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... Prime Minister Leader of the House हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... सिख हैं ...(व्यवधान)... वह बोलें।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : तब मुझे दूसरों को भी मौका देना पड़ेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : दूसरों को क्या मौका देना पड़ेगा? ...(व्यवधान)... यह सिखों का धार्मिक मामला है। इस पर consultation करने की जरूरत नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... वह तो पार्टी है। ...(व्यवधान)... Leader of the House हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : Leader of the House क्यों? Why do you drag the Leader of the House into it? ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you drag the Leader of the House into it? ...*(Interruptions)* आप जाइए न?

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, ...(व्यवधान)... यह देश की सबसे पुरानी संस्था है ...(व्यवधान)... और उस संस्था को कानून बनाकर तोड़ना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... देश की सबसे पुरानी संस्था शिरोमणि गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, अभी समस्या का समाधान करिए ...(व्यवधान)... यह हो जाएगा।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : उसको तोड़ने की कोशिश हो रही है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : समाधान यही होगा कि I can't say that only one party will speak and the other party will not speak...*(Interruptions)* आप वह नहीं चाह रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलिए न? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, ...(व्यवधान)... स्पेशल मेशन या जीरो ऑवर में क्या आप disassociate करने वाले को बोलने देते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : अहलुवालिया जी, यह जीरो ऑवर नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, यहां पर हमारा एक सवाल है। ...(व्यवधान)... हमारा सवाल यह है कि नेता सदन को यहां बुलाइए। यह सदन को एश्योर करें और सदन के माध्यम से पूरे राष्ट्र को ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : हर मामले में नेता सदन कैसे आते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... Why do you drag the Leader of the House into it? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : यह राष्ट्र की सबसे पुरानी संस्था शिरोमणि गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी को टुकड़े-टुकड़े करने की कोशिश है, उसे वह बंद करेंगे। इसका assurance दे वह। ...(व्यवधान)... वह इस बात की assurance दें। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, आप इन्हें शांति से बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... यह पांच मिनट में हो जाएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह पांच मिनट में हो जाएगा।

श्री उपसभापति : वेंकैया जी, मैं बोलने की इजाजत दूंगा। दूसरों को भी बोलने की इजाजत देनी है न?...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : नहीं, कैसे देनी है? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सीताराम येचुरी (पश्चिम बंगाल) : सर, ...(व्यवधान)... इसे आप तय करिए कि अगर ये बोलते हैं, तब सब को मौका मिलेगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : क्या आप कभी जीरो ऑवर में या स्पेशल मेशन में disassociate करने वाले को बोलने देते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : यह जीरो ऑवर नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... It is not Zero Hour. ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : क्या आप कभी disassociate करने वाले को बोलने देते हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : On important issues we have allowed it...(Interruptions)

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, ...(व्यवधान)... कोई associate करे या disassociate करे ...(व्यवधान)... क्या आपने कभी disassociate करने का मौका दिया है ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : कभी नहीं दिया आपने ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : यह जीरो ऑवर नहीं है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : यह जीरो ऑवर नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : जीरो ऑवर भी हो, तब भी नहीं दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)... ऐसे कभी भी नहीं दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : हाउस में एक controversy आई। Tension is also unnecessarily, building up. So, one way is the Chair can take an initiative to allow the Member to raise this issue and say what he wants to say and then the Government can respond.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Chair can definitely take an initiative, but ...(Interruptions). Then I will have to allow ...(Interruptions)

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, प्रश्न काल स्थगन का नोटिस दिया। ...(व्यवधान)... आपने तब भी नहीं बोलने दिया। ...(व्यवधान)... जीरो ऑवर भी बोलने नहीं दिया। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : जीरो ऑवर नहीं है न? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : जीरो ऑवर भी बोलने नहीं देंगे, ...(व्यवधान)... तब कैसे यह होगा? ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलते हैं कि हमने मांगा नहीं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : लोक सभा में अलाऊ किया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : लोक सभा में अलाऊ किया है ...(व्यवधान)... हम भी अलाऊ करना चाहते हैं न? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : Leader of the House है। ...(व्यवधान)... उन्हें बुलाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलिए।...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलिए न? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : वहां कांग्रेस वाला कोई नहीं बोला?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I do not know that. It is independent of. ..(Interruptions) आप बैठिए, प्लीज बैठिए। मिस्टर तरलोचन सिंह, आप बैठिए।

डा. राम प्रकाश : सर, हमें बोलने दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए।

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Alleged Bifurcation of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for setting up a Separate Committee in Haryana

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : सर, लोक हित के महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर मैंने सुबह प्रश्न काल स्थगन का नोटिस दिया था। उस का मूल कारण था कि 1925 के एक्ट के तहत बनी राष्ट्र की सब से पुरानी संस्था शिरोमणि गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी, जो सिखों के धार्मिक मसले और सिखों के ऐतिहासिक गुरुद्वारा के रख-रखाव के लिए चलाई जाती है, जिस के प्रथम अध्यक्ष देश के स्वतंत्रता सेनानी शिरोमणि बाबा खड़ग सिंह थे, उनके नेतृत्व में वह एस. जी. पी. सी. चली। महोदय, जब उस एस.जी.पी.सी. का कानून पास हुआ, ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद की लाहौर एसैम्बली में जब यह कानून पास हुआ, तब एक बात महात्मा गांधी जी ने कही थी कि हम आजादी की जंग की पहली लड़ाई जीत गए। नेहरू जी ने उस आंदोलन में, जैतों के मामले में, जब मोर्चा लगा, तब वहां जाकर गिरफ्तारी दी, लाखों लोग शहीद हुए, लाखों लोग जेल गए, सजाएं काटीं। यह एक धार्मिक अधिकार पाने के लिए सिखों ने यह जंग लड़ी और जद्दो-जेहाद करते हुए यह एस.जी.पी.सी. एक्ट पास किया। आज हरियाणा सरकार उसे तोड़कर, उस के टुकड़े-टुकड़े कर के, हरियाणा में एक अलग एस. जी. पी. सी. बनाने के लिए एक अध्यादेश जारी कर रही है। मेरा कहना यह है कि 1925 में जो कानून पास हुआ है, उस में संशोधन करने का अधिकार पार्लियामेंट को है या 1925 से जो एक परंपरा चली आ रही है, उन सिखों को आहत करने के लिए यह अध्यादेश जारी कर रही है। महोदय, इस के पहले भी हम ने देखा है, भिंडरावाले पैदा हुआ, उस ने एस. जी. पी. सी. में चुनाव लड़ाएं और जब वे नहीं जीत सके तो बंदूकधारी लोग अकाल तख्त पर बैठ गए। फिर ऑपरेशन ब्लू स्टार हुआ, देश की प्रधान मंत्री मारी गयी, भिंडरावाले मारे गए, सिख आहत हुए और हमारा धार्मिक स्थान टुकड़े-टुकड़े कर दिया गया। आज उसी धार्मिक स्थान की मर्यादाओं की रक्षा करने के लिए, उस की रक्षा करने के लिए जो कानून बना हुआ है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Ahluwaliaji, don't raise controversial issues.**(Interruptions)** Don't bring in all those issues....**(Interruptions)**

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, इश्यू तो यही है, एस. जी. पी. सी. का इश्यू यही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आप एस. जी. पी. सी. का इश्यू लीजिए, आप हिस्ट्री में क्यों जा रहे हो?...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू का ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मैं आप को गुरुद्वारों के बारे में और सिखों की राय के बारे में पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू और मास्टर तारा सिंह का पैक्ट...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : वह तो ठीक है, आप सवाल उठाइए न। तारीख सब को मालूम है, आप सवाल बताइए?

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : उसके बाद लोंगोवाल का पैक्ट ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आज विषय क्या है, उस पर बोलिए।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, विषय वही है कि आज हरियाणा सरकार एक अध्यादेश जारी कर के एक separate SGPC बनाने की कोशिश कर रही है। क्या यह देश के हित में, राष्ट्र के हित और सिखों के हित में है क्या?

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि इस सदन के नेता डा. मनमोहन सिंह, जो इत्तफ़ाक से इस सदन के नेता भी हैं, प्रधान मंत्री भी हैं, सिख भी हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप उन को इस में क्यों ला रहे हैं? That is not the issue. It has nothing to do with the Prime Minister.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, सिख इसे कभी बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, यह ठीक नहीं है। Don't drag the Prime Minister into it.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, मेरा तो सीधा सा सवाल है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The issue that you have given here is 'Alleged Bifurcation of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee in Haryana'. You restrict your submission to this subject.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, I have just explained what happened in the past, पास्ट में क्या हुआ ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : Sir, he has not made any comment against anybody. He has only referred to history.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is not necessary. He may refer to so many things in history, 1857 also. But, for a meaningful discussion, let us not raise controversial issues...(Interruptions)

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, फिर वहीं dirty politics उस समय भी एस. जी. पी. सी. को ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिये ना। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : यही dirty politics उस समय भी एस. जी. पी. सी. को ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आपका सवाल इतना ही है कि [Alleged bifurcation of the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee in Haryana]...(Interruptions)...You are in favour of it or not...(Interruptions).. That is all ...(Interruptions).. That is all...(Interruptions)... अब बात को खत्म कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Yes, I want an assurance from the Government ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Gujral...(Interruptions).. Now, Sardar Tarlochan Singh...(Interruptions)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, इस सदन में ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do you want ...(Interruptions)... Please take your seats...(Interruptions)

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा (पंजाब) : सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं खड़ा हूँ, आप तो बैठिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इतनी परम्परा तो निभाइये। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नंदा येल्लैया (आंध्र प्रदेश) : सर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : उपसभापति महोदय ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप लोग बैठिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिये ...*(व्यवधान)*... It is uncontrollable ...*(Interruptions)*... It is uncontrollable...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिये न ...*(व्यवधान)*... It is uncontrollable...*(Interruptions)*.. If the Members of the Treasury Benches also start speaking together...*(Interruptions)*.. देखिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए न ...*(व्यवधान)*... बोलने देना, न देना मेरा अधिकार है। आप बैठिये ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने यह ज़ीरो आवर के सस्पेंशन का भी सबमिशन दिया है और सस्पेंशन ऑफ क्वेश्चन आवर के लिए भी दिया था। यह बात तय हुई थी कि इस विषय को उठाया जाए और यह भी तय हुआ था कि as an exceptional case, this will be allowed to be raised. Only three Members will speak on it; that was the understanding. The only thing is, it is an alleged bifurcation. Some people want it; some people do not want it. You put your point of view. Now, if you raise certain issues, whether it relates to history or some other thing, the other Members also have the right to put their points of view...*(Interruptions)*.. You see, your issue is specific, and you raise a specific issue. To that extent, I will allow ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu) : He has finished, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will allow you also...*(Interruptions)*.. Now, Sardar Tarlochan Singh ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Mr. Keshava Rao, this is not correct...*(Interruptions)*... देखिये. आप बैठिये। मैं बोल रहा हूँ, आप सुनिये। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिये। आपकी पार्टी से मैं representation दे रहा हूँ, आप बैठिये। हम सबको नहीं दे सकते। आपकी पार्टी से we will give representation, ...*(Interruptions)*.. केशव राव जी, मैंने यह कहा था कि as a special case, Zero Hour पर morning में discussion हुआ है कि यह केस ज़ीरो आवर में लेंगे। The Chair is allowing this issue to be raised. If you want to say anything on this issue, I can't allow you because you have not given a notice...*(Interruptions)*.. Please take your seats...*(Interruptions)*.. Please take your seats...*(Interruptions)*... If you don't listen to the Chair, then, what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... If you don't listen to the Chair, I will adjourn the House ...*(Interruptions)*.. You don't want the Business of the House to be taken up...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, they did not allow the Question Hour to proceed...*(Interruptions)*... They did not allow the Question Hour...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is it that you can't allow?(Interruptions)... You cannot say that ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Bagrodia, you are a senior Member. You cannot say, "I can't allow" ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, I did not say like ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Then, what did you say...(Interruptions).. Who will not allow? ...(Interruptions)...

डा. राम प्रकाश : उपसभापति महोदय ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It has been agreed to ...(Interruptions)... It has been agreed to ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, in the morning, they said that they would allow the Question Hour to go on, but they did not allow the Question Hour...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I can't hear you because there is so much of noise...(Interruptions)...

श्री गिरिश कुमार सांगी (आंध्र प्रदेश) : ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You see, if five Members get up and start speaking together, nothing will be hard...(Interruptions)... Let one Member speak at a time ...(Interruptions)... At a time, one Member should put his point of view...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, you have called him...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have not called him...(Interruptions)... I have called Sardar Tarlochan Singh...(Interruptions)...

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने आपको नहीं बुलाया है, आप बैठिये। ...(व्यवधान)... गुजराल साहब बोलेंगे या आप बोलेंगे?... (व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : गुजराल साहब नहीं बोलेंगे, बल्कि अकाली दल के नेता बोलेंगे।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, ठीक है। मैं बुलाऊंगा, आप बैठिये। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, issues become sensitive by their very nature. It is true that 3-4 Members went to you. As you have seen, while speaking on the subject, they might have spoken on that which they think pertinent, but which really affects the entire House. It is true that you have taken a decision to allow three Members, but the entire House also should accept that. If the other Members of the House feel that it is sensitive and they are interested in speaking, you must allow; if not all, as you have identified at least three Members; you allow the Members ...(Interruptions) Sir, please hear me. Sir, most unfortunately, we are in the ruling party now. If I were in the Opposition, you would have given me the chance. I know...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have been listening to you but if all other Members get up and speak together, how can it be heard? If there is no discipline, how can it be heard?
...(Interruptions).. Let there be some discipline.

DR. K. KESHA RAO : Sir, nobody can object to what Mr. Ahluwalia has said. He has a right to say whatever he wants to say. But when it becomes objectionable, the other version has to be heard. The Chair should respond to that situation. Now, the question here is, the Haryana...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please do not go into the merits of the case ...(Interruptions)

DR. K. KESHA RAO : Sir, I am not going into the subject. Sir, I am very particular about my words. I weigh my words and speak. A few Members here are also from Haryana and they too want to respond. The Chair must accommodate them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is zero hour; you can either associate or disassociate...(Interruptions)

डा. राम प्रकाश : सर, यह कैसा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बोलिए सरदार तरलोचन सिंह जी। Please do not go into the background, the history of 1925 ...(Interruptions)... Be specific on this.

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा) : चेयरमैन साहब, मेरे दोस्त अहलुवालिया साहब ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, मैं उस बारे में थोड़ी सी बात ही करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे सारे दोस्त मैम्बरान बैठे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। तरलोचन सिंह जी बोल रहे हैं तो आप क्यों खड़े हैं?

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह : सर, यह मामला न हरियाणा, न पंजाब, किसी का नहीं है, यह मामला सिखों का है। सिख माइनॉरिटी कम्युनिटी है। हमारा देश ...(व्यवधान)... सर, अगर मैं कोई गलतबयानी करूंगा तो मैं उसके लिए जिम्मेवार हाऊंगा। सिखों ने देश के लिए सब कुर्बानियाँ कीं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। आप बैठिए।

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह : सर, मुझे समझ नहीं आता कि मुझे बोलने क्यों नहीं दे रहे। क्या हमारा इतना भी right नहीं कि हम बोल सकें? यह क्या बात हुई? ...(व्यवधान)... आप बीच में दखल क्यों दे रहे हैं, क्या हम आपको बीच में दखल देते हैं?

सर, मैं बड़ी clear बात करना चाहता हूँ कि यह सिखों का issue है, हमारा religious issue, हमारी तो एक ही अपील है कि religious issue में interfere करने का सरकार को कोई हक नहीं है। पहली बात तो यह है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि टाइम बहुत खतरनाक है। किसलिए? क्योंकि, आज देश में अनाज की कमी है, पंजाब का सारा सिख rice production में लगा है, पंजाब का सारा सिख बॉर्डर पर बैठा है। आप हमें ऐसी नौबत पर न पहुँचाएं कि हमें agitation करनी पड़े और हमारी attention divert हो। ऐसी नौबत न आए, इसी में देश की भलाई है। हरियाणा बने हुए 43 साल हो चुके हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... हरियाणा बने 43 साल हो चुके हैं, आज क्या जरूरत पड़ गई? इसलिए, सर, मेरी एक ही विनती है कि यह सिखों का religious issue है, इसे सिखों तक ही रहने दो। जो हमारा background है, आप उसे जानते हैं, इसलिए ऐसी पोजीशन फिर से न आए। हम देश के लिए कुर्बानी, देश की रक्षा और देश में उपज के लिए सब कुछ कर रहे हैं यह issue बहुत गलत टाइम पर आया है, इसको आप रोकिए।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Please remember what happened. ...**(Interruptions)**..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is not allowed...**(Interruptions)**... I have said that no background should be quoted, and speak on the specific issue.

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा (पंजाब) : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, आपके माध्यम से मैं सरकार को SGPC के मुतल्लिक कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ और मेरे दोस्त, श्री अहलुवालिया साहब, तरलोचन सिंह जी ने और गुजराल साहब ने जो नोटिस दिया है, इन सबको मैं सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

सर, बड़ी कुर्बानियों के बाद, सारे हिन्दुस्तान की जितनी भी कौमें थीं - चाहे वह हिन्दू हो, मुसलमान हो, चाहे सिख हो, चाहे जैन हो, चाहे बौद्ध हो - सबने SGPC को बनने में सपोर्ट दी और इतनी कुर्बानियां हुईं, मोर्चे लगे - जैतो का मोर्चा लगा, गुरु-का-बाग मोर्चा लगा। जैतो मोर्चे में पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने क्या कहा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या चाहते हैं? वह कहिए।**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्या चाहते हैं?

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : हम चाहते हैं कि bifurcation नहीं होना चाहिए...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री वी. मैत्रेयन (तमिलनाडु) : इन्होंने एक-दो शब्दों में अपनी बात खत्म कर दी।

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए, आप तमिलनाडु की बात यहां क्यों लाते हैं...**(व्यवधान)**... issue एक ही है ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्हें बोलने देना, न देना, चेयर का काम है, आप सिफारिश मत कीजिए।

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : *It is said that they are on the borders.. Please listen. It is said, Sikh is a sleeping giant. Let them sleep. If you prick them...**(Interruptions)** They should be placed for protection of borders. Let them do farming, and, let the Government rule peacefully at Delhi. Let the Sikhs fight on border. We are ready for that sacrifice. A finger was pointed at us. We proved our mettle during the Kargil War. What else proof do you want. You can see our sacrifices by reading our community's name on the walls of Andaman and Nicobar jails.

श्री उपसभापति : आप Subject पर बोलिए, किसी के ऊपर allegation मत लगाइए, दूसरों को जवाब देना पड़ेगा ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab) : My only point is that do not bring politics into it...**(Interruptions)**...

*English translation of the original speech in Punjabi.

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : *Sir, our SGPC is a religious elected body of the Sikhs. Nobody other than Sikhs are allowed to cast votes in its election. Only Sikhs elect this body, and nobody other than the Sikhs is allowed to interfere in its affairs. There were pacts like Nehru-Tara Singh pact, and, Sant Longowal-Rajiv pact regarding the management of its affairs.

श्री उपसभापति : आपने नोटिस नहीं दिया, आप पंजाबी में बोल रहे हैं, दूसरे लोग समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : नोटिस दिया है, मेरे साथी मॅबर ने नोटिस दिया है।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : He is speaking in Punjabi...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Interpretation is available in Punjabi. आप बोलिए और जल्दी खत्म कीजिए।

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा : सर, मैं जल्दी खत्म करूंगा। मैं कहता हूँ कि इतनी बहादुर कौम, जो बॉर्डर पर बैठी हुई है, जिसको आप सबने सपोर्ट किया, कांग्रेस ने सपोर्ट किया गांधी जी ने सपोर्ट किया, नेहरू जी ने सपोर्ट किया। आज उसको पोलिटिक्स में आगे लाकर, इलेक्शन में फायदा लेने के लिए इस इश्यू को उभारा जा रहा है। SGPC पहले कभी न तो bifurcate हुई थी, न कभी होगी। मैं आपसे सच्चे दिल से कहता हूँ कि आप सिख कौम को इम्तहान में न डालिए। यह बहुत सीरियस मामला है। पहले जो मामले हुए, भिंडरावाला, वह कोई बात नहीं, इस बात पर पूरी कौम झकड़ती है। आप सरकार से कहिए कि प्राईम मिनिस्टर साहब या तो बयान दें या हमारी बात उन तक पहुंचा दीजिए। मैं सारे मॅबर्स से हाथ जोड़कर कहता हूँ कि यह उनका मामला नहीं है, हम उनको ऐसे नहीं बोलते हैं, वे हमारे सिखों के मामले में दखल न दें, सिखों का मामला सरकार तक और सिखों तक सीमित रहे ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now the matter is over...*(Interruptions)*... They have said that do not do it, do not interfere in it...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you want it? ...*(Interruptions)*... They wanted to say that thing.

डा. राम प्रकाश : देखिए, आप सबने अपनी बात कही है, मैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, उनका एक प्वाइंट ऑफ व्यू था, उन्होंने बोल दिया, यह हरियाणा असेंबली नहीं है, प्वाइंट ऑफ व्यू हो गया, छोड़िए...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Let the Leader of the House...*(Interruptions)*... सर, लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस यहां आकर रिस्पांड करें ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do not bring the Leader of the House into picture ...*(Interruptions)*... You ask for response to every issue ...*(Interruptions)*... Every time the Leader of the House cannot come and respond...*(Interruptions)*... There are Cabinet Ministers; they do their jobs.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Mr. suggestion is that if the Government wants to respond, let them respond. But a Member cannot respond.

*English translation of the original speech in Punjabi.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : During Zero Hour I cannot compel the Government...(Interruptions)... It is over now...(Interruptions)... Now the next time, the Calling Attention...(Interruptions)...

डा. राम प्रकाश : सर, हमें भी अपनी बात कहने का मौका दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER TO
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Availability of Natural Gas for power generation and other national priorities at affordable price
throughout the country**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the availability of Natural Gas for power generation and other national priorities at affordable price throughout the country.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : Sir, the production and supply of natural gas started in a major way in the country with the commissioning of the Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) line by GAIL in the year 1987. However, with no major discovery of gas for several years, the demand far outstripped the availability. The first step towards bridging the gap between demand and supply of natural gas was taken when the country embarked on an accelerated programme of exploration and production through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds in 1999.

Till the year 2008, the domestic availability of natural gas in the country was 105 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd), of which about 28 mmscmd was through import of LNG. Against this, the estimated demand of natural gas was around 197 mmscmd. With the commencement of gas production from KG D-6 fields and increased import potential of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the gap between demand and supply has come down.

As on 31.3.2009, the domestic availability of gas in the country was 105 mmscmd, out of which about 53 mmscmd was produced from nominated fields given to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), 24 mmscmd from pre-NELP fields operated by various Contractors, and 28 mmscmd was imported gas in the form of LNG. Out of this, about 40 mmscmd gas was being supplied to power sector, about 30 mmscmd to fertilizer sector and 5 mmscmd for city gas distribution projects.

From 1.4.2009, production of gas from KG D-6 block has started. Presently, 35 mmcmd gas is being produced. Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) was constituted for finalizing the price formula as was required under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and to finalise the Gas Utilisation Policy. The intention of the Government being to operationalize all gas based assets which were lying idle/unutilized due to non-availability of gas, the EGoM decided the distribution of the first 40 mmcmd from the block as follows :-

15 mmcmd to existing gas-based Fertilizer Sector

18 mmcmd to existing gas-based Power Sector

5 mmcmd to City Gas Sector

3 mmcmd for existing gas-based LPG plants.

EGoM further decided that any shortfall in utilization should be allocated to gas-based steel plants and to existing power plants, including captive power plants.

With the commencement of KG-D-6 production, over 100 mmcmd gas is being supplied to power and fertilizer sectors out of a total supply of 140 mmcmd. As a result of KG-D-6 supplies, about 4000 Megawatt (MW) of additional power is being generated and an annual saving in subsidy on fertilizer of Rs. 3000 crore will be achieved.

The gas at Administrated Price Mechanism (APM) prices, which is produced from Government nominated fields, has been priced at about \$ 2 per million metric British thermal unit (mmbtu), except in North East, where it is \$ 1 to \$ 1.2/mmbtu. The prices of gas from pre-NELP fields have been approved in accordance with the Production Sharing Contracts for such fields and are in the range of \$ 3.5 to 5.73/mmbtu. Field-wise prices are at Annexure to my Statement. The price of gas from imported Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) in respect of term contracts is over \$ 5/mmbtu. The spot price, however, varies from time to time. Under the NELP PSC, it was the requirement that a price formula based arm's length basis be approved prior to sale of gas. The formula submitted by the Contractor of KG-D6 block was considered by the EGoM. It was subjected to further examination by a Committee under the Cabinet Secretary and by Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. Having considered the Report, the EGoM approved the price formula in its meeting held on 12.09.2007. The formula is linked to crude price and is based on arm's length principle. It leads to a price of 4.2\$/mmbtu at a crude price of 60\$/bbl or above. At a crude price of 25\$/bbl, it leads to a price of 2.5\$/mmbtu and for crude price ranging between \$ 25-60/bbl, it varies between 2.5 to 4.2\$/mmbtu.

This price formula is fixed for a period of 5 years. The price of gas being made available to the priority sectors is substantially lower the prevailing prices of alternate liquid fuels like Naphtha.

8. To make available the natural gas in all regions of the country, the Government has authorized several entities for laying gas pipelines to transport natural gas from the production centres to the potential consumers. As announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech, the Government proposes to develop a blueprint for long distance gas highways leading to a National Gas Grid. This would facilitate transportation of gas across length and breadth of the country.

9. A study to consider the feasibility of having a uniform cost price regime is being undertaken, the report of which is expected to be made available within 3 months.

10. I would like to inform the august House that the scenario of natural gas in the country has undergone a change for the better. The Government has awarded 203 blocks under NELP for exploration of oil and gas with a view to access investment and better technology. An investment of \$ 11.97 billion has already been made under NELP. I am confident that natural gas would fuel the economic growth of the country and Government will do all in its power to ensure its use for national priorities at reasonable prices.

Annexure

Source	Customers	Approx Qty (in mmscmd)	Gas pipe
PMT	All except RRVUNL & torrent	14.8	5.65
	RRVUNL	1.5	4.6
	Torrent	1	4.75
	Weighted Average PMT Price	17.3	5.51
Raavva	GAIL	1	3.5
Ravva Satellite	GAIL	0.9	4.3
Lakshmi (CB-OS/2)	GGCL & GPCL	2.5	4.75

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I request the hon. Members to be brief, because there are about 20 Members who sought permission for seeking clarifications. So, it will be only pointed clarifications, not 3 or 4 or 5. It will be restricted, because we have started at 1.24 minutes and it should be completed by 2.24 minutes. One hour has been given for this Calling Attention Motion. I would also like to inform the House that there is no lunch today.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. Even though the hon. Minister has presented a detailed picture, some of the important issues, which appears to be the crux of the whole issue, have been missing in the statement. The entire policy architecture of the Government of India of the day, on the natural gas, has landed the whole country in such a fuss that almost 70 per cent -- if you really recognise that KG Basin is going to be the single biggest reserve of natural gas of our country in the days to come -- is being allowed and such a situation has developed to become a kind of personal reserve of some private contractors. This has created such a serious position that a number of expansion projects, in power, have been put on hold. A 2700 MW expansion project of the NTPC has been put on hold because of the absence of assured linkage of gas.

Similarly, many of the gas-based power plants are being compelled to operate at a low plant load factor. The revival of the fertilizer plants, on which the Cabinet had given, in principle, approval, is still waiting because there is no assured gas linkage. Public transport system is being deprived of using the natural gas. It is also creating the problem of pollution and different other problems. So, in view of that, and in view of the experience that has cropped up, which is being widely discussed in the media, will the Government consider -- I have already raised in this House that it is important that natural gas, which is a national asset as per the Constitution -- and take an urgent step on a war-footing to take over and nationalise the distribution and marketing of the gas at the wellhead so that it can properly be allocated according to the national priority, and the national priority will not be subjected to *by the private producer...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, * is an unparliamentary word.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay, it will be expunged.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, my second point is, why this issue has come up ...*(Interruptions)* Okay, no problem, Bagrodiaji. My second point is how this thing has come about. If it is a national property and a private explorer is exploring as per the NELP contracts, the distribution of this cannot be decided by the contractor himself. But this thing has happened. A private contractor had entered into an MoU in June 2005 to distribute 70 per cent of the gas of the KG Basin with two private entities. And, this was not objected to. Although these entities had written to the Ministry of Petroleum and to the Government about that in the year 2006 itself...*(Interruptions)*... During that material time in May 2006 a respected Member of this House, my colleague, Late Chittabrata Majumdar, from my party, had also written to the Government urging to stop this game of personalisation of the national asset through the private MoU. The Government, practically, woke up much late after four years, and, no doubt, we welcome the assertion that while intervening it has

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

been told that it is a national asset. So, we demand to please utilize it as a national asset and establish your ownership on it by taking over distribution and marketing instead of playing a role of a mediator between the two corporates. This is not the role of the Government. This is not the role of an owner of the national assets.

My third point is regarding pricing. This is a national asset which should be utilized for the country's development and its pricing should be rationale. A price was discovered at the invitation of a Government entity, that is, the NTPC. International competitive bidding was there. The price was discovered at 2.34 dollars per MMBTU in 2004, at the wellhead. And, at the delivering point the price was 2.97 dollars in 2004. So, my next question is this. On what wisdom this price was changed and allowed the private contractor to ditch the Government entity power generation utility - NTPC who are doing yeomen service to the nation by generating power. The private contractor has been allowed to ditch even after participating in the international competitive bidding process, based on the draft GSPA. They had accepted that. The NTPC had issued the letter of intent in June 2004 itself. *(Time bell rings)* They had accepted that ...*(Interruptions)*.. In what wisdom had the Government enhanced that price which was arrived at though a transparent competitive international bidding process? That price has been enhanced by 2.5 times to 4.2 dollars. On what basis? The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that it was being proposed by the private contractor and the EGoMs had marginally moderated it from 4.3 to 4.2. What is the basis of this? Fixing the price is basically a techno-economic job. Sir, this is not a job to be done by the Group of Ministers or by a group of politicians. The Government may have played a role by taking a political decision for giving subsidy to moderate that price. But fixing a price has, essentially, enhanced the price against the interests of the priority sector and allowing a windfall profit to a private contractor is not in the national interest...*(Time-bell-rings)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, my last point is with regard to distribution. How is the distribution being done? The hon. Minister made a statement in this regard. What is the regional profile of the distribution? Out of 31 mmscmd gas from KG D-6, more than 50 per cent is flowing to West. I have no animosity towards the West, but it is flowing at that particular point where in their own soil, they are having a source of gas. It tantamounts to 'carrying coals to newcastle' Why?

...(Interruptions)... And, in-between, the four Eastern regional States, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand are gas starved. The particular fertilizer plants needed to be revived on which this Government's Cabinet had given 'in principle' approval...(Time bell)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I am just concluding, Sir. They are lying unutilised because no assured gas linkage was given to them. The power plants are also suffering and being compelled to operate at low plant load factor. What is this regional imbalance? If it is a national property, it should be equitably distributed to the ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Gopal Yadav ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, public transport is suffering in my State because of non-availability of gas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your time is over. I have called the next speaker...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, I am concluding in one minute. There are two basic issues. One is, it should be rationally priced. Its price cannot be linked up to the international crude oil price.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have made your point.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Secondly, in regard to distribution, a proper regional balance has to be brought back, and this can only be done, I reiterate, by taking over the distribution and marketing of gas by the Government, through the National Gas Grid, to be operated by the Gas Authority of India Ltd., which was established for this purpose alone. Sir, we demand a concrete assurance from the hon. Minister in this regard. Thank you.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं मुख्य रूप से कृष्णा गोदावरी बेसिन के B6 ब्लॉक के संबंध में बात करूंगा, क्योंकि इसमें गैस निकलने की इतनी अपार क्षमता है कि इस वक्त गैस की अवेलेबिलिटी की जो स्थिति है, वह उसको डबल कर देगी। प्रश्न यह है कि यह सस्ती दर पर कैसे उपलब्ध हो और जो तमाम आउट प्लान हैं-चल रहे हैं या चलने वाले हैं, उनको भी गैस की उपलब्ध हो। महोदय, मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि एन.टी.पी.सी. और आर.आई.एल. के बीच में 17 साल का एक कांटेक्ट हुआ और वह 2.34 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से हुआ। उसके बाद कांटेक्ट ने लागत बढ़ने के नाम पर प्राइस को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की तथा वह टालमटोल करने लगा। इस कारण एन.टी.पी.सी. को मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट में जाना पड़ा और इसी तरह से एक और कम्पनी-आर.एन.आर.एल. के साथ जो समझौता हुआ, उसमें भी हाई कोर्ट जाना पड़ा। गवर्नमेंट से कहने के बाद भी इसमें गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं किया। बाद में सेक्रेटरी की एक कमेटी बनी, एम्पॉवर्ड ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स ने फैसला कर प्राइस 4-2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से तय किया। श्रीमन, 4.2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से जब एक कम्पनी के पक्ष में प्राइस फिक्स की, उस वक्त भी एन. टी. पी. सी. को ओ.

एन. जी. सी. 1.8 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से और आज भी आपूर्ति कर रहे हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा पहला क्लेरिफिकेशन यह है कि जब ओ. एन. जी. सी. 1.8 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से गैस सप्लाई कर सकती है तो क्या आवश्यकता थी कि सरकारी कम्पनी को इतना बड़ा घाटा देकर एक कम्पनी के पक्ष में 4.2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से एम्पॉवर्ड ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स इसका फैसला करे। यह कौन-सा तरीका था? क्या यह देश के हित में था, किसी व्यक्ति के हित में था अथवा जो पावर प्लांट्स को चलाने के लिए कम्पनियां या पावर फैक्टरीज हैं, उनके हित में था?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि उसी समय जब यह फैसला हुआ, तो एक और कम्पनी के साथ भी फैसला हुआ था, और 2004 में ही एशिया की सबसे बड़ी गैस आधारित परियोजना उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी में स्थापित करने के लिए काम शुरू हुआ था। चूंकि वह कम्पनी टाल-मटोल करती रही, दोनों में झगड़ा रहा, एनटीपीसी को और आरएनआरएल को भी हाई कोर्ट जाना पड़ा और हाई कोर्ट ने फिर फैसला दिया, हाई कोर्ट ने एक मामले में फैसला दिया। हाई कोर्ट के फैसले तक गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं कहा, हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के बाद गवर्नमेंट सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गई और वहां कहां कि यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है। हम लोग और सारा देश मानता है कि यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... जब यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, तो यह राष्ट्र के हाथ में होनी चाहिए, यह हमारी मांग है। यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, लेकिन जब गैस निकलने लगी, जब गैस की कीमतें बढ़ने लगी, तब यह मामला आया। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि तब तक आप क्यों सोते रहे? अगर अब आपने यह माना है, यह ठीक है कि देर आयद दुरुस्त आयद, जब यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप कृष्णा, गोदावरी बेसिन डी-6 ब्लॉक को नेशलाइज करेंगे? ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, अभी मेरा दूसरा पाइंट ही चल रहा है। मैं तो बहुत ही short में बोलता हूं, यह आप जानते हैं।

सर, मेरा तीसरा पाइंट दादरी के संबंध में है, जो इसी से संबंधित है। हमारा जो दादरी का प्लांट है, उसके लिए एनटीपीसी से भी और आरएनआरएल से भी समझौता हुआ था। अगर आप एक कम्पनी की एक बात को मानते हैं, तो उसने जो समझौता किया है, उसको मानिए और अगर उस समझौते को नहीं मानना चाहते हैं, तो जिस समझौते से आप बंधे हुए हैं, जिस के जरिए से आपने उसको कंट्रैक्ट दिया था, उस कंट्रैक्ट को आप खत्म करिए। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी प्लांट के लिए गैस उपलब्ध करवाने का आश्वासन देंगे, जिससे वह प्लांट शुरू हो सके? क्योंकि 2100 एकड़ जमीन वहां पर उपलब्ध है, उसकी बाउंड्री हो चुकी है। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कोई स्पष्ट आश्वासन नहीं मिल रहा है, इसलिए वहां पर इन्वेस्टमेंट नहीं हो रहा है।

सर, अंत में मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। माननीय मंत्री जी मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूं कि *पूरा देश सम्मान करता है, आप यह सारा पाप उन्हीं के कंधे पर बंदूक रखकर क्यों करवाना चाहते हो? आप इसको खुद करिए। यह सब * के नाम से ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप उनका नाम क्यों ले रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप एक पार्टिकुलर मिनिस्टर का नाम मत लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुरली देवरा : आप मेरा नाम लीजिए। आप उनका नाम क्यों ले रहे हैं?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please remove the Minister's name.

*Not recorded.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : अच्छा, उनका नाम नहीं लेता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज, आप तो जानते हैं, आप तो सीनियर मेम्बर हैं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : ये सब काम खुद नहीं करना चाहते हैं, दूसरों से करवाना चाहते हैं।...(व्यवधान)... मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप दादरी के लिए हाँ कह दीजिए। आप यह कह दीजिए कि दादरी के लिए गैस दिलवाएंगे। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बात कर रहा हूँ। इससे उत्तर प्रदेश को लाभ होगा, इससे दिल्ली को भी लाभ होगा। मैं तो कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप इसको नेशनलाइज कर दीजिए।...(समय की घंटी)... मैं कहां किसी के लिए कह रहा हूँ। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि यह राष्ट्र की सम्पत्ति है, इसको आप अपने हाथ में लीजिए और इसका लाभ उठाइए। आप इसका लाभ किसी एक व्यक्ति को क्यों देना चाहते हैं? आप इसका लाभ सरकार को क्यों नहीं देना चाहते हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी, हमें समय का अभाव है, हम क्या करें? आप बोलना चाहते हैं, मगर समय ज्यादा नहीं है।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सर, मैं आपकी बात मानता हूँ और आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी हमारी बातों का भी जवाब दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Parimal Nathwani ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री परिमल नथवानी (झारखंड) : सर, सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं रिलायंस से एसोसिएट हूँ ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, my name is second.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will call your name. It is according to the order. I said, there are 20 hon. Members who want to participate ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Sir, I had given notice first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your name is there.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Sir, I know my name is there. But I had given to the notice first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is not the criterion. Whoever had given notice will be called. Please, have some patience.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Okay; Sir.

श्री परिमल नथवानी : सभापति जी, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि I am associated with RIL and am an Independent Member from Jharkhand. यह जो KG basin को लेकर विवाद चल रहा है और हमारे यहां के सीनियर क्लीग्स ने जो बात उठाई है, मैं उनकी आधी बातों से सहमत हूँ और आधी बातों से सहमत नहीं हूँ, क्योंकि मैं यह याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि KG basin प्राइवेट कंट्रेक्टर के लिए एक ठेका छूटा था, जिसको global bidding बोलते हैं। 1999 में जब केन्द्र NDA की गवर्नमेंट थी, तब यह globalisation tender निकला था। इसके बाद 2000 में इनका price mechanism of private sharing तय हुआ था। चाहे UP के लिए power plant लगे या किसी प्रदेश की जनता के लिए लगे, तो जो कान्ट्रेक्टर है, मैं as a MP उसको जानता हूँ कि इसमें उनका कोई role नहीं है। यह कहा जा रहा है कि हम पूरी डील को private contractors के हाथ से लेकर GAIL को सौंप दिया जाए। हमें पता है कि GAIL and ONGC ने भी इन टेंडरों में भाग लिया था। सर, यह एक International image की बात है कि कोई आदमी पैसा लगाता है और देश के अंदर जो गैस की कमी है, मेहनत करके उसे पूरा करता है और जब गैस की रिकवरी हो जाती है, तब उसके ऊपर एलिगेशन लगाया जाता है कि कान्ट्रेक्टर अपना बिजनेस कर रहा है, but मैं यह याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि यह ग्लोबल टेन्डर के माध्यम से एक कान्ट्रेक्ट था। सर, मैं आज भी यह कहना चाहूंगा कि यह price mechanism Group of Ministers ने किया है। जो allocation of the gas है, वह existing power plant के लिए है। गवर्नमेंट ने जो पॉलिसी तय की है, वह उनके आधीन है। यह कहना कि RNRL and Dadri के लिए इनजस्टिस हो रहा है, इस बात में कोई दम नहीं है। यहां पर जो MoU की बात की जा रही है, वह प्राइवेट बात है, यह नहीं होनी चाहिए थी। मैं उस पर ऑब्जेक्शन करता हूँ, क्योंकि MoU में क्या है, वह प्राइवेट लोग नहीं जानते हैं। यह MoU दो भाइयों और दो कम्पनियों के बीच में है, जिसके अंदर कभी कम्पनी ने कोई वायलेशन नहीं किया है। All this is subject to Government approval. उसके अंदर मेशन किया गया था। अगर हम इस बात को कहते हैं कि प्राइवेट कान्ट्रेक्टर गैस डील अपनी मनमानी से करता है, तो मैं इस बात को कहते हैं कि प्राइवेट कान्ट्रेक्टर गैस डील अपनी मनमानी से करता है, तो मैं इस बात से सहमत नहीं हूँ।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has only disclosed his interest...(Interruptions)... Under the Ethics Committee rules, if a Member is interested in a subject, he has to disclose it. Now, Mr. Mysura Reddy.

SHRI M.V. MYSURYA REDDY : Sir, I fully associate myself with what my colleague, Mr. Tapan Sen, has said, but I wish to add one or two points to his statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mysura Reddy, your list is long; please do not read out such a long statement!

SHRI M.V. MYSURYA REDDY : Sir, the list may be long but I shall conclude it within three minutes.

Sir, gas is the primary source for power, fertilizer, CNG, LPG, etc. The cost of gas plays a vital role in the prices of end products like power, fertilizer, etc. That is why, my issues are based only on pricing, Sir.

The RIL, in its letter dated 22.05.2009 to DGH, has disclosed an expenditure of only 4.8 billion dollars. In the same letter, RIL has disclosed the post wellhead cost' per Million British Thermal Units of KG gas to be 0.895 dollars. Why cannot the Minister place this letter on the Table of this House?

Sir, in reply to my Starred Question No. 336 on 27.07.2009, it was said that validation was done by some private agencies. I would like to know the following from the Minister : The Mustang Engineering company which evaluated RIL's investment estimates is the real contractor for Panna field development project and Mr. Gopalakrishnan is on the faculty of the School of Petroleum Technology. In view of the conflicting interests, I would like to know whether they have disclosed their interest before they took up the assignment. If they had disclosed their interest, why did the Government appoint them as independent evaluators?

The third point is that the capital expenditure for development of gas fields was increased from \$ 2.47 billion in 2004 to \$ 8.8 billion in 2006. Whereas, if you look at the production, it only doubled to 80 MMSCMD. Normally, when the production is doubled, the capital expenditure has to come down. Even if you double the capital expenditure, it should be 4.94 billion. Hence, it has nearly doubled. This simple proposition is known to common man. If so, how did the EGoMs forget this simple equation? This clearly shows that there is something fishy in this.

Sir, the next point is that Sasan, in Ultra Mega Power Project, quoted for Rs. 1.19/kWh with indigenous coal, and Munda quoted for Rs. 2.26/kWh imported coal. Now, the Government fixed the price at \$ 4.23 MMBTU. Based on this, the cost will become Rs. 2.30/kWh which is commercially unviable and uneconomical. Has the EGoMs considered this point before fixing the gas price?

Sir, the last point is regarding my State. How much of gas will be given to Andhra Pradesh from RIL's fields in K.G. Basin, out of the peak production of 80 MMSCMD?

2.00 P.M.

श्री आर. सी. सिंह (पश्चिम बंगाल) : उपसभापति जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं श्री तपन सेन जी और श्री राम गोपाल जी ने जो कहा है, स्वयं को उससे एसोसिएट करते हुए अपनी बात कहना चाहूंगा। मैं अपनी बात संक्षेप में कहने की कोशिश करूंगा। यह बात सच है कि प्राकृतिक गैस की सप्लाई और डिमांड में काफी अंतर है। देश के लिए इसको त्वरित गति देने की जरूरत है। मैं कुछ सवाल जानना चाहूंगा कि इस mismatch को पूरा करने के लिए हमारी जो सरकारी संस्थाएं हैं, इनके द्वारा डेवलप करने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है? ये आर.आई.एल. पर ही क्यों निर्भर रहना चाहते हैं? मेरी समझ में एक बात और नहीं आई कि जब 2.34 US\$ प्रति यूनिट का एग्रीमेंट हुआ था, तो उसकी जगह पर मंत्रिमंडल की तरफ से 4.2 प्रति यूनिट यू. एस. डालर देने के लिए इस प्राइवेट कंपनी को क्यों सलाह दी गई? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि K.G. Basin में जो गैस है, उसको निकालने के लिए और बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है? एक बात मैं कहना चाहूंगा, मेरे साथियों ने भी कही है कि बजट के पैराग्राफ 93 में उन्होंने कहा *business of laying and operating cross country natural gas or crude or petroleum oil pipeline network for distribution...* इसके तहत इन्होंने इनकम टैक्स के 1968 के कानून में छूट देकर, सैक्शन 35 (AD) को जोड़कर 20,000 करोड़ रुपये की एक कंपनी को छूट क्यों दी? ऐसी क्या जरूरत पड़ गई कि एक कंपनी को छूट देने के लिए हमारे इस कानून में इस तरह से परिवर्तन करना पड़ा, जबकि इसका लाभ आम लोगों तक पहुंच सकता था? वह लाभ आम लोगों को नहीं दिया गया। तीसरी बात मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि KG Basin में quantum of gas के प्रॉडक्शन पर विवाद हो रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से इसकी फिगर जानना चाहूंगा कि के. जी. (D-6) बेसिन में गैस को जो उत्पादन हो रहा है आप मंथ वाइज उसकी एक फिगर दें, जिससे कि जो विवाद हो रहा है, उस तक जाया जा सके। सर, मैं आखिरी बात यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इस तरह से इसका मूल्य बढ़ा कर 4.2 डालर प्रति यूनिट किया गया है, इसका 99 प्रतिशत लाभ RIL को मिलेगा और सिर्फ एक प्रतिशत ही सरकार पाएगी। यानी सिर्फ एक प्रतिशत ही देश के हित में जाएगा और 99 प्रतिशत व्यक्तिगत हित में जाएगा। इसलिए ऐसा क्यों किया गया, इसके बारे में डिटेल् में जानकारी देने की कोशिश करें।

श्री उपसभापति : आपका आखिरी प्वायंट हो गया। आपने कहा कि यह आपका आखिरी प्वायंट है।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी (आंध्र प्रदेश) : सर, आंध्र प्रदेश के ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, आपने अभी अपना नाम दिया है। सांगी साहब, आपको रूल्स के बारे में जानना चाहिए और हमने बार-बार सर्कुलर भी दिया है कि कोई भी विषय शुरू होने के आधा घंटे पहले आपको अपना नाम देना पड़ेगा। We have been repeating this. ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी : सर, इसका आंध्र प्रदेश से संबंध है।

श्री उपसभापति : संबंध है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी : सर, हमें अपनी स्टेट के बारे में कहने का कुछ मौका तो दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आपको अपना नाम देने से किसने रोका है।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मेरा टाइम चला जा रहा है।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, आपका समय खत्म हो गया था।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक और प्वायंट रखना चाहता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, इस तरह से नहीं होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी कई लोग हैं। आप क्यों बेकरार हैं।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक सवाल करना चाहता हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आपने अभी अपना नाम दिया है। आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मेरा कहना यह है कि इसका समाधान एक ही है कि इस total system को Nationalise कर दिया जाए, ताकि देश हित में काम करे। धन्यवाद।

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to tell you an important issue ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. I have not called your name...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, I want to raise an important issue. It is about Andhra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member from Andhra has already spoken...*(Interruptions)* How do you know all the names? ...*(Interruptions)*... There are other names also from Andhra. Why do you presume that it is not there?...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, the Assembly has taken a decision. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the State Government has taken a decision...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But we have to follow some order...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : We are requesting you, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have just now sent the name. I have just announced that I have got a list of twenty Members. I will have to call them first, and, not your name. Please understand...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down. If you want to participate, I will call you. Please ...*(Interruptions)*... You have not given the request at all. Now, I will call you. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please. Now, Shri Bharatkumar Raut.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, let me thank Mr. Tapan Sen for bringing forward a very important and vital issue. Though I have some reservations about his contention, I really thank him. Sir, the Minister has given a detailed reply. Perhaps, Sir, more details are required. But at the same time, he has avoided the moot question that has been discussed and which is a matter of concern for the society. Sir, due to paucity of time, I will only mention a few points, which I have jotted down.

Sir, oil and gas fields are natural assets and they are given to private parties for exploration, development and production. While the parties concerned derive economic benefits out of these activities, the Government also gets taxes, royalties as per the formula worked out under the Gas Utilisation Policy and the Production Sharing Contracts. Sir, whatever has been given is as per the policy, and, once these contracts are given, it is our responsibility, the nation's responsibility, and, it is a matter of pride also, to ensure that those words are kept.

We cannot half-heartedly say, "Now, you stop it" you cannot do that. You should honour whatever contract has been given. Sir, the private parties cannot bargain or barter a commodity which does not belong to any of the party, whatever may be the terms of the family MoU privately arrived at between them.

It is well settled that no private agreement can create a vested interest in a property which belongs to the nation. We should believe that it is a national property which belongs to the nation. We should believe that it is a national property and no private treaty -- whatever may be the terms of the family MoU -- should be entertained here.

Sir, in this case, time is the essence of the matter. The Supreme Court has fixed 1st September as the date of hearing. Therefore, I suggest that early steps should be taken to bring up before the Parliament a proper Bill regarding gas. That will effect the High Court's order and settle the problem. Thus, Government's sovereign authority can also be proved. ...**(Time-bell rings)**. I also suggest that the Government should also incorporate clauses in the Bill for setting up a regulatory body to regulate pricing and allocation of gas. Thank you.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu) : *Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate on behalf of my party AIADMK, in this calling attention motion on power deficit that has arisen due to shortage of natural gas. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, a nation's growth depends on the growth of industrial sector, agricultural sector and the basic infrastructural sector. Power is essential for the growth of these three sector. Power is generated through many sources such as coal, natural gas, wind mill, water resource, nuclear power stations, solar power etc. If a question arises whether the power generated in our nation through these various resources are sufficient to meet our need, I am sorry to say that the power generated is insufficient to meet the needs of the entire nation.

The share of natural gas in power generation is only 10-15% of the total power generation of our nation. But, we could not generate even this much power.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Sir, our industries have incurred a loss to the extent of Rs. 43,205 crore in the last financial year. In the year 2003, the loss incurred in the production sector is Rs. 22,000 crore. But now, the amount loss has doubled in the production sector. The main reason for this is lack of proper planning, and the proper implementation of already planned schemes, at proper time. These shortcomings have to be rectified by the Union Government in future.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, it is said that the Government has planned to increase power generation to the extent of 1,47,000 Megawatts before the year 2012. But it is really questionable whether the Government could reach at least 60% of the target. This is mainly because of the lack of proper planning on the Government side and delayed implementation of the planned schemes. Sir, as has been already mentioned by me, the share of natural gas in total power generation is 10-15% and we have not obtained even this meager share of natural gas. For instance, I could cite the case of Godavari Natural Gas Station. The required natural gas to be supplied from the Godavari National Gas Station, could not be supplied by it. As a result, the power generation plant with the production capacity of 5000 mega watts, established at the cost of Rs. 20,000 crore. But, the maintenance of this plant has incurred a heavy loss.

Our Hon'ble Leader Madam *Puratchithalaivi* (mns. revolutionary leader) Ms. Jayalalitha, has understood that industrial sector, basic infrastructural sector and agriculture are essential for the growth of the nation and that power generation is needed for the growth of these sectors. That is why, she took special initiatives to increase power generation. During her rule, Tamil Nadu had generated surplus power so that even our neighbouring States could be benefited.

Nafta is used as alternate fuel whenever shortage of natural gas arises. But the production cost of nafta is double that of the production cost of natural gas.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, our nation has the capacity to generate 13.4 Gigawatts of power through natural gas, but we could not get sufficient amount of natural gas even to generate 1.1 Gigawatts of power. Therefore Sir, through this August House, I request the Union Government to overcome these shortcomings in future and resolve the problem of power deficit by making sufficient availability of natural gas. Only then could we protect our industrial sector and lead our nation into the path of progress. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank You.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar) : Thank you, Sir. I will begin by asking the first question from the hon. Petroleum Minister. I begin by complimenting him for the remarkable discovery that gas is a sovereign commodity and little later we will discover that air, water, those things which are under the ground, are startling discovery and really are sovereign assets. Therefore, the first thing anyone would like to know is, why it took so long for the Petroleum Ministry to discover that gas, in fact, is a sovereign asset and needed, therefore, to be determined by the sovereign. Sir, my second question is in relation to paragraph four of the Minister's statement. He has given an *inter se* allocation among different competing uses of gas, namely, fertilizer, power and so on and so forth. In a situation where there is demand-supply disequilibrium, we would like to understand the logic which has determined the *inter se* priority among different competing uses of gas.

Mr. Tapan Sen raised a very important point about regional imbalance. I would add to that the demands of the rural sector. And let me add to that whether ecologically and environmentally important factors have been given the kind of premium they deserve in the *inter se* gas allocation in a situation where India is under increasing pressure for improving sustainable development where the ecological and environmental factors also bring rural economy into play.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

Today, really the maximum amount of a arduousness rural work is to rural women who have to meet their cooking needs out of wood. And the integrated energy policy of the Prime Minister enjoins upon us to replace this cooking medium which is the biggest creator of soot, which is the biggest creator of environmental degradation. So, we would like to understand the logic of paragraph four in the *inter se* allocation among different competing uses of gas, and whether it factored in the environmental factors and integration of rural economy.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Third, when it comes to prices, as we can see from the annexure to the statement, they varied dramatically from 5.65 (\$/mmbtu) to as low as 3.5 (\$/mmbtu). We would like to understand the logic by which the price fixation modalities have been determined. To merely say that a Group of Ministers will determine price is not good enough. Whether the Ministry has any views on setting up an independent regulator which will have an arm's-length relationship to be able to determine prices instead of foisting this responsibility either on officials or on a Group of Ministers.

Sir, I am asking this particularly because at the time when this sector was being deregulated, the Minister might like to jog his memory, there was also a *pari passu* commitment that there would be an independent regulator for up and downstream sector which will consist of experts and so on to be able to determine the price.

I would urge upon the Minister to enlighten the House on the regulatory issue and the methodology for the determination of prices.

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति हैं। उन्हें निजी कम्पनियों को इसलिए दिया जाता है ताकि वे उनमें और खोज करके उस क्षेत्र को विकसित करें, और तेल या गैस का उत्पादन करें तथा इन कार्यकलापों के जरिए आर्थिक लाभ अर्जित हो सके। मैं मंत्री जी से सीधे तौर पर एक जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहूंगा कि जब सरकार इन्हें राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति मानती है, फिर इसे निजी कम्पनी को इसके खोज-बीन के काम के लिए दिया जाता है, तो सरकार को छोड़ कर निजी कम्पनी को किसी के पक्ष में निर्णय करने का कोई अधिकार है या नहीं? उसके साथ-ही-साथ भारत सरकार की प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए किसी कंट्रैक्टर या किसी निजी क्षेत्र का सौदा करने का अधिकार है, हक है या नहीं है? मैं मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित जो मूल्य है या सरकार ने जो कीमत तय की है, उससे किसी निजी कम्पनी को गैस दिए जाने पर सरकार को कितने रेवेन्यू का नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा? इसके साथ-ही-साथ हाई कोर्ट का जो आदेश आया है, हाई कोर्ट के उस आदेश से सरकार की जो Gas Utilisation Policy है, उस पर एक सवालिया निशान लग गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से इस बारे में भी जानना चाहूंगा क्योंकि यह नीति काफी विचार-विमर्श के बाद, Empowered Group of Minister के स्तर से तय हुई थी। उस के बाद हाईकोर्ट का यह फैसला हुआ है।

महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से इन दोनों बातों का स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूं।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने क्लैरीफिकेशन के लिए बहुत लंबा स्टेटमेंट दिया है। महोदय, वैसे भी natural gas is the cleanest, safest and most useful energy और इस का प्रयोग हमारे देश में पावर जनरेशन के लिए, फर्टिलाइजर इंडस्ट्री, स्टील एंड आयरन फाउंड्रीज, कास्ट आयरन और डॉमेस्टिक परपज के लिए भी किया जा सकता है। महोदय, भारत में इस का उत्पादन एच. वी. जे.

एक्स हजीरा, गुजरात, उड़ान, के. जी. बेसिन, कावेरी बेसिन, असम और त्रिपुरा में होता है। महोदय, भारत के लिए गैस अब नई चीज नहीं है। यह 60 के दशक से, असम और गुजरात में उद्योगों में इस का प्रयोग हो रहा है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में clean energy produce करने के लिए हम ने तरह-तरह के कदम उठाए हैं। साथ ही, इस की डिमांड भी बढ़ी है और उस डिमांड को पूरा करने के लिए अभी हमारा प्रोडक्सन पूरा नहीं है। हम ने गैस को इम्पोर्ट करने के लिए भी बहुत से कदम उठाए हैं। अभी ईरान, पाकिस्तान, इंडिया गैस पाइप-लाइन प्रोजेक्ट पेंडिंग पड़ा है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस का स्टेट्स क्या है, यह प्रोजेक्ट कब तक पूरा होगा और हम इस से कितनी उम्मीद करते हैं? महोदय, म्यांमार, बंगला देश, इंडिया गैस पाइप-लाइन प्रोजेक्ट का स्टेट्स क्या है और इस प्रोजेक्ट से हमारी खपत कितनी पूरी होगी? हम ने एम.ओ.यू. साइन भी किया और बहुत से मंत्रियों ने दौरा भी किया है। महोदय, तुर्कमिनिस्तान-अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान, टैप पाइप-लाइन के हम पार्ट नहीं हैं, किंतु तुर्कमिनिस्तान का जो दोलताबाद एरिया है, वहां पर बहुत सारे गैस रिजर्व्स हैं। तो आप ने "टैपी" बना ली, अब हम इस में हिस्सेदार बन गए, लेकिन हमें इस से गैस कब तक मिलेगी? मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस में हमारी हिस्सेदारी सिर्फ कागजी कार्यवाही न रहे। इसलिए मंत्री जी कृपया बताएं कि हमें वह गैस कब तक उपलब्ध होगी? महोदय, एल. एन. जी. के इम्पोर्ट के लिए भी हम ने बहुत सोचा है और एल. एन. जी. को ओ. जी. एल. में भी लाया गया है। ... (समय की घंटी) Sir, I am only putting pointed questions. I am not giving any background.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : There is time constraint.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, एल. एन. जी. के ओ.जी.एल. में आने के बाद हम ने अपनी डिमांड सप्लाय में कितनी भरपायी की है? आप ने 20th December 2006 को Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks की घोषणा की है। महोदय, कोलकाता, मुंबई, चेन्नई और दिल्ली के लोग उम्मीद लगाए हैं कि कब उनके रसोई घर में गैस पहुंचेगी अर्थात् कब यह प्रोजेक्ट लागू होगा? महोदय, फार्मिनेस मिनिस्टर ने पिछली बजट स्पीच में कहा कि हम एक National Gas Grid हाईवेज के साथ बनाने जा रहे हैं जिस में ट्रांसपोर्टेशन की सुविधा होगी और सड़क से लगते हुए हमारे जितने शहर हैं, वहां पर छोटे उद्योगों को भी गैस मिल सकेगी। आप ने पिछले दिनों बहुत से लाइसेंस छोटे-छोटे पावर प्लांट्स लगाने के लिए, छोटे-छोटे टर्बाइंस लगाने के लिए दिए हैं, उन को गैस कब तक उपलब्ध होगी? कृपया उस का भी ब्यौरा दें।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. To begin with, I feel sad that Mr. Sen and a few other Members have levelled allegations against the Government of mediating between two corporates which I don't think is right. The Government is not doing this. In any way, the Government is not involved in this kind of issues. It is the personal prejudiced opinion, in my opinion, and far from the truth. The other allegations are also* and far from reality... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal) : How can he say that it was* ... (Interruptions)... What is this? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Now, I come to the points which the hon. Minister ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KUREIN) : Please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : How can he say that it was* ... (Interruptions)... He put his point of view. How can it be* ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If they can make allegations, I can also make a remark... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : He can't say that it was* ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If they can make a remark, I can also. ... (Interruptions)... They made a remark against the Minister... (Interruptions)... They made a remark against the Government.... (Interruptions)...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, please. Mr. Santoshji, please listen to me. The Government will reply to them. You ask questions only ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am not talking of reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Don't attribute things. I am talking of * ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am talking of * ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, it is against a Member.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If there is anything unparliamentary, you delete it...*(Interruptions)*... I have no problem....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, every Member gives notice without any motive...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No, please. Let me listen to this.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, every Member give notice without any motive. Calling a Member and saying that they are* questions or there is a motive behind it, that is bad on his part. That is wrong...*(Interruptions)*.. He should withdraw it..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : I will remove it.....*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : He should withdraw it. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seats ..*(Interruptions)*.. I will deal with it. Please take your seats ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I have never attributed any motive to the hon. Minister ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seats..*(Interruptions)*.. I will deal with it...*(Interruptions)* Please take your seats. I will deal with it, Tapanji, please take your seat. I will deal with it....*(Interruptions)*.. I will remove it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : He should withdraw it....*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please. That is what I am saying. I will go through the records. If there is any reference in terms of * against a Member or even if there is any insinuation, that will be expunged...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, that is not the issue. The issue is that this allegation is wrong. He has no right to say. It is for the Minister to say..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : I told him. It is for the Government to say. You can say your opinion. You ask questions...*(Interruptions)*..Please. You can ask your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am coming to the questions..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : He is a very senior Member. We can recommend him to go to the Government, if the Government is willing!...*(Interruptions)*...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, you have already given a ruling and I have accepted it...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You should have done it earlier. Why do you do it late? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I compliment the hon. Minister for giving a detailed statement. Straightaway I would like to put the questions. How is the present production of KG-D6 being used? How is it going to be utilised now and in future?

The second point is : What is the Government doing to increase the production of natural gas in different parts of the country?

Sir, he has mentioned in the first paragraph that the country has embarked on an accelerated programme of exploration and production through the New Exploration Licensing Policy bidding rounds in 1999. How has it, this NELP, helped the country so far? Now, I am just coming to the points...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You have asked three questions.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : They have distributed me, Sir. The next point is that in paragraph 4 he has mentioned how it is going to be used. he has mentioned that the intention of the Government is to operationalise all gas-based assests which were lying idle and unutilised due to non-availability of gas. Here he has mentioned that if there is any shortfall in utilisation it will be used for other purposes. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether the allocation of 15 mmscmd to existing gas-based fertiliser sector and like that 18 mmscmd, 5 mmscmd and 3 mmscmd, these will meet the full demand. Or, will they meet only partial demand? I would like know that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Okay, fine. That is enough.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Just one minute, Sir. in the case of masses, it is more important that the entire demand of the city gas sector and the LPG plants should be first met.

The last point is regarding pricing. He has given an annexure....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No. You ask only questions.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am asking questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please do that.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am doing that. He has given different prices. How has he come to different prices? We must have the same price for all at every level all over the country. Does the Government have any plan to achieve this and by what time? Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will confine myself to asking a couple of clarifications with regard to the domestic natural gas. I am not asking about the gas from Iran. I do not know when the US Government will allow the Government of India to go ahead. Nobody knows that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Don't get distracted, Come to your pointed questions.

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, I join my respected colleague, Shri N.K. Singh, who complimented the Government for declaring natural gas as the national asset. If that is so, I think, the Government has all powers to decide its pricing, marketing, distribution, etc. The Government should not be at the mercy of anybody. I would like to know whether the Government would have that power with itself. This is number one. Secondly, the statement begins by saying, "The production and supply of natural gas started in a major way in the country with the commissioning of the Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur line by GAIL in the year 1987." But the Minister has not mentioned where that gas pipeline is going, where that gas is going. The gas, I understand, has been brought to the North. I do not object to it. Sir, the gas from the Bombay High could have been taken to the South. But the Government has never cared for the South. There are certain fertiliser industries which are in very bad shape in the South. SPIC is not in effective operation. I do not know whether SPIC is closed or working. I do not know it. But it is a bad shape. MFL in Chennai is in a bad shape. FACT is in bad shape because they have to depend on naphtha. They could have been supplied natural gas. Why hasn't the Government done this? So far as the present KG gas pipeline is concerned, there is an attempt to take the gas to Gujarat. There is an attempt to take the gas to UP. I do not object to the gas being taken to Gujarat or UP. But what about the State of Andhra Pradesh where the gas is explored? What is the share of Andhra Pradesh? Is there any thinking on the part of the Government to supply substantial gas to Andhra Pradesh? Is there any thinking on the part of the Government to supply gas to Southern States which have to depend on other sources for power and fertiliser? I would like the Minister to clarify one thng. If I am wrong, I stand corrected....*(Interruptions)*... I would like to seek the attention of the hon. Minister. Clearance has been given for a pipeline project in 2007, that is, Kakinada-Chennai pipeline, Chennai-Cochin pipeline, Chennai-Bangalore pipeline, Chennai-Tuticorin pipeline, but no work has started or no work has been done so far, if my information is correct...*(Interruptions)*. In the case of Kakinada-Gujarat pipeline, the work was finalised...*(Interruptions)*. Kakinada is on the Eastern Coast and Gujarat is on the Western Coast.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is the question?

SHRI D. RAJA : My question is : what is the approach of the Government? India is a country where there are many regions. The Government should have a balanced approach towards all the regions. If this regional imbalance continues, the UPA Government will be in trouble. This is the issue which the Government will have to address at the earliest. Thank you.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. In his reply, the hon. Minister said, "Till the year 2008-09, the domestic availability of natural gas in the country was 105 million metric standard cubic metres per day. Against this, the estimated demand of natural gas was around 197 mmscmd." So, from the statement it is very clear that the supply of gas is lower than the demand of gas in our country. Sir, I come from the North-Eastern Region of the country which is very much famous for its natural gas. Assam has huge quantity of natural gas. My question relates to the gas-based power projects. I am limiting myself only to be gas-based power projects.

Assam is suffering very badly. Even after 62 years of our independence, our country is suffering on account of power shortage, which affects the common people, the cultivators and the industry. Due to shortage of power, small and medium scale industries, in particular, suffer very badly. So, it is high time for Government to generate power from the gas base. Most of the States of our country depend upon power projects from gas. In fact, Tanzania and other countries supply power from gas based power projects. Although Assam has the potential...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Seek your clarification.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, though Assam has the potential for power generation, yet, due to the negligence of the Government, they are not doing anything, and we are suffering. I would like to say on thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Seek your clarification.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Every day gas ignites in Assam. I tell you, it is a national crime. Instead of utilising it in the interest of the country, it is getting ignited in the North-Eastern Region. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is thinking to establish power projects in Assam from the gas available there? This Ministry, in consultation with the Power Ministry, should think about establishment of gas base power projects in Assam. My second clarification is this. When the Government is engaging private parties, then, why are they not engaging the ONGC in this sector?

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal) : Sir, in the statement of the hon. Minister he has said, "However, with no major discovery of gas for several years...". I would like to know whether it is a fact that before the K.G. Basin was privatised, when a fire broke out at a gas well in Amalapuram, -- incidentally, it was the constituency of the former Lok Sabha Speaker, late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi -- the gas was rejected to the ONGC, while, one fine morning, a private party gets gas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why it was so, and why he is saying that no major discovery of gas has taken place. Secondly, the hon. Minister has admitted in his statement that even in case of gas allocation to power plants facing gas shortage, -- it is there in the statement -- power plants in the private sector have been given priority vis-a-vis the NTPC plants by the Empowered Group of Ministers. Why is it so? My third clarification is this. Regarding distribution, the Minister says, "Zero percentage to the Eastern region". Sir, we are coming from the Eastern region; especially, in the four States of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa, there is no proper distribution and the fertilizer plants have been shut down in Durgapur and other places. I would like to know why the Government is not in a position to have proper distribution of gas so as to reduce the imbalance of the country. The K.G. Basin is the national wealth, and it should be distributed, as a national property, to all the regions of the country. Sir, my fourth clarification is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Sir, it is not a fact. We have seen; in the Finance Bill, there is a special ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, ask specific question.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Yes, Sir. This is the specific question. Only for one company, which is related to this gas KG basin, has benefited by Rs. 20,000 crores-- which is a national property -- at the cost of the common people of our country...(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Mr. Shri Mohammed Adeeb.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Sir, my last point is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, no. I have already called Mr. Mohammed Adeeb. Take your seat now...(Interruptions)..

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : ... would like to see, the Indian quality should not...(Interruptions)... This is my opinion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Shri Mohammed Adeeb.

श्री मोहम्मद अदीब (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं अपने मंत्री जी को मुबारकबाद दे रहा हूँ।

جناب محمد ادیب (اتر پردیش): مہودے، میں اپنے منتری جی کو مبارکباد دے رہا ہوں

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : There is no time to congratulate; just put your question.

श्री मोहम्मद अदीब : महोदय, उनके द्वारा यह detailed reply देने के बाद बहुत-सी बातें क्लीयर हो गई हैं, क्योंकि पहले यह लग रहा था, गैस की जो बातें अखबारों में आ रही थीं, उनसे यह लग रहा था कि यह कोई प्राइवेट कंपनियों का जिफ्र है, लेकिन मंत्री जी के बयान के बाद यह सामने आया कि यह हुकूमत-ए-हिन्द की हैसियत है और यह देश के हित में है। इससे हम लोगों को इत्मीनान हुआ। इन्होंने reply बहुत सही दिया है, लेकिन मैं दो बातें जानना चाहता हूँ। दसवें पैराग्राफ में आपने लिखा है कि 203 block under NEPL के हमने ब्लॉक किए हैं और लगभग 12 बिलियन डॉलर इन्वेस्ट किए हैं, लेकिन इसके नतीजे क्या हुए? उससे कितनी गैस निकलने की उम्मीद है तथा कितनी गैस और निकलने की उम्मीद है? जहां तक distribution का सवाल है, तो हमको सब जगह जाना चाहिए। अभी हमारे साथी ने नोयडा का जिफ्र किया है। वहां आज तीन-चार साल से किसानों की जमीन ली गई है, लेकिन वहां आज तक प्लांट नहीं लगा है और चंद दिनों पहले मायावती जी ने अपना एक इशतेहार दिया है, जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश में 2017 तक के पावर प्लांट का जिफ्र है, लेकिन दादरी प्लांट का उसमें कोई जिफ्र नहीं है **(समय की घंटी)**। महोदय, यह एक चिंता का विषय है, क्योंकि वहां हमारी जमीन भी ली गई और वहां अभी तक कोई पावर प्लांट भी नहीं लगा है।

महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने EGOM के जरिए एक फार्मूला बनाया है, जिसके तहत आपने pricing की है। मैं यह मालूम करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आपने इसे 4.25 फिक्स किया है और इस फार्मूले के तहत आपने लिखा है कि अगर डॉलर 25 से 60 के बीच रहता है तो यह price 2.5 मिलेगी या यह 4.25 रहेगी? बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

جناب محمد ادیب : مہودے، ان کے دوارا یہ ٹٹیلڈ ریپلانی دینے کے بعد بہت سی باتیں کلئیر ہو گئی ہیں، کیوں کہ پہلے یہ لگ رہا تھا، گیس کی جو باتیں اخباروں میں آ رہی تھیں، ان سے یہ لگ رہا تھا کہ یہ کوئی پرائیویٹ کمپنیوں کا ذکر ہے،

لیکن منٹری جی کے بیان کے بعد یہ سامنے آیا کہ یہ حکومت بند کی حیثیت ہے اور یہ دیش کے بت میں ہے۔ اس سے ہم لوگوں کو اطمینان ہوا۔ انہوں نے ریپلانی بہت صحیح دیا ہے، لیکن میں دو باتیں جاننا چاہتا ہوں۔ دسویں پیراگراف میں آپ نے لکھا ہے کہ 203 بلاک انڈر این۔ای۔پی۔ایل۔ کے ہم نے بلاک کئے ہیں اور لگ بھگ 12 بلین ڈالر انویسٹ کئے ہیں، لیکن اس کے نتیجے کیا ہوئے؟ اس سے کتنی گیس نکالنے کی امید ہے اور کتنی گیس اور نکالنے کی امید ہے؟ جہاں تک ڈسٹریبیوشن کا سوال ہے، تو ہم کو سب جگہ جانا چاہیے۔ ابھی ہمارے ایک ساتھی نے نوئیڈا کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ وہاں آج تین چار سال سے کسانوں کی زمین لی گئی ہے، لیکن وہاں آج تک پلانٹ نہیں لگا ہے اور چند دنوں پہلے مایاوتی جی نے اپنا ایک اشتہار دیا ہے، جس میں اتر پردیش میں 2017 تک کے پاور پلانٹ کا ذکر ہے، لیکن دادری پلانٹ کا اس میں کوئی ذکر نہیں ہے۔ (وقت کی گھنٹی)۔ مہودے، یہ ایک چنٹا کا وشن ہے، کیوں کہ وہاں ہماری زمین بھی لی گئی اور وہاں ابھی تک کوئی پاور پلانٹ نہیں لگا ہے۔

مہودے، میں ایک بات اور کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ نے EGOM کے ذریعے ایک فارمولہ بنایا ہے، جس کے تحت آپ نے پرائسنگ کی ہے۔ میں یہ معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر آپ نے اسے 4.25 فکس کیا ہے اور اس فارمولے کے تحت آپ نے لکھا ہے کہ اگر ڈالر 25 سے 60 کے بیچ رہتا ہے تو یہ پرائس 2.5 ملے گی یا یہ 4.25 رہے گی؟ بہت بہت شکریہ۔

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya.

پرو. اलका क्षत्रिय (गुजरात) : धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। देश के औद्योगिकीकरण में उपलब्ध बहुमूल्य संसाधन गैस राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति है, जो कि किसानों के लिए जरूरी उर्वरक के लिए, सार्वजनिक परिवहन के लिए, इस्पात क्षेत्र के लिए, घरेलू क्षेत्र के लिए, विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए बहुत ही जरूरी है, लेकिन दो सरकारी गैस कंपनियों ने इसको अपनी निजी संपत्ति माना है। मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य RIL और RNRL के बीच गैस मुद्दे से है, जो कि अब उच्चतम न्यायालय में पहुंच चुका है। मैं न्यायालय के विचाराधीन मामले के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहना चाहती हूँ, लेकिन इन दो कंपनियों द्वारा पारिवारिक निपटारे के लिए देश के प्राकृतिक संसाधन गैस को अपनी निजी संपत्ति मान कर आपस में बांटा गया है, उसके बारे में मैं बात करना चाहती हूँ कि तथाकथित समझौता-पत्र, जिसका ब्यौरा अभी भी गुप्त है, मैं गैस को निजी संपत्ति समझा गया और इसे हस्ताक्षरकर्ताओं ने 60:40 के अनुपात में बांट दिया है। यह बात पिछले चार सालों से चल रही थी और इस गंभीर बाबत की ओर अब सरकार का ध्यान गया है, जिसके लिए पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दे रही हूँ और मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध भी करना चाहती हूँ और पूछना भी चाहती हूँ कि समझौता-पत्र के बारे में वह सदन को बताए कि समझौता-पत्र में क्या लिखा गया है? दूसरी

बात में यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या ऐसा कोई कानून है कि जिसके तहत ऐसे किसी कानून को अनुमति दी जा सकती है? तीसरी बात, जहाँ तक गैस आबंटन का संबंध है, उसमें सरकार द्वारा शुरुआत में क्या कदम उठाए गए थे? चौथी बात, ऐसी निंदनीय व्यापारिक कुव्यवस्था की रोकथाम के लिए, राष्ट्र की सार्वभौम और अधिकार की सुरक्षा के लिए क्या सरकार का कोई विधान लाने का प्रस्ताव है? और, आखिरी बात, क्या सरकार का स्वतंत्र Regulatory Authority बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है? महोदय, मैंने बहुत ही point-wise जवाब मांगा है और मेरे सवाल का जवाब मंत्री जी देंगे। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Okay, Shri D.P. Sabharwal.

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : महोदय, सांसद श्री तपन कुमार सेन ने सरकार का जिस मुद्दे की ओर ध्यानाकर्षण किया है, यह बहुत समय से चल रहा है। इसके बारे में मेरे सांसद साथियों ने बहुत खुलकर स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है और मंत्री जी ने भी जो बयान दिया है, वह बहुत विस्तारपूर्वक दिया है। महोदय, मैं ऐसा कोई प्रश्न या स्पष्टीकरण नहीं पूछना चाहूंगा जो मेरे साथी पहले पूछ चुके हैं। मैं केवल यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या दो निजी कंपनियाँ अपने पारिवारिक झंझट विवाद को निपटाने के लिए देश के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों जैसे गैस, तेल आदि को आपस में बांट सकती हैं? अगर सरकार द्वारा इस तथ्य की अनदेखी हुई है, तो क्या वह उसको जल्द पूरा करेगी, क्योंकि प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर तो देश का अधिकार होता है। इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स मीडिया में प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस करके सरकार की आलोचना की गयी है, जबकि मामला न्यायालय के विचाराधीन है। क्या सरकार उन कंपनियों के विरुद्ध Contempt of Court का मुकदमा दायर करेगी?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या संसद के इस सत्र के बाद सरकार कोई अध्यादेश लाएगी, जिससे इस विवाद को विराम मिल सके और देश के बहुमूल्य प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को किसानों और आम जनता की जरूरत के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जा सके?

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, this gas is now an important thing and is going to create problems if the Government does not take up distribution of gas properly. As my friend, Shri Raja was saying, it is in Amlapuram from where late Balayogi was the M.P., and now a young gentlemen is an M.P. from that area. I know, so many times they came and represented to me. Farmers have lost thousands of acres of land because of the activities of the ONGC. The moving vehicles damage roads and create all these problems. So, we have all these sufferings for Andhra. Now, when the gas is available, some gentleman wants to take it to some other place, and some gentleman wants to take it to some place without asking what is the need of Andhra. I know the hon. Minister is a very knowledgeable man; he will definitely look into Andhra needs. But I want to give one example here. Sir 15 years ago, the IFFCO purchased 5000 acres of land, in my district, to start a fertiliser company for South India, not for Andhra alone. At that time, it was stopped because naphtha was a costly affair, and gas was not available for that plant. It was said that it would be commissioned only if gas was made available.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, put your question.

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Now, presently, the State has got its own gas. If we don't look into it, if don't look into the Andhra needs, if we don't look into the various aspects of Andhra, how can one take the gas from Andhra? I am not threatening, but the situation is like this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You are not threatening but asking.

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, that is why I said that this block is going to create problems. Yesterday, the Assembly passed a resolution and the Chief Minister has assured in the House that the needs of Andhrites will be met first and then the gas can be allowed to be taken anywhere. I am not threatening; being an MP, I should not do that. But, I am bringing the reality to the notice of the House and to the hon. Minister. I only request the Minister to inform the House, through which the people of Andhra may know, what he is going to do with the demand of the Andhra people and the rest of the nation. You can give it to U.P. or others. Thank you.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the Minister, in his statement said that with the commencement of the KG's D6 production, over 100 mmscmd gas is being supplied to power and fertilizer sectors out of a total supply of 140 mmscmd. Not only that, he also said, as a result of KG D6 supplies, about 4000 MW additional power is being generated and an annual subsidy of fertilizer to the extent of Rs. 3000 crores is achieved. Such a huge contribution this KG D6 is making. When such a huge profit is provided, out of 140 mmscmd, 100 mmscmd is produced from the KG D6 basin. Then, the people of Andhra Pradesh had been expecting for several years, that taking regional balance into consideration, a considerable amount of gas would be given to the people of Andhra Pradesh, to the factories that are closed down, to the power plants that are starving, to those whose capacities are not fully utilised to their maximum strength. They had been expecting that a considerable amount of gas would be allocated for the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the domestic needs of Andhra Pradesh. I request the hon. Minister to announce in this House that such and such amount of gas is allocated to meet the needs of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

SHRI SHANTI RAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa) : Sir, gas is a national asset. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when an impression is being created openly that it is an issue between two private parties, why did not you assert positively to remove the impression apart from saying that it is a national property? This is the first point. Secondly, is the Government proposing to bring in legislation to regularise the production utilisation and distribution of gas? If so, what time do we expect such a legislation? Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. I just associate myself with Dr. Janardhana Reddy and Shri Madhu. There is a total unrest in the minds of the people of that region saying that something should be done for the region and, then, the needs of others should also be taken care of.

Sir, I represent a national party, I do not speak of one particular State, but, at the same, every State is a part of the nation. So, keeping that in mind, you should consider it. It is not from the sea, it is from the land and of the farmers of that region. They have given that land. Now this KG D6 is yielding really good results. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution, political parties are also agitated over this matter and public also is agitated over this matter. I request the hon. Minister to tell what is the thinking of the Government with regard to taking care of the needs of the State, and, then, subsequently take care of the entire nation also. I just wanted to focus on that point.

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी (गुजरात) : महोदय, नेचुरल गैस को सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति घोषित किया है। नेचुरल गैस के बारे में जो गवर्नमेंट पोलिसी है, उसके बारे में सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ। एक्ज्युअली पॉवर जेनिरेशन में जो नेचुरल गैस की आवश्यकता है, गुजरात के पिपावो में गैस देने का प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी जी ने promise किया था और वहां हम 650 मेगावाट का पॉवर स्टेशन जेनिरेट कर रहे हैं, आपकी policy अनुसार इसमें वहां से गैस मिलेगी, लेकिन अभी तक गुजरात को वह गैस मिली नहीं है। इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कहना चाहती है और सरकार क्या कर रही है? इस बारे में बताएंगे तो अच्छा रहेगा। दूसरे, यह जो बड़ी कम्पनियां हैं तथा छोटी-छोटी कम्पनियां हैं और स्मॉल एंटरप्राइजेज हैं, उनको गैस कब मिलेगी, और कहां से मिलेगी? यह भी आप बताएं तो ठीक रहेगा। आंध्र प्रदेश को 70 परसेंट प्लांट लोड फैक्टर से गैस मिल रही है, बाकी राज्य को 60 परसेंट गैस मिल रही है। इसलिए बाकी सब राज्यों को भी डिमांड है कि आंध्र प्रदेश को भी 60 परसेंट देना चाहिए। पन्नामुक्ता में गुजरात को जो हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए, वह भी आप तुरंत देंगे, इस बात की हमारी मांग है?

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the point raised by my colleague, Mr. D. Raja, I just want to add only one sentence to that(Interruptions)... The aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh should not be overlooked while you are allocating it. Even though it is a national asset but the people of Andhra Pradesh expect substantial allocation to be made to the people of Andhra Pradesh. That is the only thing I wanted to submit. Thank you.

श्री गिरिश कुमार सांगी : सर, यह कहावत है कि - दीया तले अंधेरा। They celebrated this gas finding with a great hope that it will change their lives and the area will be developed. The Government of Andhra Pradesh who announced several projects in the vicinity and throughout Andhra Pradesh...(Time bell rings)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KUREIN) : Please put your question.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : My straight question to the hon. Minister is, what percentage of the total gas findings in KG basin will be allocated to Andhra Pradesh and out of the royalty that the Government of India is getting, what will be share of Andhra Pradesh in that royalty?

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam) : Sir, the Government is going to establish a gas project in Assam. So, there is anxiety in the minds of the people about the availability of gas. I would like to know whether gas would be available till the completion of that project. That is my only question.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank my friend, Tapan Sen who was for the last four or five days was following that this subject should be taken up. I am very grateful to him and all the other Members who have participated in this debate. The purpose of submitting such a big note was that there would not be so many replied. But I would like to start with two or three very small points. Sir, 30 years back I was Mayor of Bombay. At that time, we had a man called Dr. N.B. Prasad - - Mr. N.K. Singh would remember him. He was also from Andhra Pradesh. Dr. N.B. Prasad was the Chairman of the ONGC. He came to sign an agreement with the Mayor of Bombay Municipal Corporation for supply of gas from Bombay High to the domestic city of Bombay. Bombay has domestic supply. I remember now only last year Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, who is sitting here,

inaugurated that supply. It took 31 years for a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the then Mayor of Bombay and Dr. N.B. Prasad to be implemented and get the gas in reality. That time, people were reading, "Bombay High Gas", "Bombay High Gas". Today also, "Bombay High" is producing 26 million tons of oil. After, Bombay High, there is a production of only six or seven million tons extra, that is, 31 to 32 million tons which is the total indigenous production of our country. We are importing seventy five per cent of oil.

I would like to first make an appeal to my colleagues here; we must make some schemes or projects, and we should see to it that this oil or gas which is there in the oil fields or in the gas fields, is explored; it comes out. That why the Government started a programme called 'NELP'. I can assure you that the NELP which is now working around the country, and specially, in Andhra Pradesh, etc. is doing very well. More than 50 per cent of the total gas, produced in India, may be coming from this one area of Andhra Pradesh, and if we keep on lending others and saying that this is belonging to him, that is belonging to him, this fellow is in the pocket, this fellow is in another pocket, I do not think, we will do any service to anybody. So, the first and foremost appeal, I would like to make to this House is that we should be proud that such vast reservoirs of, both, oil and gas are available in our country, and, I will be very grateful if the people will give a line to them rather than worrying about what to be done. When I see my friend Sen. I remember, 30 years back or 25 years back, there was a controversy about the ownership or the nationalisation. Sir, at old days of nationalisation have gone. I have even discussed with your Chief Minister, several times, several projects. He does not talk about nationalisation! And you also, Mr. Raja!...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : No, no, no...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : What are you worried about? The nationalisation?(Interruptions)... you are worried about the nationalisation?(Interruptions)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : He is raising about different Chief Ministers. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Madhu, please take your seat.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am praising him. Are you against the Chief Minister?...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : It is not a question of Chief Minister. Our party policy is for producing...(Interruptions)... Not for private companies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : That is known to everybody. Please sit down....(Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : So, I am requesting you to please change your party policy, otherwise, you will change the Government from there!...(Interruptions)...

3.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take it lightly. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Why are you taking it seriously? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take it lightly, Mr. Madhu.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : I am taking it very lightly. I am trying to apprise the Minister. If they adopt the same tripartite private policy, they will be changed. Next time they will be changed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is this, Mr. Madhu? Such remarks should be taken lightly. What is there?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : मैं मजाक में कहता हूँ, आप क्यों ...*(व्यवधान)*... It is just not possible to reply to every point. Some of them are very, very meaningful; I can assure you, we will take cognisance of that, and we will see that they are implemented. In case somebody wants in writing, I will reply to them in two or three days. But, I will come to the two or three points that are raised now, I would like to read for them, [The State of Andhra Pradesh has a lot of natural resources. Any State which produces so much oil and so much gas, must be given some priority.] The Committee, EGoM considered this issue. When we were talking about the priority, when we were talking about the price, this question came and the people of Andhra Pradesh can be rest assured that we will do full justice to the people of Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : What about Assam?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, please, it is not from Assam. Assam is not the question, please ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't raise it unnecessarily...*(Interruptions)*.. Mr. Moinul Hassan, please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... On Assam, you can have another Motion. Mr. Sanghi, please sit down.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... तेल और गैस के भंडार आंध्र प्रदेश में हैं यह वहां से आते हैं, उसके लिए कोई स्पेशल प्रॉविजन करेंगे, उनको पावर के लिए, फर्टिलाइजर के लिए या डोमेस्टिक यूज के लिए तेल और गैस मिलेगी, इसलिए घबराने की कोई बात नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply. Why don't you allow him to reply? He gave you the reply that Andhra will be taken care of...*(Interruptions)*.. Sit down.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, this is a very vague reply...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, he has not given a proper reply...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is this, Sanghi? He has replied to your question first...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, the point is...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, no. It will not go on record.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Whatever Mr. Sanghi says will not go on record....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am replying to your question..*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN : Let him reply. Please, take your seat*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply. Please, take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sanghi...*(Interruptions)*...it is not going on record.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You take your seat. Let him reply.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, the hon. Minister is talking about nationalisation...*(Interruptions)*.. Let him talk about privatisation*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Mr. Tapan Sen, take your seat...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, listen to the reply, Mr. Tapan Sen....*(Interruptions)*... You please address the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't look at them, Mr. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, hon. Members have raised some very important points....*(Interruptions)*... Please allow me to reply.

Sir, under article 297 of the Constitution, the mineral resources of the country are owned by the Government. Since, E & P business is a highly risky business involving high level of technology and capital and to attract investments in E & P sector, the Government had approved the NELP Policy in 1997 to create a competitive and efficient regime based on award of blocks under international competitive bidding. The main objective of introducing the NELP was to intensify the exploration in the country so that more acreage is put on production to reduce the dependence on import of crude oil & gas by introducing attractive fiscal regime to the investors, both in public and private sector on a level-playing field.

The Government had initiated deregulation of the E & P sector during the year 1991 and made conscious efforts progressively to deregulate it completely by introducing the New Exploration Licensing Policy in 1999. The exploration is a very risky venture requiring high technology and capital, especially in deepwater areas and frontier basins, which require appropriate returns to encourage the companies. Such returns are assured under PSC regime where the contractors are entitled to recover the cost of exploration and development and also share profit petroleum along with the Government. There are cases which may not lead to discovery. In such cases, the investments made by them will not yield returns and these expenditures cannot be charged for cost recovery in any

*Not recorded.

other successfully exploration block. Moreover, the Government has already signed 203 contracts under NELP and 28 PSCs under pre-NELP exploration regime, which are in different stages of development and production. Now, reversing the Government policies would have adverse impact on these PSCs. Hence, the PSCs are required to be honoured in its entirety.

Sir, the price of US \$ 4.20 at crude price of US \$ 60 per barrel is a formula approved by the EGoM. Under the provisions of Production Sharing Contract, the Government has a role in approving the price formula. While approving the price formula, the Government has examined the price formula proposed by the contractor under the PSC and taken into consideration the interest of various sectors, including power, fertilizer, etc. The formula was also subject to scrutiny by the Committee of Secretaries and the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for which the Chairman was Dr. C. Rangarajan. It was only thereafter the EGoM has approved the price formula with some modifications. It must also be noted that the contractor has made no proposal on the price formula for determining the pricing of supply of gas to be made to NTPC which is required under the PSC. This process not having been undertaken, EGoM's approved price is applicable.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : As regards the court, some hon. Members raised some points...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA : Why is this formula linked with the price of crude oil in the international market? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : It has to be; otherwise, how would it be decided? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA : It is a domestic product. It is available in our country. Why is there a linkage... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, please... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : The final order of 15th June, 2009 of the Division Bench of the hon. Bombay High Court has implications on the Government's rights to formulate and implement the Gas Utilization Policy under the Production Sharing Contract. Notwithstanding the Government policies and the provisions of the PSC, the Order observes that the provisions of the MoU are binding on the parties. The MoU, as per the judgement, provides that 12 mmsmcd will be given to NTPC, 28 mmsmcd will be given to RNRL and the remaining, at the option of ADAG will be shared between RIL and RNRL in the ratio of 60:40. Under the circumstances, it was necessary to file an SLP in the hon. Supreme Court and, accordingly, action has been taken. I would like to dwell further on the subject but since the matter is *sub judice*, it prohibits me from speaking on this.

We have nothing to do with the private dispute of two industries or industrialists. I repeat, we have nothing to do with the private dispute of the two industrialists or industries. However, we have everything to do with protecting the interests of the Government and also of the public. This is our constitutional and legal obligation to protect the people of India and we will, honestly, honour it. Mr.

Yadav, I am telling you, we will make all endeavours to protect the Government's legal rights to regulate the utilization of gas and its allocation. I am very grateful to all the Members and say that in case any Member has any other query, please send me a note, in two or three days, I will reply to that. Thank you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, at least one clarification must be allowed; otherwise, there will be no use of making this Calling Attention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : At least, one clarification must be allowed, and the hon. Minister must reply, specifically, to that ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat. The Minister has already stated in the House that whatever points are not replied here, he will be writing to every Member. He has already committed...(Interruptions).. Now, we will take up further discussion on the rise in prices of essential commodities. Now, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi...(Interruptions)... Yes, Yes, Mr. Sen, he will write to you...(Interruptions)....

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कोई जवाब ही नहीं दिया है...(व्यवधान)... आप पहले से लिखकर लाए हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुरली देवरा : आप बाहर थे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Usually, Calling Attention takes one Hour. It has taken more than that...(Interruptions).... He will write to you....(Interruptions)... Please take your seats. I have called Mr. Sanghi. ..(Interruptions)... Mr. Minister, you will reply to every Member, whatever is left. Won't you? ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi...(Interruptions)... Nothing else will go on record except what Shri Gireesh Kumar is saying.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation Arising out of continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to express my views on the availability of essential commodities and price rise in the country, which is a very burning subject of discussion. Sir, price rise is a natural phenomenon. Over the years, we have been seeing that either the prices go up or come down. This is based on demand and supply and the market forces. Which apply to this. The Hon. Minister, rightly, state, during his speech in Lok Sabha, that the price rise in our country, when compared to other countries all over the world, is very much in control. The price rise, over the last few years, in our country has been almost to the tune of 16 to 17 per cent, whereas compared to other countries, developed countries also, it was right up to the tune of about 100 per cent.

Sir, I will straightway come to some of the measures taken by our State, the State of Andhra Pradesh, by our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. When we talk of price rise, there are two different segments. One segment is the segment which is affluent, which can afford the price rise and which can go to various super markets to buy products of their needs. They want very high quality and high priced products. There is another segment which is our rural folk or our poor folk, and so also the people who are living 'Below Poverty line'. For them, the Government intervention is very much essential. I am confident, and I am sure that the kind of intervention that my State, the State of Andhra Pradesh, has done is highly commendable. I would like to put before this House the various steps taken by our State Government under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Sir, you will be surprised to know that we have about 2 crore 30 lakh ration cards in our State. We supply rice at two rupees per kg., and up to 30 kgs. of rice is given to a family, up to 4 kgs., per head, in family. We supply 10 kgs. of wheat at Rs. 7 per kg; sugar at Rs. 13.50 per kg; kerosene at Rs. 9.75 a litre and Palmolein oil at Rs. 35 per litre. As far as red gram is concerned, we supply red gram at Rs. .30 per kg to each family. Sir, the Public Distribution System, in our State, is working very, very effectively, and there are hardly any cases where people feel that they don't have a ration card. If somebody has got a white ration card, he is also covered under the Rajiv Arogyasri by which his health is also covered; his health is also insured. There are hundreds of ailments which are covered under the Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme; and the beneficiary can walk into any of the corporate hospitals and get himself treated. Since 2007 when this Scheme was started, up till now, our Government has spent on the Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme itself Rs. 1725 crores, benefiting 3 lakh beneficiaries. Now, this Scheme has been extended to 367 hospitals and 942 diseases have been identified under this Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme. Sir, this year, the Government has allocated Rs. 925 crores....(Interruptions)....

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, यह discssion price rise पर है या heath पर है।

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, I am speaking on price rise, on essential commodities, on health, on...

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : You may continue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Speak on price rise.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Yes, Sir. Essential commodities are also part of it; health is also a part of it. Similarly, our Government has started a new project through which they will be supplying mineral drinking water at two rupees for twenty litres to each house. It is a very unique scheme which the Government of Andhra Pradesh has started. Similarly, Sir, there are many such programmes which the Government has taken up to control the price rise and to support the farmers. Sir, because for the farmers are the backbone of producing agricultural produce, our State Government is spending about Rs. 5600 crores, annually, to give nine hours' free power supply, per day, to about 30 lakh pump sets. These are the various measures that our Government has taken. To benefit the poor people, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also taken up various innovative schemes like pensions and other initiatives. This is how the Government intervened. Price rise is one thing, but strengthening and benefiting the common man to improve their purchasing power is also an issue directly related to price rise.

Now, Sir, when we talk of price rise, there are several issues related to the Ministry of Agriculture. I feel that there is a lot of gap between the land and the lab. There is a huge gap between what is done in labs and the benefits that people at the grassroots level, the farmers, are getting out of the research done there. There is a lot of gap there and a lot needs to be done in this area. We have to do a lot of research, come out with new seeds, extension work needs to be improved, and so on. Statistics are available to show the yield in our country is very poor. Take any crop's yield in our country; it is very poor. Be it rice, wheat, cotton, pulses or oilseeds, when compared to other countries, the crop yield in our country is very poor. So, our farm practices need to be improved. Our harvesting practices need to be improved. Our land use policy has to be changed. We have various types of land in our country; there are hills, mountains, plains and fallow lands. For each of these land types, land policies must be made according to the availability of resources. Similarly, Sir, irrigation is a big factor when it comes to controlling price rise and availability of commodities. It is directly related to agriculture. I am happy to share with this august House the initiatives taken by our State's Government in this area also. It is through a programme called Jalayagnam where initially 26 projects were taken up with a total outlay 46,000 crores. Later on, we added 81 projects which would irrigate 21,75,000 acres of land. Ultimately, the plan is to bring about one crore acres of land under irrigation. It will definitely strengthen the farmers and increase yields. By increasing the yield, we will be able to supplement the shortfall in supply and reduce the gap between demand and supply. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister, who is present here, is to ensure that proper extension work is done and the benefits extended to the farmers. The transport system in our country is such that we find that a particular commodity is sold at a very cheap rate in a particular area, the growing centre, while in other centres the same commodity is sold at a very high price. So, proper logistics and transportation also need to be strengthened and enhanced so that we are able to do a better job.

श्री शान्ता कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मान्यवर उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आज सदन एक बहुत ही चिन्ताजनक विषय पर चर्चा कर रहा है। मुझे अपने पूर्ववक्ता सांसद की बात सुन कर बहुत हैरानी हुई। महंगाई जैसे विषय के संबंध में इस प्रकार से विचार करना कि यह नैचुरल फिर्नामिना है, कभी बढ़ती है, कभी घटती है, सत्ताधारी दल का इस प्रकार का एटीट्यूड रहने के कारण ही आज महंगाई बढ़ रही है, घट नहीं रही है।

इस बात को भुलाना नहीं चाहिए कि भारत वर्ष में 26 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं। United Nations Food Programme की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इस देश में लगभग 20 करोड़ लोग भुखमरी की हालत में रहते हैं, जिन लोगों के घरों में दो वक्त की सूखी रोटी भी नहीं होती है और जिस घर में रात को मां अपने बेटे को यह कहती है कि आज खाने को कुछ नहीं है, पानी का गिलास पीकर सो जाओ। पूर्व वक्ता द्वारा कही इस किस्म की बातें सुन कर वे लोग क्या सोचते होंगे, यह विचार करने की बात है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, महंगाई आज आम व्यक्ति की कमर तोड़ रही है। गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोगों तथा अति गरीब लोगों की टूटी हुई कमर और अधिक टूट रही है। मुझे दुख है कि देश के गरीबों की झोंपड़ी से आने वाली सिसकियों को सुनने के लिए भी सत्ताधारी दल आज तैयार नहीं है। सबसे बड़ी हैरानी तो तब होती है, जब अखबार में यह खबर आती है कि मुद्रास्फीति कम हो गई, एक प्रतिशत पर पहुंच गई, लेकिन जब आम आदमी बाजार में आता है, तब उसको अरहर की दाल 95 रुपए प्रति किलो के भाव में प्राप्त होती है।

सर, मैं बड़े जोर से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया-भर में आर्थिक नीतियों का निर्धारण मुद्रास्फीति पर होता है पर भारत में मुद्रास्फीति बिल्कुल गलत ढंग से आंकी जाती है, थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के आधार पर। यहां आम essential commodities और गरीबों की जरूरतों के आधार पर उसको आंकने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। Economic Survey के page 68 पर differences in WPI, CPI-- मैं उसका एक उदाहरण देता हूँ--उसमें food prices WPI 25.43 और अंत में उपभोक्ता मूल्य agriculture-labour 69.15 है। इस प्रकार थोक मूल्य सूचकांक और खेतिहर मजदूरों के सूचकांक में 45 अंकों का अंतर है। इसी प्रकार से मार्च, 2009 में मुद्रास्फीति lowest 0.8 per cent है, परन्तु खाद्य-वस्तुओं में मूल्य-वृद्धि 10 प्रतिशत है। थोक मूल्य में manipulation होती है, वे manipulate किए जाते हैं। विश्व-भर में केवल 24 देश ऐसे हैं, जो थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के आधार पर अपनी नीतियों का निर्धारण करते हैं और 157 देश ऐसे हैं, जो उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक पर अपनी नीतियों का निर्धारण करते हैं। सरकार इस बारे में विचार करे। मार्च 2009 में मूल्य सूचकांक 0.44 है, लेकिन खाद्य-पदार्थों के दाम 10.16 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं। दालें 11 प्रतिशत बढ़ी और चीनी का मूल्य 23 प्रतिशत बढ़ा, लेकिन सरकार ने जो inflation बताया, वह 0.44 प्रतिशत है।

थोक मूल्य सूचकांक 435 वस्तुओं पर आंके जाते हैं और देश के चार बड़े नगरों के आंके जाते हैं, उनका आम और गरीब आदमी के जीवन के साथ कोई संबंध नहीं है। 2007 में एक सरकारी समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में भी यह बात कही थी कि थोक मूल्य सूचकांक सही नहीं है। इसलिए मैं यह चाहूंगा कि सरकार एक बहुत बड़ा आर्थिक सुधार करे। आप जो उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक भी बताते हैं, वह uniform नहीं है। यह agricultural labour के लिए अलग है industrial labour के लिए अलग है। वह भी भ्रामक है। मैं यह चाहूंगा कि एक आर्थिक सुधार हो और गरीब के साथ, आम आदमी के साथ जो संबंधित भाव हैं, उनके आधार पर इसको तैयार किया जाए। भारत में एक विश्वसनीय मूल्य सूचकांक की आवश्यकता है। आप बताइए कि जो 26 करोड़ गरीब लोग हैं, उनकी आवश्यकताओं के मुताबिक मूल्य सूचकांक क्या है? 20 करोड़ अति गरीब लोग, जो लगभग भूखे रहते हैं, आप उनका उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक बताइए, तब असली चेहरा सरकार के सामने आएगा। यह सुधार किया जाए, तो हमारी नीतियां ठीक ढंग से निर्धारित होती हैं।

सर, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि महंगाई तो एक लक्षण है, बीमारी तो कुछ और ही है। कुछ तत्कालिक कारण हैं, जैसे-सूखा पड़ गया, वर्षा ज्यादा हो गई, युद्ध हो गया, लेकिन मुख्य रूप से महंगाई के कारण बुनियादी हैं, जिनके कारण महंगाई बढ़ रही है और यह निरंतर बढ़ती चली जाएगी। महोदय, मुख्य कारण हैं गलत व अव्यावहारिक नीतियां, गलत प्राथमिकताएं, inefficient implementation और भ्रष्टाचार। महोदय, उत्पादन बढ़ेगा तब देश आगे बढ़ेगा, तब महंगाई कम होगी, लेकिन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से जो बातें आवश्यक थीं, उन पर सरकार ने विचार नहीं किया।

महोदय, हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है और जहां 70 प्रतिशत लोग कृषि पर काम करते हैं वहां जो कृषि को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए थी, वह नहीं दी गयी। आज हालत यह है कि Gross capital formation में, प्रारंभ में कृषि का भाग 23 प्रतिशत था, वह घटते-घटते 6 प्रतिशत रह गया। महोदय, देश आजाद होने के बाद जी.डी.पी. में कृषि का हिस्सा जहां 58 परसेंट था, आज वह घटकर केवल 18 परसेंट रह गया। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में निवेश 64 हजार करोड़ था, आज अगर पैसे की कीमत का हिसाब लगाया जाए तो एक और पांच का अंतर है। उस समय जितना निवेश था अगर उस में एक भी नया पैसा न बढ़ाना हो तो भी निवेश 3 लाख करोड़ होना चाहिए, लेकिन निवेश एक लाख करोड़ भी नहीं है।

महोदय, कृषि की पूरी उपेक्षा ही देश की आर्थिक समस्या का सबसे बड़ा कारण है। फिर सिंचाई की उपेक्षा की गयी है। हमारे यहां 142 मिलियन हैक्टेयर में से केवल 57 मिलियन हैक्टेयर सिंचित भूमि है और उस में 55 परसेंट उत्पादन होता है। 5 मिलियन हैक्टेयर भूमि वर्षा पर निर्भर है और उस में केवल 45 प्रतिशत उत्पादन होता है। यही कारण है कि आज उत्पादन में भारत दुनिया के बहुत से देशों से पीछे हैं। मैं देख रहा था, केवल धान में भारत की प्रति हैक्टेयर उपज 3 हजार किलोग्राम है और चीन की 6 हजार किलोग्राम है। चीन हमारे बाद स्वतंत्र हुआ और हमारे बाद एक देश के रूप में खड़ा हुआ तो भी चीन की उपज 6 हजार किलोग्राम है, जापान की 5,800 है। इंडोनेशिया भी हम से ज्यादा है। उस का उत्पादन 4,500 किलोग्राम है। यहां तक कि बंगला देश का उत्पादन भी भारत के उत्पादन से ज्यादा है। उत्पादन के मामले में गलत प्राथमिकताएं तय करने के कारण हम उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ा सके हैं। Egypt का धान का उत्पादन 9,400 किलोग्राम है और हमारा 3000 किलोग्राम है। इस का क्या कारण है? वियतनाम का उत्पादन भी 4,600 किलोग्राम है। इसी प्रकार wheat में भी हम कितने ही देशों से पीछे हैं। ग्राउंड नट में हमारा उत्पादन 938 किलोग्राम है, चाइना का 2,624 किलोग्राम है, जापान का 2,308 किलोग्राम और वियतनाम का 1667 किलोग्राम है। आप देखिए सब से कम उत्पादन भारत का है क्योंकि हम ने कृषि पर ध्यान नहीं दिया, कृषि पर investment नहीं हुआ और irrigation पर जितना ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए था, वह नहीं दिया गया, इसलिए आज हमारी यह स्थिति है।

महोदय, मैं बुनियादी बात कहना चाहता हूं। भारत जैसे देश में कृषि पर जितना ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए था, भारत जैसे देश में irrigation पर जितना ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए था, वह नहीं दिया गया, हमारे यहां irrigation, कृषि बिल्कुल उपेक्षित है जिस के कारण किसान भी खुदकुशी कर रहा है, जिस के कारण किसान खेत छोड़ रहा है, जिस के कारण उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ा है, जिस के कारण गरीबी है, जिस के कारण आज यह महंगाई बढ़ी है।

महोदय, जिस ढंग से यह सरकार प्रशासन चलाती रही है, यह भी महंगाई का एक और बड़ा कारण है। मुझे इस बात का दुख है कि जिस देश में 20 करोड़ लोग भुखमरी की हालत में रहते हैं, जिस देश में 26 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं, उस देश का प्रशासन नवाबी तरीके से, शहाना तरीके से चलता है और प्रशासन के स्तर पर भयंकर फिजूलखर्ची है। इस में बचत की कहीं, कोई योजना नहीं है। महोदय, मैंने पंचायत से लेकर प्रदेश और यहां के प्रशासन को देखा है। आज भारत सरकार का शुद्ध प्रशासनिक व्यय 4 लाख करोड़ रुपये है। अगर यह सरकार उस गरीब की झोपड़ी की तरफ देखे तो 10 प्रतिशत की बचत कल सुबह हो सकती है। 40,000 करोड़ रुपये की बचत आप तुरंत कर सकते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, 1977 में जब मैं हिमाचल का मुख्य मंत्री बना था और वहां के हालात देख कर बचत की कोशिश की थी तो दो वर्षों के अंदर हमने प्रशासन की 50 करोड़ रुपये की बचत की थी। छोटा-सा हिमाचल। उस वक्त बजट भी बहुत कम था। दाएं-बाएं टेलीफोन कम किये, सरकारी गाड़ियां कम चलानी शुरू की। उस समय मुख्य मंत्री के काफिले में 50-60 गाड़ियां चलती थीं। मैंने कहा कि दो से ज्यादा गाड़ियां नहीं चलेंगी। मुझे पता लगा कि गाड़ियों का सबसे अधिक दुरुपयोग होता है। मैंने यह नियम बनाया कि मुख्य मंत्री के साथ केवल दो गाड़ियां चलेंगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी : सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Sanghiji, please take your seat.

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

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Panyji, please take your seat. What are you doing? Why do you disturb the Member of your own party?

श्री शान्ता कुमार : मैंने यह नियम बनाया कि शनिवार और इतवार को सरकार की कोई गाड़ी सड़क पर नजर नहीं आयेगी। इससे 50 करोड़ रुपये की बचत हुई। यह सरकार बचत क्यों नहीं करती? यह गरीब की ओर क्यों नहीं देखती? मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार अगर इस किस्म से बचत करने की कोशिश करे तो बहुत बचत की जा सकती है। "नवभारत टाइम्स" के एक तारीख के सम्पादकीय में कहा गया है कि चार लाख टन दालें कोलकाता के बंदरगाह पर नष्ट हो गयीं, बरबाद हो गयीं। यदि यह फिजूलखर्ची रोकी जाए तो बहुत बचत हो सकती है।

मैं आपका ध्यान एक और बात की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सरकार का जो आर्थिक प्रबंधन है, उस पर अंत में मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ। आर्थिक प्रबंधन ऐसा है कि जब मैं इस वर्ष के बजट को देख रहा था - मैं लम्बी बात नहीं करता, केवल दो-तीन आंकड़े सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। इस बार के बजट में उधारों की अदायगी 3 लाख 43 हजार करोड़ रुपये है, इस साल के बजट में ब्याज की अदायगी 2 लाख 25 हजार करोड़ रुपये है और पेंशन की liability 48 हजार करोड़ रुपये है। मैं इससे आगे नहीं बढ़ा। जब मैंने इन तीन आंकड़ों को जोड़ा तो इन तीन आंकड़ों का योग 6 लाख 18 हजार करोड़ बनता है और हमारे देश की शुद्ध इनकम 6 लाख 14 हजार करोड़ है। यह सरकार अपनी आय में से ये तीन मदें भी पूरी नहीं कर सकती। दूसरे शब्दों में, इसका मतलब यह है कि सरकार अपने कर्मचारियों को वेतन देने के लिए एक-एक पैसा उधार लेगी। रक्षा के मामले पर भी उधार लगी। मुद्दा पर जो जवान खड़ा है, उसकी बंदूक की गोली खरीदने के लिए भी सरकार को उधार लेना पड़ेगा। ...**समय की घंटी**... तो इस प्रकार का जो प्रबंधन है, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह देख गरीब है। गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे लोग रहते हैं। सरकार का आर्थिक प्रबंधन, सरकार की फिजूलखर्ची और यह जो मनी सप्लाई है, आप 4 लाख करोड़ रुपये उधार लेने वाले हैं। सरकार पर पूरा उधार 28 लाख करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। ये उधार बढ़ते जाएंगे। मनी सप्लाई, फिजूलखर्ची, भ्रष्टाचार, इनके कारण गरीबी और महंगाई बढ़ेगी। मनी सप्लाई केवल भारत में नहीं, अब पाकिस्तान भी नोट छाप कर भारत में भेज रहा है। देश की आर्थिक स्थिति बिल्कुल विकट है। जिस देश में हम अपनी सुरक्षा पर होने वाले खर्च के लिए उधार लेंगे, तनखाह देने के लिए उधार लेंगे, यह कैसा आर्थिक प्रबंधन है? महोदय, क्या यह mismanagement नहीं है? क्या यह दिवालियेपन की हालत नहीं है? यह सरकार तो महादिवालियेपन की हालत में पहुंच गयी है। महंगाई एक छोटा-सा लक्षण है। गरीबी एक लक्षण है, गरीब और अमीर के बीच बढ़ती हुई खाई एक लक्षण है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करे। गांव की झोपड़ी में बैठा गरीब महंगाई की मार से बहुत दुखी हो रहा है, इसलिए मेरा यह निवेदन है। इसको सहज भाव से न लें। यह सब जगह बढ़ती है। कभी घटती है, कभी बढ़ती है। ऐसी बात नहीं है। देश का आम गरीब आदमी बहुत परेशान है। सरकार को अपनी आर्थिक नीतियों में आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन करना होगा, तात्कालिक प्रबंध करने होंगे, महंगाई को रोकना होगा ताकि देश का आम आदमी राहत अनुभव कर सके। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Mr. P. Rajeeve. Your party's time is two minutes. But, you take five minutes.

SHRI P. RAJEEV (KERALA) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. I would not like to repeat the points which have already been raised by other hon. Members. But, I want to add one fundamental point, that is, shortage of foodgrains is not the major reason for the scarcity here. While India has recorded the highest production in foodgrains, the per capita foodgrains availability in this country is less than what it was during the Bengal famine. I would not like to elaborate this point because of shortage of time.

Sir, I would like to focus on my own State, Kerala. Kerala has one of the best public distribution systems in the country. By proper utilisation of this public distribution system, earlier, we had been able to control price rise effectively. But, the situation has changed because of the Central Government's policy. The Central Government is trying to dismantle this public distribution system, firstly, by introducing the targeted public distribution system instead of universal public distribution system and secondly, by introducing the division between APL and BPL. According to the Central Government guidelines, only ten lakh families are under BPL category. So, we are compelled to spend more than Rs. 200 crore per annum to give rice to all deserving families through ration shops. So, the Central Government should reconsider its decision on targeted public distribution system and give rice at BPL price to all deserving families in the State of Kerala. The Central Government is also trying to reduce the rice allocation to the State of Kerala. Now, there is a shortage of more than one lakh tonnes of rice. The State Government has been continuously approaching the Minister to give proper allocation to the State of Kerala. How the Government dare to export rice to South Africa and other countries when the people in this country are under starvation and States are continuously crying for proper allocation of rice to feed our own people? How is the Government dare enough to export rice to South Africa? I suspect the Government has some vested interests and they are not looking at the interests of the people of this country. Now, the Government has decided to temporarily ban export of rice. That is good. But, our demand is, proper allocation of rice for BPL and APL families should be considered positively. The public distribution system in Kerala not only includes ration shops but Neethi stores, consumer stores and festival type of bazaars are also there in the public distribution system. We also have Neethi medical stores to control the medication, that is, reflection of inflation in prices of medicines. So, we, the State, have taken some initiatives to control the prices. The Central Government should have an obligation or duty to give sufficient financial assistance, at least, in the ratio of 50 : 50 to the State of Kerala.

Sir, now, I come to my last point. All of us are aware that Kerala is a consumer State and geographically, it lies at the south end of the country. So, we have to spend more for the transportation cost. So, whenever the oil price rises, it is directly and severally reflected in the prices of commodities. ...(Time-bell)... In the answer to the Question No.439 in the Session, the Minister stated that the petroleum PSUs have reported heavy profit after tax. It started from Rs. 656 crores to Rs. 4,848 crores, as per the answer. So, there is no special reason for this oil price rise. So, I request the Government to reconsider this decision (Time-bell rings) and take a decision to control prices all over the country. Thank you, Sir.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह price rise के ऊपर जो discussion है, हमारे ऑनरेबल मॅम्बर्स ने बहुत से सजेरेंस और आंकड़े दिए हैं तथा reasons भी बताई हैं, मैं उससे थोड़ा हटकर अपनी बात कहना चाहता हूँ। मंहगाई कोई इस तरह की प्रॉब्लम नहीं है, जिसका सरकार के पास कोई इलाज न हो। मैं महसूस करता हूँ कि मंहगाई, सरकार की पैदाइश है। आज हम इसके कारण डिस्कस कर रहे हैं और फिर इसका solution पता नहीं कब सोचेंगे, कब नहीं सोचेंगे। हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि आजादी के 62 साल बीतने के बाद, हमने दो-चार दिन पहले एक फिल्म दिखाई [000]-[Slumdog Millionaire] और हम उसको भी सेलीब्रेट कर रहे हैं कि हमारी उस फिल्म ने बहुत से इनाम जीते हैं। इस मंहगाई के कारण कितने ही लोगों के घर चले गए, जो आज

झुगियों में रह रहे हैं। पहले तो हमने वातावरण पैदा किया कि 12-14 करोड़ लोग झुगियों में रहें और फिर झुग्गी सेलीब्रेशन हमने शुरू की है। हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि हमारे देश का producer जो है, वह labour को exploit कर रहा है, consumers को exploit कर रहा है, क्योंकि producer के लिए हमने कोई ऐसे सख्त नियम नहीं बनाए, जिनके कारण price तय की जा सके। जिसका जो मन चाहता है, वह मनचाही price तय कर लेता है, free hand दे रखा है। मंहगाई की जो मूल जड़ है, वह भ्रष्ट लोकतंत्रीय प्रणाली में है। भ्रष्ट लोकतंत्रीय प्रणाली में मंहगाई की जड़ है। इलेक्शन के पहले पेट्रोल और डीजल का रेट कम हो गया था, पता नहीं कैसे हो गया था, इलेक्शन निकल गया, तो वही पेट्रोल और डीजल फिर मंहगा हो गया। राज करने वाले पहले भी वही थे, राज करने वाले अब भी वही हैं, पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमत पहले भी वही थी, बाद में भी वही है। क्या यह जनता के साथ धोखा नहीं है? हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि उद्योगपतियों से, पूँजिपतियों से चंदा लेकर इलेक्शन लड़ा जाता है और इलेक्शन में पानी की तरह पैसा बहाया जाता है। जब हम नॉमिनेशन पेपर्स भरते हैं, तो उसके साथ सुप्रीम कोर्ट की जजमेंट लगी होती है, उसमें सुप्रीम कोर्ट ऑफ इंडिया ने यह दर्ज कर रखा है कि millions of money इलेक्शन में लगाया जाता है और billions of money रिकवर किया जाता है। हम यह कहते हैं कि यह उद्योगपतियों और political लोगों का जो गठजोड़ है, जिसके सामने हमारी पोलिटिकल पावर बेबस है, surrendered है, जिसके कारण मंहगाई आसमान तक पहुँच गई है। आज गरीब लोग खाली पेट सोने को मजबूर हैं। चूँकि अभी बता दिया गया है, इसलिए मैं उसको repeat नहीं करना चाहता हूँ कि आज दालों के रेट क्या हैं और सब्जियों के रेट क्या हैं। शिक्षा सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। हमारे संविधान के नीति निदेशक सिद्धांत में शिक्षा और हेल्थ की बात दर्ज है, लेकिन हम हेल्थ में क्या जिम्मेवारी निभा रहे हैं? आज कोई कैंसर का मरीज हो, या वह इलाज नहीं करवा सकता। आज हर chronic बीमारी के लिए मेडीसीन का रेट इतना ज्यादा हो गया है कि लोग इलाज नहीं हो ने के कारण, दवाई नहीं लेने के कारण मर रहे हैं। आज विद्या व्यापार हो गई है। जो गरीब है, उसका बच्चा विद्या हासिल नहीं कर सकता है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**.... पेट की भूख मिटानी है, हेल्थ को देखना है, शिक्षा को देखना है ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जी. कुरियन) : कृपया आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : महोदय, हमारी सरकार ने compulsory education का बिल भी पास किया है। बिल की हमारे कोई पास कोई कमी नहीं है। अगर बिल को implement करने की will power भी आ जाए, तो हमारे पास समाधान हो सकता है, इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को इस पर जरूर सोचना चाहिए कि सरकार ने उद्योगपतियों के सामने जो surrender किया है, सरकार उस नीति को बदले। सरकार उस नीति को बदले। सरकार बकायदा दाम तय करने की नीति तय करे ताकि consumer और लेबर को उद्योगपति, Producer, आदि जो exploit कर रहा है, उस पर लगाम लगाया जा सके और देश के अंदर भुखमरी और मंहगाई के कारण जो वातावरण पैदा हुआ है, उसको कंट्रोल किया जा सके। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman , Sir, we are, once again, discussing a very important issue that is bothering the minds...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Siva, you have five minutes. Actually, in the 'Others' category, there are 10 speakers. I want to allow everyone. But the total time is 23 minutes. I am giving five minutes each so that everyone speak; otherwise, we will have to cut some names.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, I have always cooperated with the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : If you cooperate, more people can speak, That is my point.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, we are, once again, discussing a very important issue that is bothering the mind and day-to-day life of the common man whose misery is also soaring high along with the prices. I do not want to repeat what my colleagues have said earlier. I think the basic intention of this discussion is that the views and suggestions expressed by the Members may help the Minister to pull down the prices faster and in a better manner. Last year also, there was a price rise. We had a discussion here, like many other years, as Shri Venkaiah Naidu pointed out. The Government took certain measures to combat inflation, including the ban on export of some commodities like rice and wheat, while allowing duty free imports. The Government had set a minimum import target for the public sector units and had also offered to subsidise some commodities distributed by the State Governments through the Public Distribution System. I do not know what is the outcome. The Minister may, in his reply, tell us as to what are the results we have derived out of that. This year also, the Government has taken some measures. When a question was put last month, the reply which was received was the same which Shri Mysura Reddy received yesterday. And we don't expect the Ministry to change its strategy every month or every day.

So, sticking to that, I would like to seek just three clarifications from the hon. Minister, whose reply, I think, will enlighten the House as well as the people outside. The inflation level on food items could go up in the coming months due to both demand and supply factors. Sir, the agricultural production, this year, could be adversely affected due to poor monsoons, which have resulted in droughts and floods in different parts of the country. On the other hand, with the increase in the availability of money, for obvious reasons, like, the implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations, NREGA and the other Government schemes, the demand would drive up the need for essential commodities. Sir, also, the Reserve Bank, in its Monetary Review Policy on 28th July, has indicated that it also expects a rise in prices at the end of the financial year even though there are no supply shortages. I would like to know what the policy of the Government is in handling this potential increase in prices. The second thing is that there is a variation between the inflation

based on the Wholesale Price Index and that based on the Consumer Price Index. This means that though the Government reports a decrease in inflation based on WPI, the Consumer Price Index shows a continued increase in prices of goods relevant to consumers. The main reason for this is that the basket of goods, used to compute these indices, varies. There are 435 goods in the WPI and 260 in the CPI. At the same time, essential commodities, such as food items, have a higher weightage in the CPI, and its also includes housing, education and transport, which are not included in the WPI. Sir, I would like to quote one thing. "The Consumer Price Indices, for industrial workers and agricultural labourers, taken with all their weaknesses, show a picture of inflation entirely different from that shown by the WPI. Far from stretching to zero or negative levels, the annual rate of inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, has been averaging just under 10 per cent for industrial workers and over 10 per cent for agricultural workers over the last six months of published data. Inflation in food prices significantly affects a much wider section of the population than industrial workers and agricultural labourers. The poorer the family is, the higher is the proportion of Budget on food and greater is the impact." I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any plan to use the CPI as the main policy indicator rather than the WPI. Thirdly, the Government reports inflation on a year-on-year basis. This means that it compares the present level of the WPI with the one prevailed around the same time of the last year, and announces a difference in percentage. This differs from the best global practices. Most countries report inflation as a change from the previous month, adjusted to, by seasonal fluctuations. Does the Government have any plan to bring in such a system? Sir, this is the federal structure, where the State Governments have a share of the Centres' in everything. We give agricultural loans to farmers at the rate of four per cent, As Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has suggested to the Central Government. We expect that the Central Government would also implement that in order to save the agriculturists as well as the agricultural workers, and thus help in bringing the prices down.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam) : Sir, retail inflation based on the consumer price index for agricultural labourers and rural labourers has already reversed the declining trend and gone up 9.09 per cent in April, 2009 to 10.21 per cent in May. These are food-heavy indices that underscore the relentless rise in prices of food articles.

As increase in the retail price of petrol and diesel takes place, the retail inflation also starts rising. Again, poor monsoons bring more pressure on prices of food articles like dals and vegetables. Prices of basic vegetables like potato, onions, tomato etc. have shot up. People are paying double the price now. What is worse is, local vendors are taking advantage of the situation and refusing to reduce the prices. The Government attitude towards such a situation is very casual.

4.00 P.M.

The total pulses production of 14.9 MT in 2007-08 fell to 13 MT in the year 2008-09. Prices of black gram, pigeon peas, yellow gram and chana dal shot up by almost 20 to 50 per cent overnight. International prices of pulses are high and the dollar is now strong against the rupee. that is why private traders are not importing pulses. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Government should on its own import pulses to control the spiralling prices. On top of this, wholesale traders are hoarding stocks in order to make profits later. The Government is silent. I want to know whether any action has been taken by the Government against such traders so far. The State Food and Civil Supplies Department should also wake up from its slumber and devise an effective monitoring mechanism to keep a watch on prices of essential commodities and look into traders' justifications for effecting any hike. There is lack of coordination between State Governments and the Central Government in taking any such effective steps. Government should revamp the PDS that has been in the doldrums and that is beset with widespread corruption. The Government should establish a mechanism to check such arbitrary and unreasonable price increases. It is the failure of the Government and the administration of not having any control on the market. I want to know whether the authorities have ever put to test the claims of the trading community vis-a-vis prices at source and the rates of increase in prices. The Government authorities have totally surrendered before the traders' lobby.

Sir, we, the people of Assam, are facing grave problems; we face great disparity. As you know, Sir, the people of Assam are facing a serious law and order situation. There is a perennial flood problem. Again now, people are facing drought in every district of the State. The hike in prices of essential commodities is causing great despair to the *aam admi* in the State. The Government should take immediate and effective steps to curb rise in the prices of essential commodities. It is urged upon the Government to provide dal and edible oil at subsidised rates through the public distribution system and to restore Above Poverty Line (APL) categories as an interim measure towards universalisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा) : शुक्रिया, सर। हम यहां पर price rise की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन एक बात हम सब भूल जाते हैं कि आबादी स्पीड से बढ़ रही है। उसके संबंध में कोई कुछ कहने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। हर रोज हम बात करते हैं कि इतने करोड़ new mouths added, लेकिन कोई पॉलिटिकल पार्टी यह कहने के लिए तैयार नहीं है कि population की तरफ भी ध्यान दें। जब production इतनी ज्यादा increase हो रही है, तो फिर price rise को आप welcome करिए क्योंकि खाने वाले बढ़ते जा रहे हैं और production उतनी ही है। दूसरा, बात बड़ी क्लीयर है कि जिसने production देनी है, वह कौन है? वह farmer है। जिस चीज़ की आप बात कर रहे हैं, सिवाय ईट, सीमेंट और लोहे को छोड़कर, बाकी सबमें फार्मर involved हैं। मुझे खुशी है कि आज जो Minister of Agriculture है, वे खुद एक farmer हैं। बेसिक बात को समझिए कि आप farmer को दे रहे हैं, वह short measures हैं कि कभी थोड़ा सा यह दे दिया। कभी थोड़ा सा वह दे दिया, कभी थोड़ा सा वह दे दिया एक बार आपने loan waiver दिया है, लेकिन उसमें क्या discrimination है कि जो सबसे अच्छा farmer है, उसको नहीं मिलेगा। वहां पर भी वही पॉलिसी है कि गरीब को पहले मिलेगा। भाइयों, एक बात समझिए कि जिस farmer ने लोन वापस दिया,

उसको कोई क्रेडिट नहीं है। जो नहीं देता, उसे कहते हैं कि तुम्हें हम देते हैं। सवाल यह है कि जा अच्छा फार्मर है, एफिसिएंट है उसको आप इंसेंटिव दो, उसको कहो कि तुमको डबल इंसेंटिव मिलेगा, लेकिन उसको तो कहते हैं कि तुम्हें कुछ नहीं मिलेगा और यही हुआ है कि जो आपने फार्मर स्कीम दी है, इसमें जो सफर है वह पंजाब और हरियाणा है। हमें पंजाब में तो सिर्फ 1.5 परसेंट बेनिफिट मिला है और हरियाणा में दो परसेंट मिला है। हमारे फार्मर को तो बेनिफिट मिला ही नहीं, क्योंकि हमारा फार्मर अपना लोन वापिस करता था। इसलिए जो लोन वापिस करता था अब वह घर में बैठा है। जब आप इंसेंटिव नहीं देंगे तो फार्मर से एक्सपेक्ट क्या करेंगे? मेरी दूसरी बात यह है कि फार्मर को आप हमेशा के लिए लोन की प्रोब्लम से फ्री कीजिए। सर, एक कंप्यूजन और है कि जो इन्होंने नई कमेटी बनाई है, जो फार्मर मनी लेंडर से पैसे लेता है, उसके बारे में ही फैसला करेंगे। I have written to the Union Finance Minister also. उसमें एक क्लॉज है महाराष्ट्र की। अब हमें सिर्फ यह लग रहा है कि यह स्कीम सिर्फ महाराष्ट्र के लिए है, बाकी स्टेट्स के फार्मर्स के लिए नहीं है। इस तरह हमें confuse है कि वह जो स्कीम दे रहे हैं सिर्फ एक स्टेट के लिए है। If it is for all India, then, please announce it. ताकि अन्य को पता चले कि they will also be free from the yoke of moneylenders. मिनिस्टर साहब, फार्मर्स के लिए के लिए ऐसी बात करिए जिससे उनका लोन चार परसेंट हो। इसके अलावा उनको जो बीच वगैरह की सब्सिडी दे रहे हो, उसको बढ़ाइए। अगर फार्मर हमेशा के लिए इन चीजों से फ्री होगा तो डबल प्रोडक्शन करेगा। इन सारी प्रोब्लम्स का हल फार्मर्स की सेटिस्फेक्शन है और फार्मर्स को आप क्या देते हैं?

Sir, my next issue is wastage of food. अब इसके क्या हाल हैं, मिनिस्टर साहब को पता है। पंजाब और हरियाणा में पिछले साल की प्रोडक्शन आज भी पड़ी हुई है। आपने उसको रिमूव नहीं किया है, इसलिए कि स्टोरेज केपेसिटी कम है, रेलवे ट्रेन की, वैगन की अवेलेबिलिटी कम है। जो स्टेट व्हीट और राइस प्रोड्यूस करती है और यह जिन स्टेट्स को जाना है, वहां उन स्टेट्स में स्टोरेज केपेसिटी नहीं है इसलिए मूवमेंट भी नहीं है। वेस्टेज की फिगर्स मिनिस्टर साहब को पता है। अगर वह वेस्टेज खत्म हो जाए तो शोर्टेज है ही नहीं तथा प्राइज राइज होगा ही नहीं। There should be more storage capacity, and movement of foodgrains which are still lying there, और उसको कई जगह चूहे खा रहे हैं, अन्य जगह गनीबैग्स फट गए हैं, बारिश से परेशानी हो रही है। इसलिए भी आप मूव नहीं करते। हरियाणा और पंजाब की सरकारें आपको लिख रही हैं - प्लीज मूव करिए नई फसल आ गई है उसका क्या करें?

सर, थर्ड आइटम मिल्क के बारे में है। मिल्क की प्रोब्लम क्या है। यह सबसे बड़ी स्कीम है जो इंडिया में कामयाब हो सकती है। If every farmer, irrespective of हमारा क्या है, यह तो बी. पी. एल हो जाएगी। जो अब स्कीम आ रही है वह बिलो पावर्टी लाइन के लिए है। जो एबव पावर्टी लाइन हैं, तो वह कहां जाएं, उनको आप क्या देते हो? कोई इंसेंटिव देते हो? अब हर रोज यह नया नारा है - वोट बैंक की बी.पी.एल लाइन। अगर मिल्क प्रोड्यूस करना है, तो जिसकी केपेसिटी है उसको लोन दो, ताकि और केटल रखे और पैदा करे। जिनको देते हो वहां तो कहीं पैसा मिस-यूज हो जाता है। अगर स्कीम चलानी है तो इसमें आप वह देखें who is efficient, who can do it. **समय की घंटी** बस एक मिनट लूंगा। मंत्रालय की एक फिगर छपी है, जिसमें यह लिखा है कि जो प्राइस राइज है, वह डिफ्रेंट स्टेट्स में डिफ्रेंट है और यह इनकी अपनी फिगर्स है। इसमें लिखा है कि चेन्नई में दाल की प्राइस 97 परसेंट बढ़ी है, बाकी अन्य देशों में बहुत कम है। इसी तरह ऑनियन की प्राइस है। कोलकाता में पोटेटो की प्राइस 200 परसेंट इंक्रीज हुई है। There is a disparity between different cities. Who is responsible for it? The Government is responsible for it. इसी वजह से मूवमेंट नहीं होने के कारण से चेन्नई में और, कोलकाता में और, दिल्ली में और तथा मुम्बई में और प्राइस हैं। इसलिए आप मूवमेंट कीजिए। आप कहते हैं कि डेली ट्रेन चल रही हैं, तो ट्रेन इस काम के लिए भी चलाई जाएं, जो हर जगह इसको ले जाए। थैंक्यू।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as the discussion on inflation and price rise is being debated, I did not have the privilege of listening to the Members directly sitting here, but I had the opportunity of listening to some of the observations made by the hon. Members, sitting in my room in Parliament House, and also from the notes which we have received. Various aspects have been raised by the hon. Members. I would like to deal with some of the issues in general terms. The detailed reply would be given by my distinguished colleague in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs.

Sir, first of all, I would like refer to the point, as has been pointed out by several Members, that inflation is because of the bad management of economy. Yes, it is our responsibility to manage the economy in such a manner so that the supply and demand management have some equilibrium and if that equilibrium is lost, naturally, it would adversely affect.

The second question that has to be kept in view while participating and trying to analyse the reasons for the price rise is that the entire situation does not depend on the domestic management policy. There is also a global factor. We may like it or we may not like it, but no economy in the world, today, is insulated from the external influence and that external influence also causes inflation or deflation in the economy.

The third factor is the seasonal factor; our economy is dependant, to a considerable extent, on the monsoon; particularly the agricultural economy on the seasonal factor; and, it is not unusual that every year, at a particular point to time, we find that there is a tendency of the enhancement of prices in certain groups of commodities; these are usually being described by the economy as 'seasonal factors'.

The fourth aspect which has to be looked into is how to insulate the vulnerable sections of the society from the adverse impact of rising prices because they are the worst hit. No doubt, certain policies lead to inflation; or, there are certain Government policies and programmes which have the inflationary trend. Take the case of minimum support price mechanism. If we want to give a remunerative price to the farmers, which is absolutely essential to encourage them to produce more, to meet the requirements of the growing population, there is no carpet under which you can keep the impact of it. What best you can do is, you insulate the vulnerable sections of the society by providing subsidies through a certain mechanism. And the mechanism which is prevailing here in this country is the Public Distribution System. If through the effective Public Distribution system, channelising the subsidies which are being provided to the targeted group, is effectively implemented, to that extent, we can achieve success in insulating a section of the society from the adverse impact of rising prices.

Now, as per the present practice-I am not going into the merits-economists may give their views and theories; I am not going into that aspect of it; surely, that can be discussed. The current practice which is being followed in this country is -- it is our Government, it is their Government, the practice is in vogue over the decades. All India averages of the wholesale prices and retail prices of 16 items are being monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs, and from there we arrive at the decisions about the price index. So far as the WPI is concerned, it is vetted; averages of 435 commodities traded in the wholesale market are classified in three categories. Each classification has each group as weightage. Primary articles have the weightage of 24.02 per cent. The second category is fuel, power and light. They have weightage of 14.23 per cent. Third category is the manufactured items, which has a weightage of 63.75 per cent. All these taken together come to 100 per cent distributed in three categories of commodities, primary commodities, primary articles, fuel, power, power, light and manufactured items.

Always there is a point, which has been raised, as to why there is serious divergence between the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. The question is very legitimate and the answers are also being given because the weightage is different. The type of weightages, which you have in the Consumer Price Index and the type of weightage of the commodities, which you have in the Wholesale Price Index, are completely different. For example, in the Wholesale Price Index, sometimes you take the food items; the weightage of the food articles in the Wholesale Price Index is 25 per cent. The total weightage of the primary articles, as I have mentioned, is 24.02 per cent and of that if you take it as 100, the food items will be 25 per cent. There are four categories of the Consumer Price Index. There is Consumer Price Index for the industrial workers, there is Consumer Price Index for the urban non-manual employees, there is Consumer Price Index for the agricultural labour, and there is Consumer Price Index for the rural labour. For historical reasons, these four Consumer Prices Indices are being maintained over the years. Now, I am giving the example of the food items. The weightage in the WPI is 24.4 per cent, for the industrial workers the weightage is 46.2 per cent and for urban non-manual employees, it is 47.1 per cent, Consumer Price Index for the agricultural labourer is 66.8 per cent and Consumer Price Index for the rural labour is 69.2 per cent. Therefore, if you go item-wise, you will find that the large variation in the weightage is there and that is why you will find that always there is convergence. But earlier our experiences had been that the convergences would have emerged after the divergence parallel lines moving for quite some time, at some point of time there has been convergence. But recently, we are noticing that convergence point is being delayed and this is an area of concern, which ought to be looked into. Therefore, these aspects are engaging our attention and we are taking care of it.

The second question comes and which has been legitimately demanded and also is being debated now is that why we are maintaining two sets of indices and whether we can have one set of Indices. So far as WPI is concerned, it is mainly for the traders who have been trading in the

wholesale market. The question legitimately addressed whether there is need of four sets of Consumer Prices Indices. In fact, this issue was addressed by the CSO out of these four series. The CSO maintains one series, that is, for the urban non-manual employees. But for rural labour, agricultural labour, and industrial workers, these Indices are being maintained by the Labour Bureau not by the CSO. But CSO was asked whether a mechanism could be evolved through which instead of having four series of indices, we could have only one. They found it extremely difficult but still they are working on it. And the Central Statistical Organisation has asked them to look into that aspect. I understand that some discussions are still going on at the expert's level, and they are trying to emerge. The second aspect which was thought of, was: what are the steps which you are going to converge into one set of index? And what is the international practice? We have found that a large number of countries have only one set of index, particularly the developed countries; that is Consumer Price Index. But, obviously, you will recognise, Sir, and the hon. Members who are knowledgeable will also recognise that the variations of development in our society are so divergent that one set of consumer price index will not meet the requirement of the entire community or a big chunk of the community. Whatever indices you try to attain, you will find, as I mentioned, that in two important segments, food items is having a weightage of 66 and 68 per cent in respect of the agricultural labour, in respect of the rural labour. Therefore, you cannot simply ignore these aspects. So, variations would be there. Now, if the variations are there, and if, at least we maintain the WPI and CPI, efforts are being made, as I mentioned earlier, to look into whether instead of having four CPI; we could have one CPI.

The second aspect about the food management, as I was saying, is that there are certain policies. Here, what would you do? We cannot go back and say, farmers will not get back the prices', every year. If you make a comparison, you will find that we have enhanced the procurement price of wheat by almost Rs. 350, per quintal, and paddy price, by Rs. 300, per quintal, over a period of five years. But, the demand is much more. Farmers are demanding more, and farmers are to be provided and given remunerative prices so that they produce more. No country of the world can feed 115 plus crore people. Nobody can feed. India will have to be self-sufficient in food production, in meeting its own requirements. Then a question comes : Are we taking adequate steps? Are we doing enough for the agricultural development? Of course, the answer will be given by the Minister in-charge of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs and Food. Only one point. I would like to emphasise is that during the Eleventh Plan, this aspect has been recognised. There is no denial to the fact and it is not passing on the buck to this Government or to that Government. Over the period of the last 10 to 15 years, as the public expenditure in the agriculture sector was not substantially high, we had to pay a very heavy price because the agricultural growth has retarded. It has not matched the requirement and the component in the GDP. Of course, in a developed economy, primary commodities contribution of agriculture will have to be reduced and the other sectors like service sectors, manufactured items, industry, will have to take a more and more higher place but agriculture has a

place. That is why it was recognised that, at least, at the level four per cent, if for a longer period, we do not maintain the sustained development of agriculture in real terms around four per cent plus, then it will be difficult to have the balanced growth, which has the objective of 'inclusive growth', through which every strata of society can get benefit on of it. I now come to the questions that have been raised by some hon. Members in respect of what you are going to do if you cannot control inflation. Everybody recognises that we depend on external sources for our fuel requirements. Nearly, 3/4 of our total fossil fuel requirements are coming from the external sources. We do not have the control over it. It has been calculated, at the present level of indigenous production and if the present level of consumption fossil fuels and hydrocarbons continue at this rate, at the end of Eleventh Plan and during the 12th Plan, the requirement would be almost 90 per cent. Today, it is 72-75 per cent. But, after sometime, it would be around 90 per cent. Therefore, we are exploring the possibilities of alternate sources of energy where our dependence on the external sources of energy could be reduced to that extent. Various measures are being taken. But, that is outside the purview of the current discussion.

Sir, the short point to which I am trying to drive at is, these are the factors which are contributing. Now, to remove distortions in the demand and supply mechanism, we are taking steps. Hon. Members will recollect, during this period or a little earlier of the previous year, the rate of inflation was so high that the Government had to resort to a tight monetary policy. Too much money chasing too few goods is the normal traditional example which the economists give to explain the inflationary impact. The Government had to resort to tight monetary policy. The liquidity in the market was reduced and after that the impact of the global recession and the series of other steps which we had to take had its adverse impact. Today, if the WPI is negative, it is not so much depending on the policy formulations of the Government. The substantial difference which takes place in the case of one item -- I can give many examples -- is oil price. The oil price, in August, 2008, has reached as high as US \$ 147 per barrel. It came down to almost US \$ 40-45 dollars per barrel or US \$ 50 barrel in the month of last May/June, 2009. Again, it has started moving up and reaches to around US \$ 68-70 per barrel. It is varying. It is uncertain. Nobody can predict at what point of time it will again shoot up. One of the major reasons is there is international recession. Industrialised countries are not going to consume more oil. I expected that the oil prices should have further depressed. But, there is an apprehension that even though there is a demand, but, as there is strong dollar and the possessors of the dollar are converting their dollar into some sort of commodities -- of course, this is a speculation of the economists; it may be true or it may not be true, but, there is some suspicion -- as a result of which, certain commodity prices are stepping up.

Another important factor in the rise of prices was last year's totally unbridled rise in the prices of certain essential commodities, including food items. Now-a-days, the world is too small. Everybody knows everything. The total global production is known to the villagers living in remote corners of India. Sir, be it agricultural production or industrial production or whether it is the trend of the GDP in different countries, advanced countries, developing countries or least developed countries, all the

information is readily available and depending on such information, they take their own decisions. There is no way you can insulate that this type of information will be not available and action, arising out of information, cannot be prevented. But, still, what could be done in a given situation, we are doing it. For example, we have taken a series of measures to insulate the adverse impact of inflation on the common man.

The first thing that we had decided for maintaining the equilibrium in the prices of primary articles, particularly, the foodgrains was this. A ban was imposed on the export of foodgrains. Import was allowed liberally including that of sugar. Sometimes, it caused a real embarrassing situation; I will give you another example. Last time, because of the shortage of edible oil, we had decided to import about a million tonnes of edible oil, and a few hundred thousand tons were earmarked to be distributed at one kg per ration cardholder, with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. The States were asked to lift this quantum of edible oil and to distribute it through their Public Distribution System. But hardly any State Government took it, and we had to pay a very heavy dose of subsidy. After all, money is coming from the people. Therefore, supply management, demand management, making availability of goods in short supply through imports, etc.-- all these steps are being taken in a timely manner. As and when these steps were taken, it had some impact on the prices.

Now, there is another question which has been raised more than often is, -- the Minister of Agriculture will reply it in detail; I will just like to touch upon it -- why cannot you have the legal measures against the hoarders, profiteers and black marketeers? At one point of time, this power was taken by the Centre, but, in 2006, we decided that the power should be vested in the State Governments. They are in a better position to assess the situation and also to take appropriate steps and it has been given to them. Therefore, they can take it. The two aspects which, in cooperation of the State Governments and their effective handling, are, absolutely, called for are as follows. One is the effective public distribution mechanism and the second is de-hoarding, or these types of malpractices which are taking place. There are certain issues which have been raised about banning the Forward Contracts. When it was found that the prices of certain items, particularly, on a speculation basis, were being raised, the ban order was issued by the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Therefore, all these steps are being taken as and when the situation demands it. It is not that the situation remains static. A question was raised, because of the bad management, economy is not growing. Economy is growing. Economy has grown. For the full five years, we attained an 8.6 per cent GDP growth. Because of bad management, it was not possible. Knowledge Members of this House are fully aware of that. So far as GDP is concerned, we have a long-chequered history. In 1951, we began our development planning. From 1951-1979, our GDP growth was 3.5 per cent. In the 80's, it was five per cent. In the 90's, it was 6.5 per cent average. Thereafter, we reached a growth syndrome of 8.6 per cent in the previous five years. This year, it has been less, that is, in 2008-09, it is 6.7 per cent, because of an international crisis, a global phenomenon. And, because of that, we had to inject Rs. 10,086,000/- liquidity into the system, which did not get immediately

converted into production. That also has an impact on the overall monetary expansion system. So, you will have to do the management to strike a balance. Sometimes, you will have to tighten it, sometimes you will have to loosen it. As and when the economy demands, you will have to do it. This time, the vegetable prices, the milk prices and the prices of a lot of other articles have been increased because the monsoon is erratic, which is causing concern to all of us. It has its symptomatic impact on certain other essential areas also.

All these aspects will have to be handled. We are sensitive to it. I fully appreciate the concerns of hon. Members who represent the various cross-sections of the people. The ultimate interest of everyone of us is to see how we can ameliorate the sufferings and difficulties suffered by our fellow citizens through appropriate policy means. So, through you, Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that the Government is responsible, the Government is responsive; as and when the appropriate policy measures are needed, it will be taken. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

श्री शान्ता कुमार : सर, मुझे consumer price index के बारे में एक बात कहनी है(व्यवधान)....

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The reply will be given by him; I was just intervening.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : It was just an intervention.

श्री शान्ता कुमार : क्योंकि इन्होंने जवाब दिया है कि ...(व्यवधान)... Just one minute ...(*Interruptions*)... One minute, Sir...(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : I will give you time before the Agriculture Minister replies, because the final reply will be given by the Agriculture Minister. That is only an intervention ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Sir, about the inflation rate, I think, the Finance Minister can explain very well.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Just one minute, Sir, एक बात तो यह है कि consumer price index ज्यादा realistic है। दूसरी यह कि दुनिया के 157 देश consumer price index का उपयोग करते हैं और केवल 24 देश whole-sale price index का उपयोग करते हैं। तीसरी बात यह कि आप consumer price index 4 वर्गों का अलग-अलग निकालते हैं, uniform नहीं निकालते। इस देश के हालात का विचार करते हुए अगर आप BPL के 26 करोड़ लोगों का consumer price index अलग से निकालेंगे ...(समय की घंटी)... तो वह ज्यादा realistic होगा। क्या सरकार इस पर विचार करेगी?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I have answered it. In my reply, I said that I have appointed a Committee.; the CSO is looking into it to see whether these four sets of consumer price indices could be converged into one Consumer Price index, the CPI. I have already replied to that. Sir, 24 countries are still having the WPI. Please remember, except China, there is no other country where so many people are there, so many divergent economic conditions are prevailing, which do not get reflected in only one series of indices of the consumer price index. We shall have to be practical. Therefore, so far as CPI is concerned, we are trying to converge four into one, and so far as WPI is concerned, the wholesale traders' practices, will also continue parallel. There are no two opinions on it.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Sir, I heard the hon. Finance Minister's speech with great care. He has given a macro level explanation of what happened. Though his explanation is perhaps correct, but, I am afraid, this type of macro-level thinking does not satisfy the last-level consumer, the person in the village, and doesn't help the poor housewife who has to meet the ends at home. Sir, I was surprised when I heard hon. Tarlochan Singh saying that all the loan waiver schemes are aimed at providing relief to only Maharashtra. Dr. Waghmare is sitting next to him. I suggest you to talk to him. In Marathwada, is the poor and the real farmer being helped by this scheme? Has his loan been waived or is it just a slogan that the Government has given?...*(Interruptions)*...

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH : Sir, I want that the Scheme should be for the whole of India...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT : I understand what you are saying. On the one hand, the farmer is left to the mercy of God, and, on the other hand, the consumer is annoyed and dissatisfied. Mr. Minister, you are sitting on a volcano of anger. The consumers in rural areas and the consumers in urban areas are dissatisfied; they are angry. Last week only, housewives in Mumbai came out on the streets protesting against the price rise. What does that indicate? It only shows that people in Maharashtra in particular and the nation in general are angry with you. If you don't take action now, this volcano would erupt and it will take its toll on the Government.

Sir, everybody has talked about the rise in prices of essential commodities, foodgrains, pulses etc. There are many reasons which the Government can cite; it may say that the prices rose because of drought and because of some other reasons. I am bringing something else to your notice: There are domestic consumption items such as toothpaste, powder, toothbrush, OTC medicines etc. They have nothing all to do with rains. They are not produced in the farms. I would request all of you to go home and check the label on the toothpaste pack in your house. There is an MRP printed on that. That MRP has been crossed and a new MRP has been stamped. Why is that so? Why is there a price hike in these items which have nothing to do with rains? This does not have anything to do with global meltdown. It has nothing to do with crude oil prices. Why should these prices be raised? There is a racket going on among the distributors and the retail vendors. Where is the extra margin going? Who is consuming that? Where is that extra money going? That money is not in thousands or lakhs; it is in crores. It is a State-wide and nation-wide phenomenon. These FMCGs are sold from house to house and the cream is enjoyed by somebody else. It is the responsibility of the Government, the Minister, to see where this money is percolating. Where is the seepage? Who is eating away this money? Only then the consumers at large would be satisfied.

Sir, I have one more point to make. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the public distribution system is further strengthened and these items are sold at fair-price shops. Only then the last consumer would get some respite from price rise.

Sir, I would like to again tell you that people's anger is on the rise. People are angry and dissatisfied. If this anger is allowed to rise further, we would be inviting anarchy. We have to save this country from this anarchy. Therefore, price rise has to be curbed and it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Shrimati Kusum Rai.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, मेरा पॉइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है। When the hon. Minister has replied in detail, what is the use of arguing on the same things.? What is the use?...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, take your seat. It is no point of order. It is the hon. Member's maiden speech. Please, do not disturb.

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : बहुत-बहुत बधाई।

श्रीमती कुसुम राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर. आप का आभार व्यक्त करती हूँ और धन्यवाद देती हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। इस अवसर पर मैं अपने सभी सम्मानित सदस्यों का सहयोग भी चाहूंगी, अपनी पार्टी के लीडर्स का भी सहयोग चाहूंगी।

महोदय, अभी हमारे नेता आदरणीय शान्ता कुमार जी ने अर्थ-व्यवस्था को यहां बड़े अच्छे तरीके से रखा है। उन सभी आंकड़ों से मैं अपने को संबद्ध करती हूँ, क्योंकि उन आंकड़ों को मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहती। आज जब मैं बोल रही हूँ तो एक गृहिणी के नाते भी बोल रही हूँ। जिस तरह से मंहगाई बढ़ी है और जिस तरह से आज घरेलू महिलाएं परेशान हैं, पहले तो यह होता था कि अरहर की दाल मंहगी है तो हम मसूर या मूंग को विकल्प के रूप में बना लेते थे, लेकिन आज ऐसी स्थिति हो गई है कि मसूर का दाम भी आसमान छू रहा है और मूंग का दाम भी आसमान छू रहा है। गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीने वाले लोग यह सोचने के लिए मजबूर हो रहे हैं, वे सुबह से शाम तक यह सोचते रहते हैं कि आज हम क्या खाना बनायें और कम बजट में अपने परिवार को हम कैसे पाल सकें? हमारे सभी सदस्यों ने बहुत आंकड़ों के साथ इस विषय पर बोला है। मैं आपके माध्यम से कृषि मंत्री जी और सरकार से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि जिस तरह से आवश्यक उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के फुटकर भाव बढ़े हैं। अरहर की दाल मंहगी होने पर आम आदमी मूंग, मसूर और चने की दाल के तौर पर उसका विकल्प ढूंढ लेगा, पर आलू, प्याज जैसी सब्जियों का क्या विकल्प है? वर्ष 2004 के मुकाबले गेहूँ के बाजार भाव में 60 प्रतिशत, चावल-दाल के दामों में 50 प्रतिशत और खाद्य तेलों में 40 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इसके अलावा, आम आदमी के अन्य सामाजिक खर्च भी होते हैं। इतनी मंहगाई में आम आदमी कैसे जिन्दा रह सकता है?

महोदय, पिछले एक साल में प्रति व्यक्ति आय में जितनी वृद्धि हुई है, उसकी तुलना में 300 प्रतिशत आवश्यक उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के दाम बढ़े हैं। एक स्टडी रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक गेहूँ, दाल, चाय, चीनी, मसालों आदि के दाम पिछले एक साल में 19 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं, जबकि औसत घरेलू आय सिर्फ 6 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। स्टडी रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक निकट भविष्य में गेहूँ, दूध और दूध से बने उत्पादों के मूल्य में वृद्धि होगी।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या 8 से 10 हजार रुपये मासिक आय पाने वाला व्यक्ति मंहगाई में अपने परिवार का पेट भर सकता है? 8 से 10 हजार रुपये या इससे ज्यादा बहुत कम लोगों की आय है। नरेंगा में आप सिर्फ 100 रुपये की मजदूरी ही देते हैं। इस हिसाब से लोगों की आय सिर्फ 3000 रुपये

मासिक होती है। पिछले साल 'नरेगा' का राष्ट्रीय सालाना औसत सिर्फ 48 दिनों का ही रहा है। अब सरकार और सरकारी तंत्र अपनी अंतरात्मा से यह पूछ ले कि क्या अब भी सरकार का हाथ आम आदमी के साथ है? आज समाज के निचले तबके की स्थिति आजादी से पहले के बंधुआ मजदूरों से भी खराब है। कोई मजदूर दिन भर 'नरेगा' के तहत मजदूरी करके अगर 100 रुपये कमाता है तो वह अपनी दिन भर की कमाई से 2 किलो आलू और 2 किलो प्याज ही अपने घर में ला सकता है। क्या यही निगेटिव इम्प्लेशन है?

महोदय, महंगाई इसलिए नहीं बढ़ी है कि मांग और आपूर्ति का गैप है, बल्कि इसका कारण जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी है। ऐसा भी नहीं है कि बढ़ी हुई महंगाई का फायदा किसान को मिल रहा है, जो अपनी मेहनत से अनाज पैदा करता है। उसे तो बाजार भाव का सिर्फ 1/3 भाग ही मिलता है। इसमें दो-तिहाई फायदा तो जमाखोर और बिचौलियों को होता है, क्योंकि वे बाजार को अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार मैनीपुलेट कर आर्टिफिशियल शॉर्टेज पैदा कर देते हैं और सरकार कुछ नहीं करती है। सरकारी तंत्र इसको रोकने की बजाय इसमें उनकी मदद करता है। एक ईमानदार आदमी जो ईमानदारी से टैक्स देता है, वह लाइसेंस, परमिट और इंस्पेक्टर राज से परेशान है, पर जमाखोर और कालाबाजारी करने वाले गलत करते हुए भी बचे रहते हैं। सरकार अगर इच्छा-शक्ति रखे और ईमानदारी से काम करे तो महंगाई रोकी जा सकती है। आप कृषि उत्पादों को बिना - कृषि मंत्री जी यहां पर बैठे हैं, अगर वह वास्तव में महंगाई को रोकना चाहते हैं तो जो किसान है, उसे बिना किसी टैक्सेशन और रुकावट के एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में अपने उत्पाद को बेचने का अधिकार दे दें। इससे किसान को अच्छी कीमत मिलेगी और उपभोक्ता को भी सस्ते दाम पर अनाज मिलेगा। राज्य किसानों के उत्पादन पर टोल टैक्स और अन्य टैक्स बंद कर दे। FCI और अन्य गोदामों में प्रॉपर चैक नहीं है, जिसकी वजह से कालाबाजारी को रोका जा सके।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि सरकार के पास ऐसे एक्ट हैं, जो जमाखोरी को और कालाबाजारी को रोक सकते हैं। मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि सरकारी तंत्र, कालाबाजारी और जमाखोरी करने वालों की मिलीभगत को समाप्त करने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाए जाएं और सरकार को अपनी महत्वपूर्ण नीतियों के क्रियान्वयन और मॉनिटरिंग के लिए नीतियां बनानी चाहिए।

अंत में मैं सरकार से एक बार और आग्रह करूंगी कि आवश्यक वस्तुओं की महंगाई को सरकार सिर्फ आंकड़ों की कलाबाजी से नहीं बल्कि वास्तव में रोकने का प्रयास करें, ताकि आम आदमी को अपनी अंतरात्मा से महसूस हो सके कि सरकार का हाथ वाकई उसके साथ है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Thank you. Congratulations Shrimati Kusum Rai. You made a good speech. Your maiden speech was a good speech. Now, Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta. But, you have to stick to time.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA (West Bengal) : How much time? Five minutes?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You need five minutes? Okay, you take one more minute.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA : That is more than enough. I don't want to speak too much on this subject because this subject has been very much spoken about and the Finance Minister has already discussed the intricacies of price indices and all that. This House is quite grateful to him for explaining all this. But the fact of the matter is, the Minister is present here, yes, we know what is

actually happening. The question is : What are we doing to control prices? The issue, as the Finance Minister has pointed out, and I am absolutely certain that Sharad Pawarji will also say the same thing that first our attempt is to see whether these prices can be controlled. Obviously, the prices cannot be controlled in a situation where there is a production shortfall and where there is an international situation against you. Then, the question is : How to protect, at least, a section of the people from the adverse effects? The Finance Minister talked about *Aam Aadmi*. This is a question of common man. How do you protect that? Sir, this is a point I want to raise, and I hope the Minister-in-charge will be able to answer that. We need to have some kind of a long-term mechanism because this is going to happen again and again. It is not just a one-time phenomenon. It is not happening just because monsoon is failing this year. It happens with the change of the demand pattern and recession. So, this is expected to happen again and again and we must have a proper mechanism to tackle it.

The first mechanism is, of course, the public distribution system. The public distribution system is something which needs to be strengthened. Particularly, in view of the delivery mechanism, lot of criticism has been there. I hope that the Minister will be able to assure us that steps are being taken to see that the public distribution system runs without much complicity.

The second point is, in spite of all this, there will be a lot of speculation. Now, Sir, I do not believe that the speculation in the market can be arrested by sheer force, although after a point, if there is too much of hoarding, the State Government should take certain action. I am sure, the Central Government will support the State Governments to do that. But, this is not going to be the answer. The answer will have to be a financial answer to this question. I am sorry, the Finance Minister has already left, but we have to find some fiscal methods and incentives to see that speculation is arrested. We had till this year a commodity exchange tax. This was a transaction tax. Transaction taxes are meant to prevent unnecessary speculation. Unfortunately, this tax has been withdrawn. There are many reasons for that. Most probably, the reason was that it was introduced last year by Mr. Chidambaram, but he did not really try to implement it. I am requesting the Government, through the Minister present here and to Finance Minister to re-consider introducing this again. Specially now, with the view of the shortage in monsoon, there is definitely going to be a short pressure or speculation. This particular measure will not only add revenue but also be, to some extent, not to full, effective neutralisation on the speculative measures.

The third point is, and on this point, Sir, I would like a serious consideration. In a country like ours, we have got huge foreign exchange reserves and ability to import goods, and most of these goods are, what you call in economics 'tradable goods'. We may not be able to produce them at home. But they are produced somewhere in the world. Of course, there is a price factor. If you try to import much, the prices will go up. But that is for the Finance Ministry to see how to finance that import and how to subsidise that import.

But there must be a permanent regular mechanism which should know when to import; how to import; and which are the parties with which you should actually deal with.

For this purpose, I am suggesting the Minister to seriously consider creation of a Commodities Exchange Corporation or a Commodities Trading Corporation. It will not be like the Food Corporation of India. This particular corporation should be able to procure, say, dal, sugar and several other things, from home and from the world with a complete access to import market. The Government will only give it the assurance that if it is forced to sell or if it is persuaded to sell at a price lower than the import price, then the Government will subsidise it. Otherwise, this particular corporation will fend for itself.

If we have a large corporation with a huge amount of working capital, it should be able to get into the market at the right time and play against the market. Those of us who have been in this area for a long time know how the old thinking of the Government has changed. There was a time when the Government seriously considered taking the wholesale trade to be nationalised. Because when shortage is there, trade is a major factor, which has to be arrested, which we cannot do. We have now come out of that nationalisation spree, as Murli Deora was saying. We are not talking about that.

Therefore, we are saying let us play in the market. But let the public sector play the counterforce of the market. Come forward with enough resources, play in the market, and then this particular corporation can get upto a long-term contract.

In petroleum sector, if we are not producing it at home, we can get into a long-term import contract with producers who can produce it. There are many small countries in Africa which would be able to produce *dal* for us if we have a long-term contract. If we have a long term contract with even some domestic producers, it will give us stability. This particular corporation should have sufficient financial resources to enter into the type of long-term contract and play in the market properly as a big trader. I am sure that will have an immediate effect. Thank you, Sir.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, we have had enough of statistical jugglery, particularly regarding inflation figures. A couple of months ago and in the last year also, when we were eagerly reading newspapers in the morning, we were looking for inflation rate. We saw it gradually going up and then it reached at 12 per cent. But after that, when it reversed, it reached zero level and even negative level. But to our utter shocking surprise, we have found that it surpassed all our expectations, and the prices of essential commodities have not gone down. It is the shocking surprise.

Now we are listening to a lot of explanations and seeing the difference between the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. But, at that time, it was not discussed. The main thing is this. People are not bothered about this statistical jugglery. They are mainly concerned about prices of essential commodities. All my hon. colleagues here highlighted how the prices of even vegetables,

edible oil, sugar, pulses, medicinals, etc., have steadily gone up. The price of these articles has reached such a stage that it is beyond the reach of the common man, the poor working class. The middle class families are not able to manage their household necessities at this precarious stage. So, it is essential and many a time, we have been demanding universal public distribution system. In this respect, only the targeted public distribution system will not do. It is not enough that only the people Below Poverty Line are given subsidised food items. Even the common people, middle class and APL people also need subsidised food commodities. Otherwise, they cannot survive. One main thing that we have been highlighting many a time is, a positive steps should be taken against hoarders and people involved in forward trading or speculative trading. But, unfortunately, no such positive step has been taken. I believe, our hon. Members may recall that once the then Prime Minister, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, had said, "I will hang the black-marketeers and hoarders publicly on the lamppost." Perhaps, the present Government is far away from that line of thinking. But, the basic fact remains that hoarders and speculative traders have an important role to play in inflating the prices of essential commodities. It is high time to ban forward trading and speculative trading. It must be done.

Moreover, one basic factor behind it is, the declining trend of agricultural productivity. It has declined steadily. Once it was six per cent. Then, it came down to 1.4 per cent. Now, of late, the Government has declared that the target is four per cent. But, it has not been clarified in what way they play to reach the target of four per cent of agricultural productivity (*Time-bell rings*)... Even now, if we depend on monsoon, that will be very unfortunate. At this stage of developed technology, we have to think otherwise. We would like to say that there should be proper planning to build up the enough stock of food. As and when necessary, we shall have to import necessary food items at reasonable or competitive price, not in a fire-fighting measure. When there is acute crisis, you will be importing these things at more than twice the price of the present market price. On the other hand, proper planning should be done for building up food stock and its scientific preservation. Definitely, about the distribution, the targeted PDS will not suffice...(*Time-bell rings*)... We must go in for universal public distribution system. Otherwise, people will have no relief from this souring and spiralling price rise. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi...(*Interruptions*) What can I do? There is paucity of time. Otherwise, I would not have rang the bell.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra) : Sir, the present discussion on the situation arising out of continued price rise started on the 4th. We have had a semicolon where the Finance Minister intervened to bring out the aspects that concern the financial management. Sir, before the discussion started, I was in Vadodara, Gujarat when the *turdaal* price had reached Rs. 100 and people were really scared. This morning, newspapers show that price of *turdaal* has reached Rs.140

5.00 P.M.

in Andhra Pradesh. So, it's not only the absolute level of prices, but, the speed and the rate at which prices are increasing from day-to-day which is causing scare. Sir, the Finance Minister tried to maintain tried to maintain that this is not on account of bad economic management and what I am going to say, Sir, is precisely the opposite that it is bad overall economic strategies and management which is resulting in this kind of rise in prices. Sir, the Finance Minister has very correctly said that this is a question of demand and supply management. It is the demand and supply management...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Just one minute. Please bear with me. There is a Half-an-Hour Discussion to be taken up at 5.00 p.m. If the House agrees, we can take it up later.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir the concerned Member is sitting here. It can be deferred.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Yes, we will defer it.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : There is this important business of price rise.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : If that is the sense of the House, we will defer it. The Member also agrees. The Member is very cooperative.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : Sir, he is a very good man as long as he is on this side.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Do you want to keep him there? They will not allow that. So, that is agreed. Please proceed.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI : Sir, although the Finance Minister took 40 minutes to explain that it was wise financial management and economic management, I have hardly four minutes to disprove him. It is essentially bad economic management and bad equilibrating of supply and demand under what is called 'Inclusive economy'. I may try to make it as simple as possible. The fiscal packages that have gone into the anti-recession measures, the Sixth Pay Commission, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes and all the Flagship programmes have resulted in pumping of incomes into the hands of a certain class. Now this class is consuming certain things which it was not consuming in the same proportion earlier. These are commodities which are being consumed largely..(Interruptions)... Sir, I seek your protection. If you are giving me only five minutes, I would ask you to give me protection. For example, the commodities where the prices have gone high are pulses, oil-seeds, edible oils, sugar, milk and milk products. These are all commodities which are consumed by the lower middle class or the middle middle-class or the upper middle-class which now the *aam admi* has started consuming. That is the reason why the prices are going up and that is the reason why the housewives in Mumbai are coming out and they are the ones who are feeling the pinch of this aggression by the *aam admi* into the commodities that have been consumed exclusively by them.

Sir, there is another factor. The NREGS and other schemes, and the Sixth Pay Commission have made agricultural labourers scare. The reason why the pulse prices are going up is also largely due to the fact that pulse is a highly labour-intensive produce. It requires a lot of labour and it involves a lot of cost. So, it is precisely those commodities that are consumed almost exclusively by the upper middle-class which are now having a higher demand and in lesser supply because of high cost of production. This is resulting in a mismatch between the demand and supply. I would try to illustrate it by a simple micro model. If Rs. 6,500 are spent from Delhi on any project, according to the report of the Planning Commission, only Rs. 100 reach the *aam admi*. When Rs. 100 reach the *aam admi*, he spends about Rs. 70 on food articles. To produce Rs. 70 worth of food item, you require a direct investment of about Rs. 200. To make this Rs. 200 reach the farmers, you require 65 times more than that amount, that is Rs. 13000. For every rupee you spend on *aam admi*, unless you spend Rs. 2 for encouraging production of those things, it would be seen that the inclusive economics is untenable, and it will always result in inflation and high cost. I often said that inclusive economics is politically a clincher, but it might prove to be an economic flop. Thank you.

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय। आज देश में हर चीज की कीमत बहुत बढ़ गयी है और बाज़ार में चीज़े नहीं मिल रही हैं। आम आदमी, जो साधारण आदमी है, उसे अपनी ज़िंदगी में चावल गेहूँ, दाल, प्याज, आलू, लहसुन खाने को तेल, नमक आदि की जरूरत है। उसके साथ थोड़ा प्याज आलू, लहसुन और साग-भाजी एक आम परिवार के लिए जरूरी है। आज 77 परसेंट population इसी के बीच में लटकी हुई है और इसके आगे वह कुछ भी सोच नहीं सकती है। जब बारिश ठीक होती है तो ये साधारण चीज़ें, जो आम आदमी के लिए जीने के लिए दरकरार है, जीवन के पोषण के लिए जरूरी है, वे मिल जाती हैं। जब मौसम में थोड़ी गड़बड़ होती है तो शाक-भाजी के दाम से लेकर हर चीज़ के दाम बाज़ार में बढ़ते चले जाते हैं और आम आदमी को परेशान होना पड़ता है। महोदय, पानी के बिना खेती संभव नहीं है। जैसे मछली बगैर पानी के ज़िंदा नहीं रह सकती है, उसी तरह irrigation में बिना पानी में पैदावार में वृद्धि होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है। आज तक भारत सरकार ने irrigation को state subject मानकर, उसके प्रति जो ध्यान देना चाहिए, वह नहीं दिया है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के पास इतना धन नहीं है कि खेती योग्य जमीन की सिंचाई के लिए 100 परसेंट पानी का प्रावधान कर सके। आज सिंचाई का percentage अगर हम देखें तो पंजाब और हरियाणा को छोड़कर वह 35 से 40 परसेंट के बीच में अटका हुआ है। हम चाहें NREGA बनाएं या कितने भी प्रोग्राम बनाएं, लेकिन हर आदमी को ज़िंदा रहने के लिए दाल रोटी चाहिए। उसको और कुछ नहीं चाहिए, केवल दाल-रोटी चाहिए। दाल-रोटी के बिना आम आदमी का जीना मुश्किल है। जब दाल-रोटी नहीं मिलेगी तो हर जगह भले लोग भी आंदोलन करेंगे, मजदूर लोग आंदोलन करेंगे, middle class आंदोलन करेंगे और सब लोग आंदोलन करेंगे। जो बुनियादी चीज़ है वह पानी है। पानी के बिना खेती संभव नहीं है। इस विषय पर भारत सरकार को सोचना चाहिए और irrigation facility बढ़ाने के लिए, जिस तरह से सरकार ने NREGA में पैसे का जुगाड़ किया जाता है, उसी तरह से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को 100 परसेंट irrigation facility मुहैया कराने के लिए सेंट्रल बजट में सपोर्ट होना चाहिए। बिना सपोर्ट के केवल दाल-रोटी खोजने से कहां मिलेगी? गेहूँ-चावल खोजने से कहां से मिलेगा? जब पैदावार होगी, तब जाकर हम लोगों को दाल, रोटी, गेहूँ, चावल और तेल आदि सब कुछ मिलेगा। Without having irrigation facilities, there cannot be good agriculture. That is why the Government should provide irrigation facilities to the people. Then only this burning problem can be solved; otherwise; हर साल इसी प्रकार डिसकशन होती रहेगी और इसका समाधान नहीं होगा। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... एक आखिरी बात पीडीएस सिस्टम के संबंध में कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं केवल एक मिनट लूंगा। यह पीडीएस सिस्टम गेहूँ, चावल, चीनी इत्यादि में फेल हो चुका है। आज non-government mechanism बाज़ार को कंट्रोल कर रहा है। यह non-government mechanism जो बाज़ार को कंट्रोल कर रहा है, उसको पकड़ना पड़ेगा, तब जाकर जितना भी गोदामों में चावल और गेहूँ है, वह मार्केट में आ सकता है और कुछ राहत मिल सकती है। धन्यवाद।

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE (Maharashtra) : Sir, our country is passing through hard times. We are facing recess on the one hand and inflation on the other. And, this is quite a paradoxical situation. We are grappling with the problem of skyrocketing prices of commodities which are essential for living. This problem has, however created an extraordinary situation which is unprecedented in nature and far-reaching in effect. Prices have been on the rise over the years. But, today, the problem has assumed great seriousness. The failure of monsoon has aggravated the gravity and grimness of the problem. All the forecasts regarding monsoons have proved false and futile. The failure of monsoon has caused a widespread drought across the country. As a matter of fact, drought is a major cause steep rising of prices of essential commodities this year. All parts of India have been badly hit by drought creating an apocalyptic situation in this country. Never before has India witnessed such a tragic situation. The common man, in whose name and honour we run the Government, is on the brink, and the situation has to be faced very squarely. The *Aam Admi's* plight is indeed very pathetic. His survival itself is in danger. He may get bread, but where is the dal to eat it with? The price of dal is beyond his capacity, even beyond his imagination. Wheat and rice, we have in stock, but pulses we do not have. The Government should procure pulses even at high prices. The farmers should be induced to grow more pulses. The Government should indicate the requirements of essential commodities every year along with incentives to farmers. The pattern of crops should be rapidly and radically changed. The condition of the people, who are below the poverty line, is indeed very pathetic. We have 260 million people below the poverty line. They are unfortunately undernourished. Most of them suffer from malnutrition. The Government has implemented the Employment Guarantee Scheme for the BPL people. But the Employment Guarantee Scheme does not mean Food Guarantee Scheme. The Employment Guarantee Scheme should mean 'Food Guarantee Scheme'. For this, the Government should take two measures; first, it should ensure employment to BPL people for 365 days. Second, it should undertake a massive 'Food for Work Programme'.

But we cannot ensure food security unless we ensure work security. Work should be made a Fundamental Right, like, primary education. Right to Life is a Fundamental Right in the Constitution. Without Right to Work, Right to Life has no meaning. Right to Education has emanated from the Right to Life. Right to Work also emanates, let us clearly understand, from the Right to Life. Let us aim at it.

Sir, it is a fact that the peasantry of this country has always been below the poverty line; it is the peasantry who provides food to us. The farmers have to feed not only their families, but also their cattle. The widespread drought in the country has created the problem of fodder and water. Fodder security is no less important than the food security. The Government should face this problem squarely and very urgently. When the farmers become helpless, they sell their cattle to the butchers. This is how they solve the problem of fodder and water. This year is going to be a very dark year. I would like to call it the Eclipse year because we are facing this food problem. The Government should leave no stone unturned to curb the price rise of essential commodities. The Government must have the political will. Thank you, Sir.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : धन्यवाद सर। भाई शिवानन्द तिवारी जी, कभी-कभी अच्छी बात बोल देते हैं। हमें अच्छा लगा कि उन्होंने पुरानी बातों को याद किया। हम लोग बहुत पहले एक गाना सुनते थे कि दाल, रोटी खाओ प्रभु के गुण गाओ। लेकिन अब दाल भी गायब है और रोटी के बारे में तो सोचना ही नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : अब केवल प्रभु है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : हां, प्रभु है। ...(व्यवधान).... जब हम लोग बोलते हैं, क्या तभी आप लोग बोलते हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : I hope, Shri Sharad Pawar has heard him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : You have only five minutes. You don't get distracted. You address the Chair.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद : सर, पांच मिनट में से तीन मिनट तो ये ही ले लेते हैं।...(व्यवधान).... सर, मेरा टाइम अब शुरू होता है। मैं एक सजेशन देना चाहता हूं। यहां पर कृषि मंत्री जी बैठे हैं। जो पीडीएस का डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन है, उसको पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में ठीक कर दीजिए, उसका रख-रखाव ठीक कर दीजिए, तो हमारे ख्याल से मूल्य में जरूर कुछ कमी आ जाएगी, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। जब पीडीएस का ही डायवर्सन हो जाएगा, दुकान पर पहुंचने से पहले ही उसका डायवर्सन हो जाएगा, तब मूल्य में वृद्धि होगी, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। हम लोग समाजवादी आंदोलन से आते हैं। हम लोग नारा देते थे - जब तक भूखा इन्सान रहेगा, धरती पर तूफान रहेगा। इसके अलावा एक नारा और देते थे - रोको महंगी, बांधो दाम, नहीं तो होगा चक्का जाम। अब यहां चक्का जाम नहीं होता है। महंगी के बारे में कोई विचार ही नहीं करता है।...(व्यवधान).... हम लोगों का सारा समय कैसे-कैसे जाता है, मैं तो इस बात पर हैरान हूं, लेकिन हमारे यहां लोगों को खाना नहीं मिलता है। अब NREGA की बात है। अगर इसमें काम करने वाले लोगों को रोज सौ रुपये मिलेंगे, तो हम जो चावल खरीदने जाएंगे, हम जो गेहूं खरीदने जाएंगे, हम बाजार में जो सब्जी खरीदने जाएंगे, उसी दाम में यह समान उसको भी मिलेगा और उसी दाम में हमको भी मिलेगा, चाहें हम पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर हैं। उसको सौ रुपये मिलते हैं और हमको बीस हजार या 16 हजार रुपये, जो भी तनखाह है, उसमें क्या अंतर है, इसको देख लीजिए। श्री अर्जुनसेन गुप्त की जो किताब है, उसमें लिखा है कि 75 परसेंट का बीस रुपया रोज के काम चलता है, तो 20 को एक महीने में multiply करिए, वह कितना आता है? उसको भी वह उसी दाम में खरीदना पड़ेगा। इस पर माननीय मंत्री जी को विचार करना चाहिए।

सर, आप मुझे ज्यादा समय नहीं देंगे। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि आप पीडीएस सिस्टम को मजबूत कीजिए। सुश्री मैबल रिबेलो जी ने जो सजेशन दिया है, वह बहुत बढ़िया सजेशन है। वह कहती है कि गोदाम से सीधे अनाज पीडीएस की दुकान पर पहुंचना चाहिए, क्योंकि अगर वह सीधे दुकान पर नहीं पहुंचेगा।...(व्यवधान).... यह आपके यहां पहुंचता होगा, सब जगह पर नहीं पहुंचता है। अगर वह डायरेक्ट नहीं पहुंचता है, तो बीच में उसका डायवर्सन होता है। मैं शिवानन्द तिवारी जी की इस बात से सहमत हूं कि बाजार में और एफसीआई के गोदाम में माल की कमी नहीं है, लेकिन आप उसको कहा-कहां दे देते हैं, किसको दे देते हैं, यह समझ में नहीं आता है। हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने यहां पर कहा कि थोक मूल्य में और कॉमन मूल्य में फर्क है। उन्होंने चार तरह के मूल्य बताए। हमारे यहां चार तरह के मूल्य का कोई मतलब नहीं है। वह थोक विक्रेता का क्या मूल्य है, उससे आम लोगों को कोई मतलब नहीं है, थोक विक्रेता का जो मतलब है, उससे सब लोगों का मतलब नहीं है। उससे कॉमन मैन का क्या लेना-देना है? कॉमन मैन को तो उसी से मतलब है, जो बाजार में बिकता है और शॉप पर बिकता है। सर, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में जरूर विचार किया जाए। मैं एक और बात कहना

चाहता हूँ ...(व्यवधान)... खत्म हो गया? सर, एक मिनट रुकिए ...(व्यवधान)... ऐसा मत करिए। आप जो कहते हैं, हम मान लेते हैं। सर, मैं एक बात और पूछना चाहता हूँ कि नार्थ एवेन्यू में चावल के दाम और दाल के दाम एक सौ रुपए प्रति किलो है, अगर हम सफ़दरजंग में जाएंगे, तो पाएंगे कि वहाँ पर इनके दाम 90 रुपये हैं। हम कहीं और दूसरी जगह पर जाएंगे, तो पाएंगे कि इनके दाम 70 रुपए हैं। इसका क्या मतलब है? यहाँ पर सब्जी किलो के भाव से खरीदी ही नहीं जाती है, बल्कि हम लोग यहाँ पर सब्जी पाव के भाव से खरीदते हैं। जो सब्जी हम अपने घर में बाजार से किलो के भाव पर खरीदते हैं, यहाँ पाव में मिलती है। हमने पूछा कि सब्जी का भाव कितने रुपए किलो है, तो उसने कहा कि यहाँ किलो नहीं बल्कि पाव मिलती है, यानी सब्जी किलो नहीं मिलती है, पाव में मिलती है। इसलिए इसके बारे में जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। अगर आप महंगाई को रोकना चाहते हैं, ...(समय की घंटी)... तो जो आपका mechanism है, आप उस पर दबाव डालिए, तभी महंगाई रुकेगी। ...(समय की घंटी)... अगर महंगाई रुकी तो ठीक है, नहीं तो फिर चक्का फिसल जाएगा और दिक्कत हो जाएगी। धन्यवाद।

श्री राम नारायण साहू : सर, सदन में जो price rise पर चर्चा चल रही है, आपने मुझे इस पर बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। आज देश में जो चारों ओर दिक्कत और परेशानियाँ आ रही हैं और इस पर सभी लोग अपने-अपने विचार प्रकट कर रहे हैं कि देश किन-किन परिस्थितियों से गुजर रहा है, तो यह सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण है। यह सरकार जुगाड़ लगाकर चलाई जा रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... सरदार जी, आप समझिए। कभी तो लेफ्ट फ्रंट का सहारा लिया जाता है और कभी समाजवादी पार्टी का सहारा लिया जाता है। ...(व्यवधान)... अब ऐसे लोगों का सहारा लेने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है, जिन लोगों ने सरकार को paralysis की हालत में पहुँचा दिया था, ताकि जुगाड़ बना रहे। ...(व्यवधान)... आप सीनियर आदमी हैं। सर, अब महंगाई चरमसीमा पर है और बड़े घरानों की मदद पीछे के दरवाजे से की जा रही है। आज गरीबी की हालत क्या है, इस पर लोक सभा ने एक पिकचर दिखाई थी। लोग तो उस पिकचर की तारीफ कर रहे हैं और सरकार भी कर रही है, तभी तो सरकार वह पिकचर दिखा रही है। मीडिया भी उस पिकचर की तारीफ कर रहा है। उस पिकचर को सात या आठ ऑस्कर पुरस्कार दिए गए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... आपने पिकचर नहीं देखी? आपको वह पिकचर देखनी चाहिए थी। सर, जो यूरोप व पश्चिमी सभ्यता वाले देशों के लोग हैं, वे यहीं काम किया करते हैं। उन्होंने लगान को प्राइज़ दिया नहीं, जोधा अकबर को प्राइज़ दिया नहीं, बल्कि एक ऐसी पिकचर को प्राइज़ दिया है, जिसमें भारत को काफी गिरी हुई स्थिति में दिखाया गया है। कल हमारे एक सदस्य कह रहे थे कि हम आधा घंटा पिकचर देखने के बाद बाहर चले गए। ये पश्चिमी देश हमेशा एक राजनीतिक चाल चला करते हैं। आप सभी लोग जानते हैं, जब पश्चिमी देशों की बात आ गई तो बताना ही पड़ेगा। उन्होंने देखा कि इंडिया में कॉस्मेटिक की डिमांड बहुत ज्यादा है। उन्होंने एक साथ पांच, छह मिस वर्ल्ड, मिस यूनिवर्स पैदा कर दीं और उनकी मार्केट खुल गई। अगर गरीबी देखनी है तो चाहें दिल्ली हो, लखनऊ हो या मुंबई हो, जब शहर में गाड़ी एंटर करती हैं और आप शहर के अंदर चलते हैं, तब आप देखिए कि लोग किस स्थिति में रहते हैं। यहाँ पर मच्छर गिरते हैं। इसका आपको नई दिल्ली के अंदर, मुंबई या नगर के कुछ हिस्सों में देखकर अहसास होगा। एक तरफ तो हम बात करते हैं कि हमारा देश 2020 में दुनिया की तीसरी ताकत बनेगा, हम से छोटे-छोटे देश ...(समय की घंटी)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : हो गया।

श्री राम नारायण साहू : सर, एक मिनट, बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट प्वाइंट है। चीन, जो हमसे बाद में आजाद हुआ है, वे देश जो देर से आजाद हुए हैं, वे देश विकास के रास्ते पर हमसे आगे निकल गए हैं, ये देश विकास के रास्ते पर हमसे आगे कैसे निकले? इसके लिए एक कमेटी बनाई जानी चाहिए, जो इस बात पर गौर करे कि हमसे आगे कैसे निकल गए। नकल हमेशा अच्छी बातों की जाती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : साहू जी, तीन मिनट की बजाय पांच मिनट हो गए हैं, खत्म कीजिए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू : सर, मैं आपसे केवल एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार अपने एतबार पर चलती है और यहां जो हालात पैदा हो रहे हैं-जैसे किसी मकान में बिल हो जाते हैं, वैसे ही सरकार एक बिल बंद कर रही है तो दूसरा बिल खुल रहा है। सन् 1977 में जो स्थिति थी(व्यवधान)....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : ओ. के. पांच मिनट हो गए हैं।

श्री राम नारायण साहू : सन् 1977 में जो स्थिति थी, उस समय इंदिरा गांधी जी हमारी प्रधानमंत्री थीं। अपने सहयोगियों से पूछा(व्यवधान)....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आपको तीन मिनट बोला था, पांच मिनट हो गए हैं(व्यवधान)....

श्री राम नारायण साहू : पूछा कि देश में कैसी हालत है, उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि आप ही की जय-जयकार हो रही है। जो बिल निकल रहा है-उस समय भी बहुत बिल हो गए थे, हालात देखते हुए(व्यवधान).... उत्तर प्रदेश की(व्यवधान).... गवर्नमेंट ने(व्यवधान)....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी. जे. कुरियन) : आप बैठिए(व्यवधान).... साहू जी, बैठिए(व्यवधान).... टी सुब्बारामी रेड्डी(व्यवधान).... साहू जी, आप बैठिए(व्यवधान).... मैंने बुलाया है(व्यवधान)....

श्री राम नारायण साहू : बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, our UPA Government is determined to control inflation, to control prices and to achieve GDP growth. These are the three things before the Government. I would like to say that, today, instead of finding faults, first, let us analyse where we are having problems and how to solve them on a short-term on a long-term basis. We must bear in mind the rapid growth of population, increase in purchasing power, and health improvements influence consumption of products. These three are major reasons for the shortage of products. Unfortunately, drought has started appearing. I am praying Lord Balaji of Tirupati to bless good rains all over the country. सबकी प्रॉब्लम आसान करनी है।

Most importantly, the Ministry must now concentrate on construction of cold storages. Several times, we have surplus food products and we would not be able to sell them, and they would perish. We had been hearing about schemes on building cold storage capacities, but nothing is taking shape. Similarly, on warehouses, through we have warehouses, we must multiply the storage capacity all over the country. The Government must provide more funds in the Budget. If necessary, private sector also can be involved in constructing more warehouses and providing storage facilities. Addition of storage is solution number one. Secondly, to face drought-like situations, we must concentrate on agriculture, on irrigation facilities all over the country, not just in one particular State.

Thirdly, we must have advance planning to import items of foodgrains. We must have advance planning for importing sugar, wheat, etc., from surplus countries. So, we must be very cautious, conscious and judicious in planning the whole system. Lastly, I would like to say that the challenge before the Government is how to control prices and how to make things available. People are saying that prices are very high and the quantum of commodities is very low. These are burning problems. Now, the problem of drought will be solved by Lord Balaji and with the capacity of the Hon. Minister, we are going to solve the problem. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : Sir, I have been carefully listening to the discussion in the House on the rising price of essential commodities. I was quite happy about the entire discussion because it was not restricted only to one subject, that is, rising prices, but some of the important agricultural problems have also been discussed in the House and a lot of constructive suggestions have been made. In fact, about ten days back, I got an opportunity to apprise the House regarding the overall monsoon position, delay in rains, its impact on production and productivity. We had very seriously discussed that subject also. Today we are discussing for the last two days one of the worsening problems, which people of this country are facing and all of us are worried, that is, the prices of the essential commodities. I am grateful that my colleague, the Finance Minister, has participated and he has also given a definite approach of the Government to the House. Let me assure the House that moderating inflation along with the robust or increasing growth are the most important policy planks of the economy. The Government is committed to the farmers and that the farmers from all over India receive fair and remunerative prices and that the terms of trade are maintained in favour of the farmers. Therefore, the Government has been working on these two policy planks, one, to give boost to the agriculture, and, second, to insulate the vulnerable sections of the society especially those who are below poverty line and targeted population under the Antodaya Anna Yojana without adversely impacting the growth momentum necessary for the social and economic development of the country. I do not want to go into the details about the overall approach and progress and what we have done in the area of agriculture. But hon. Members are fully aware that the situation of the agricultural growth, growth rate and availability of foodgrains in the country was not very comfortable. About five years back when Dr. Manmohan Singhji had taken over the reins of this country, conscious efforts have been made to give more weightage to the agriculture and do more investment in agriculture. A number of decisions have been taken. There was shortage of foodgrains.

I recalled that a special meeting was called of the Chief Minister of all the States and for one whole day only one subject was discussed, that is, how to improve production and productivity. The outcome of that meeting was suggestions came from all the Chief Ministers, that substantial amount has to be provided by the Government of India. The State Governments can take help from this

amount. Freedom should be given to the State. Flexibility should be kept. And, in that meeting it was decided to provide Rs. 25,000 crores. And a new scheme has also been introduced, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), and money has been provided to the State with a guideline that whatever Budgetary provision will be made by every State for agriculture, an equivalent amount will be provided by the Government of India, whether it is dairy sector, whether it is poultry sector, whether it is fishery sector, whether it is crop sector, or whether it is agro-processing sector. I am glad to inform this august House that most of the States have taken a lot of interest in this. What we have seen in substantial improvement in the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the last two years. Credit goes to efforts which the State Governments have made, and, to the policies which have been introduced by the Government of India. Another major programme was started, 'Food Security Mission'. In fact, there was a requirement of paying special attention to rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds. Rs. 5000 crores have been provided and a definite target has been fixed that such and such quantity has to be produced in such and such time. Most of the States have taken advantage of this Scheme; particularly, they have concentrated in the area of paddy and wheat and we have got good results. If we have to give strength to agriculture, we have to see how farmers will get a better price and what are the new areas where there are tremendous opportunities.

One important scheme has been introduced 'the National Horticultural Mission', and, practically, every year, 3000 crores have been provided. In the last four years, our experience is, a substantial new area has come under the horticulture, and, I am confident in another five to six years' time, India will be one of the major horticulture producing countries in the world. Of course, we have to make many other efforts. We have to see how we will be able to set up more agro-processing industries. We have to see how we will be able to improve cold chain and other facilities. We have to see how we will be able to enter in the international market, and, ultimately, price will come to the villages. That particular section has been looked after by the agro-processing Ministry. The House is fully aware about some of the other important decisions that have been taken. One of the major decisions, which this Government has taken, is about loan waiver. In fact, about five years back, the Government has taken a decision to improve the agricultural credit. About five years back, the total agricultural credit which was provided -- crop loan particularly -- was somewhat near to Rs. 82,000 crores. It was decided to see that in three years time there should be a substantial jump. I am happy to inform the House that this year, we have reached somewhat near to Rs. three lakh crores. That type of amount has been provided as a crop loan to the farming community of this country. While we had gone in details about the scheme of loan waiver, our observation was, from Rs. 82,000 crores, we have reached, in the next year to Rs. 1,20,000 crores. In the second year, we have reached to Rs. two lakhs crores. In the third year, we have reached to Rs. two lakh and 60 to 65 lakh crores. But, one observation is, there was a sizeable section among the farming community which is not in a

position to get any benefit from this new effort or approach. The reason is : This section was a defaulter. So, unless and until we remove that anomaly, we will not be able to bring them under this new direction or path which has been opened for them and from where they can get some money either through co-operative institutions or nationalised banks or other banks to invest in agriculture sector. There was a demand that this particular scheme has to be introduced for each and every farmer. But, Sir, the financial burden was quite high. That is why it was not possible.

There was a complaint from one of our colleagues from Punjab. So, ultimately, a decision was been taken only for marginal and small farmers. Why only a decision has been taken for small and marginal farmers? In fact, I would have been happy if the Government is in a position to take a decision which will help each and every farmers of this country. But, there was financial limitation. Ultimately, why we took this decision for the marginal and small farmers? It is because 82 per cent of farmers in this country have below 5 acres or 2 hectares of agricultural land. If this decision is applicable to 82 per cent of farming community of this country, I think, at least, a sizeable section will be out from debt trap. That is the reason why the Government took a decision. Sir, even though there is a provision of an amount of Rs. 71,000 crores for debt weaver, the money so far spent is nearly Rs. 67,000 crores. This is one of the important decisions implemented, practically, within one year. I have seen there is a tremendous change. This section, which was not getting any financial support from either co-operative sector or the banking sector, now will get money and this section is in a position to invest in his filed. I am sure, we will see, ultimately, the result. This is an important decision which this Government has taken.

Sir, one issue is always discussed and it is regarding rate of interest. I recollect, many a time, on many occasions, some of the hon. Members have raised the issue that if anybody wants to buy a Maruti car, he is in a postion to get loan at 8 per cent rate of interest. If farmer wants to take loan and invest it in his farm, he has to pay 12 per cent or 13 per cent interest. During the NDA regime, it was brought down from 12 per cent. During the UPA regime, it was brought down further up to 7 per cent. In this year's Budget, all of us are aware, the Government has given another one per cent incentive to those who pays regularly. So, ultimately, it has reached to somewhat 6 per cent. In fact, I will be happy if this is reduced to 4 per cent. But, one should not forget that we came down from 12 per cent to 6 per cent. And, I am confident, in another three years, we will be able to reach to 4 per cent. And, that is also one of the important decisions this Government has taken.

Sir, Shanta Kumar has said a very vital point that we have neglected irrigation. It is true that a substantial investment was not made in the irrigation sector. In fact, I would say that it is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India never take this responsibility. But, a few years ago, a conscious decision was taken by the Government of India that, at least, to expedite those projects which are at a stage where if we provide some money or financial support, probably, those projects would be completed within one or two years and additional irrigation potential could be added. For this purpose, Sir, a new scheme was introduced and this scheme is known as Accelerated Irrigation Development Programme. I think this year more than Rs. 10,000 was provided and this is a sort of support to the State Governments which are spending substantial money in the irrigation sector.

There is a new scheme, which has been discussed in the House on many occasions, that is, NREGA. Some Members said that because of NREGA, it has become difficult for the farmers to get somebody to work in their fields. There might be some problem in certain areas, but what I am observing is that NREGA will prove to be a very useful scheme for improving production and productivity because thrust in the NREGA is on water conservation, watershed development, minor irrigation tanks, percolation tanks, etc. Ultimately, these types of projects will improve the sub-soil water level and that will, ultimately, be a sort of support to the agriculture. Today, about 40 per cent of our agricultural land is irrigated. It fulfills 60 per cent requirement of the foodgrains in the country. The rest of 60 per cent of our land is dependent on erratic monsoon. Unless and until, substantial investment is made in the area of water conservation, we will not be able to get good results in the area of production and productivity. I am sure, it is NREGA, where more than about Rs. 30,000 crores have been provided, which will be a very useful scheme for the overall development of the agriculture. Why I am saying all these things is to show you that we are not neglecting agriculture. We want to pay more attention to it. We want to provide more money for it and we are going in that direction. That is the reason that in the last few years, the Indian farmers have, successfully, produced maximum quantity of wheat and rice. Though everybody is worried about monsoon, the overall atmosphere of the country is somewhat different, our godowns and warehouses are in a good position. I can tell this House, and through this House to the people of India, that there is a sufficient stock of wheat and rice available in Indian warehouses for the next 13 months...*(Interruptions)*... The Government is very concerned about the rising prices, particularly, food items. Before I go to the dynamics of inflation, there are certain points that I would like to place before the House. For the past two years, there have been certain developments in the farm sector, which are often glossed over. There has been a quantum jump in the MSP. The farmers are getting better prices. They are empowered and are able to make informed decisions on the timings and pricing of their produce. They have also made informed decision on the next crop to be cultivated. They are finally getting their dues. I am not belittling the issue of rising prices, I am only drawing the attention of the House that if the higher prices percolate to the farmers, it could have positive impact on food production and galvanise agriculture into engine of growth of employment. While I shall go into the details of the issue of the food inflation, I would like you to keep this backdrop in mind.

I shall, briefly, mention the overall background of the influential places in our economy as well as anti-inflationary measures the Government has been taking in this regard. The world food situation is, currently, being rapidly redefined by the new divine forces -- income group, climate change, high energy prices, globalisation and urbanisation are transferring food conservation production in market. We cannot just by-pass all these issues, but, practically, the whole world is suffering. Hon. Members are aware that on the inflation front, we have passed through a very difficult time. In fact, we have seen, about two years back what type of a situation was created in Gulf area. Suddenly, the prices of petroleum products, which created a serious situation not only in India, but, practically, all over the world, in most of the developing countries, went up. But we have successfully overcome that situation. We have seen the prices of edible oil. That was just like crude oil. I recollect, about two years back, in the United States of America, there was a trend to divert some of the oilseeds for ethanol, divert corn for ethanol and that had jumped the oilseed prices, edible oil prizes and maize prices all over the world. We have seen that type of situation. But, now, the situation is improving.

In fact, when we discuss the prices of foodgrains, we have to see that one of the important items, which concerns each and every citizen of this country is the prices of rice and wheat. As I said, the hon. Members are fully aware, that in the second suppressed year, we have a record production of foodgrains, totalling 233.88 million tonnes, which is estimated to surpass the previous ear. Why? We have also made a record procurement of wheat and rice. In the current ear, the procurement has already suppressed the procurement of last year. Sir, 25.23 million tonnes of wheat and 31.91 million tonnes of rice have been procured as on the 24th of last month, and the prices of wheat and rice are reasonably stable. In fact, one hon. Member said that the price of rice in Delhi and in some other places has gone to Rs. 40 per kg. I don't see that. In fact, I got this list of retail prices of the selective essential commodities in Delhi. For instance, one year back, the retail price of rice in Delhi was Rs. 20 kg, and, on the 20 of last month, it was Rs. 21. In fact, there is not too much change. Some of the varieties, which are exceptional varieties like Basmati or some other varieties, which are popular in Andhra and some other States, are, naturally, more expensive. But as far as the average rice variety is concerned, I don't feel, there is too much change in the prices. The price level is quite stable as far as rice is concerned. Similar is the situation about wheat. About one year back, exactly one year back, the per kilogram price of wheat was Rs. 13, and, today, it is the same Rs. 13 in Delhi markets, the retail price. Practically, for the whole year, it remained the same, *i.e.*, Rs. 13. There might be some change in Trivandrum or Chennai. But that was just because of the transport cost, the additional transport cost and beyond that, it was nothing. So, we have successfully managed to maintain, at a particular level, the overall prices of wheat and rice. There are some other items like edible oil. In fact, India is not self-sufficient in some of the agricultural commodities and, particularly, in edible oil and pulses. We practically import about 40 per cent of our requirement of edible oil. We import from Indonesia; we import from Malaysia, and we also import from some other countries. We also need to import to augment the domestic stock to strengthen the food security

and hence India cannot remain immune to global price situation. Yet, we have been able to lessen the impact of the international prices owing to timely policy decisions taken by the Government. Currently, in the international market, prices of edible oil, as on 30th July, are lower than that compared to last year. The price of crude palm oil has declined by 37.76 per cent to US \$ 610 per tonne fob; soyabean oil, by 43 per cent, that is to US \$ 72 per tonne fob; and sunflower oil, by 46.69 per cent to US \$ 725 per tonne fob, and RVG palm oil, by 36 per cent. In the domestic market also, the wholesale prices of edible oil declined in the same period. In the case of soyabean oil, it came down by 31.58 per cent, that is, Rs. 3900 per quintal; sunflower oil, by 33.33 per cent, that is, Rs. 4500 per quintal and RVG palm oil, by 30 per cent. So, the situation in the case of edible oil is not that bad. There are some other items...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, there is a rise of two per cent in just one week in...*(Interruptions)*... How can crude prices..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, none of these things is...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura) : Sir, prices of all commodities have increased. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, are we living in two countries? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : No, we are living in the same country...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, listen...*(Interruptions)*... Please, hear him out. Don't talk in between ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There are two areas ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Sir, all prices have gone up. ...*(Interruptions)*... We cannot agree to that...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal) : Sir, he is saying there is no price rise. How is that?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister has been referring to...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please listen ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do if all of you stand up? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow him to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him complete....*(Interruptions)*...Let him complete. Brindaji, let him complete....*(Interruptions)*... Please, let the Minister complete...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I am ready to answer ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : The hon. Minister should tell us the shop number also! ...*(Interruptions)*...Give us the address of the shop and name of the bazaar ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Please tell us which shop...(Interruptions)..

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, allow me a minute...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Hon. Mr. Raja, I shall reply...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : All of you may please take your seats...(Interruptions)... Please, take your seats. Please resume your seats. Let the Minister complete the speech. Please ...(Interruptions)... Brindaji, please, take your seat....(Interruptions)... Please, allow him to complete.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There are two areas ...(Interruptions)... I have not yet finished, Mr. Raja. I shall reply to you ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seats ...(Interruptions)... I have not yet finished, Mr. Raja. I shall reply to you... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : There is no control over prices.....(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : There is no price rise at all according to the Minister.. ...(Interruptions)... There is no price rise...(Interruptions).

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : We would like to walk out...(Interruptions)...

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, take your seats. I can allow you to seek clarifications...(Interruptions)... I would allow you to seek clarifications after the Minister's reply ..(Interruptions)... Please.(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : I would like to know from the Minister ...(Interruptions)... 103 rupees per kilo. This is what the ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Let him complete his speech ...(Interruptions).. will allow you to seek clarifications...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Where are all these rates available? Let him ...(Interruptions)... He is giving a wrong impression...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, we have been patient and we heard the Minister also ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, it is not available ...(Interruptions)... We are also walking out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Let him complete the speech. Allow him to complete the speech...(Interruptions).... Why don't you listen to him? After the Minister has replied, I shall allow you to seek clarifications...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Let me reply ..(Interruptions)...

6.00 P.M.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, the issue is very much concerned ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, we have been patient. But he must guide us to the shop where these are available...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : For that you have to be calm; you must be seated...*(Interruptions)*... Allow him to guide you...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra) : We have heard him for half-an-hour. He is adding to the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Neither the hon. Finance Minister's nor the Agriculture Minister's reply is anywhere near the truth or the situation. The entire country is disappointed. There is a Government ad which says oil is priced at Rs. 103? And, the hon. Minister is saying that prices are under control ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I just said about the groundnut, mustard and Vanaspati ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, he is totally misguiding and misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*..

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, take your seats.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There are two areas where the situation is serious. One is sugar and the second is pulses. I accept that the as far as prices of pulses are concerned, particularly in case of *tur dal*, *urad dal*, *moong dal* and *masoor dal*, the situation is not very comfortable. In fact, it is affecting each and every family of this country. We are quite worried and we have taken certain steps and we would like to take some more steps, which I will elaborate.

Second issue is about sugar. In fact, two years back, the country's situation about sugar. was altogether different. Domestic sugar production this year is expected to be somewhat near to 150 lakh tonnes. In the year 2007-08, it was 264 lakh tonnes, that is, the final estimate. What was the situation this year? This year, the total production is somewhat near to 150 lakh tonnes, and if we add last year's carry forward stock in the country, that is somewhat near to hundred lakh tonnes. So, the total comes of 250 lakh tonnes. And, the domestic yearly demand is somewhat near to 225-230 lakh tonnes. In fact, the plantation of sugarcane this year and in the last season, as compared to two years back, is definitely less. Reasons are many. One of the reasons is that about two-three years back, there was too much production in our country, and because of too much production, prices dropped like anything. The farmer was getting somewhat near near to Rs. 650 to Rs. 850, or a maximum of Rs. 1000, per tonne price for sugarcane. So, that was not viable at all. In such a situation, sizeable section of the farming community, who were involved in sugarcane production,

decided to shift from sugarcane to another area, particularly in U.P. and Northern India where lot of farmers have shifted from sugarcane to wheat. We have seen that wheat production has substantially improved and one of the reasons is that this Government has taken a conscious decision to provide Rs. 1080 per quintal price for wheat. In fact, when the NDA Government was in power, the price of wheat was Rs. 540 per quintal. Within four years, from Rs. 540, we have gone to Rs. 1080. That is the reason that farmer has shifted to wheat and its production has increased substantially. But, that has affected sugarcane production and sugar production. And, this is happening not only in India; unfortunately, this year, globally, sugar production has been dropped and prices have been rising. They are going up like anything. In fact, I recollect, in this House, about three years back, when there was a discussion on the sugar prices, some hon. Members were insisting that prices should go further down and I made a statement, which is part of the record, that unless and until the prices of sugar reached to somewhat Rs. 22 to Rs. 23 per kilogram, farmer would not go in for sugarcane plantation, and if we were continuously taking actions where prices of sugar would come below Rs. 12, Rs. 13 and Rs. 14 and the prices of sugarcane would come below Rs. 1000, definitely, you would see, in two years' time, prices of sugar would go to Rs. 30 to Rs. 35. That I briefed in this House about three years back. Exactly the same situation we are observing today.

There is one more problem this year that we are facing. As per our latest information, as compared to last year, the area under sugarcane production is little more. But, I am worried about productivity tonnage. One of the reasons for that is insufficient rain. India's major sugar-producing or number one State is UP. We have seen that UP Government has declared drought in about 48 districts or 49 districts. There is insufficient rain in UP. The second major sugar-producing State is Maharashtra. Sufficient water is not there also. Farmers are not showing interest to go to the sugarcane plantation is going on. Fortunately, there is good plantation in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. That is the reason why I say there is more area under sugarcane production as compared to the last year. But still we have to keep a close eye on the situation.

We have taken many decisions just to improve the availability of sugar in this country. This year we have given better prices to sugarcane farmers. Number two, we have allowed duty free import of raw sugar. Why raw sugar? Because we want optimum capacity utilisation of Indian sugar industry and sugar mills also. So, they can now import raw sugar and process it here. We have not put any restriction on that. Let them make it available in the market. We have given this opportunity to all the sugar mills in this country. There are many sugar mills which are now importing raw sugar from Brazil and some other countries. They will be able to process it and make it available in the country.

I was not happy to take one decision, but we have taken that decision also. We have allowed our PSUs to import fine sugar, initially at one million tonne. That process has also started.

So, we are importing fine sugar; we are importing raw sugar; we are encouraging domestic farmers to grow more sugarcane; we are providing more prices to the farmers as compared to last year. Last year it was at 81 rupees per quintal. This year we have provided 107 rupees 30 paise or 40 paise per quintal. I am sure, farmer will get good prices, and if there is a sufficient rain, he will definitely go for population of sugarcane and the situation may change. But it will not change within one year. It will take time because ultimately sugar is a yearly perennial crop. It will take one year or more than one year to get the final results.

Regarding pulses, as I said pulses are one of the major crops that are affecting us. India is the largest producer as well as the largest consumer of the pulses in the world. India has been a net importer of the pulses due to mismatch between domestic supply and demand of the pulses. Domestic production of the pulses has been around 14 to 14.5 million tonne during the last three years and the demand for the pulses is somewhat near to 17 million tonne. So, our production is 14 to 14.5 million tonnes and our demand is 17 to 18 million tonne. So, there is a gap between demand and supply of about 3.5 to 4 million tonne. The gap between demand and supply is filled by import of different varieties of pulses from different countries, depending upon the availability. In view of the limited source of availability of different varieties of pulses in the international market, domestic prices fluctuate. Last year and this year also, what we have seen in that among pulses, production of two crops have been affected. One is *Tur* and the other is *Urad*. And a little bit of *Moong*. Also *jowar*. Unfortunately, these two crops. *Urad* and *Tur*, had been affected last year not just in India. The availability of *Tur* in international market was also limited. In fact, in the global market, the total availability of pulses was, I think, about 5.5 million tonnes. India alone had procured 2.5 million tonnes. Fifty per cent of the pulses available in the international market have been brought by India. We tried to make it available in India. Still there is a gap and that is the reason why the prices are going up.

But there is one good thing this year. All of us here are worried about monsoon. All of us here are worried about the area under rice cultivation. But, this year, our observation, based on the reports from all the States, is that the area under pulses cultivation has substantially increased, particularly that of *Tur*. If we get good crop, I think, within a few months, the situation will be changed altogether.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, what about prices?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We have given extremely good MSP and that is the reason why we are suddenly seeing more area under pulses cultivation.

We had taken some other decisions also. Firstly, when availability is a problem, we have taken a decision to remove all restrictions on import of pulses. Practically, there is no tax on it. It is allowed for anybody in the private sector. We instructed all our major PSUs to import. So, they have also imported it. PSUs, particularly STC, PEC, MMTC and NAFED have been allowed to import pulses. The Government has taken a conscious decision to support them even if they lose some money. For losses up to 15 per cent, the responsibility is taken by the Government of India, and for service charge, of about 1.5 per cent value of the operation.

Under the scheme, in 2008-09, more than nine lakh tonnes of pulses have been imported. Out of that, eight lakh tonnes were disposed of and about one lakh tonne is available as on 29th of the last month.

We have also introduced one scheme. Under the scheme for distribution of pulses, a subsidy of Rs. ten per kg is given for imposed pulses distributed through the Public Distribution System. Initially, 16 States have applied for it. They have shown willingness to accept the scheme. We have imported not directly from Government's account, but we told the PSUs that they should import and supply them to various Governments.

Ultimately, four States came forward. They are : West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh. They have taken the responsibility to make available these pulses through the Public Distribution System in their own States.

Recently, my attention was drawn to a report on a television channel alleging rotting of huge stocks of imported pulses. In fact, one hon. Member has also raised this particular subject here. I have taken report from all the PSUs and found that this was factually not correct. As per the reports given by the PSUs and found that this was factually not correct. As per all the PSUs and found that this was factually not correct. As per the reports given by the PSUs, the unsold stock with them is 1.27 lakh tonnes of pulses of which yellow peas and dun peas account for 1.9 lakh tonnes or 74 per cent of the total unsold stock as on 29th July 2009.

Despite their higher availability at cheaper prices, the State Governments are reluctant to distribute yellow peas through the Public Distribution System. There is no demand for yellow peas. This organisation has imported substantial quantity of the yellow peas. In fact, there is a demand in certain areas for yellow peas. But, States are not accepting yellow peas and that is the reason, particular quantity is still with them. There were reports that large quantity of imported pulses was lying uncleared in Kolkata port. I have the report from the PSU that there was a problem in Customs clearance in Kolkata port for the last two months. This has since been resolved and stocks are being cleared regularly. So, that is not the issue today.

In fact, I am very happy that some of the States are now taking lot of initiatives. The Delhi Government has taken a decision. They have provided subsidy. They have started distribution of pulses through the public distribution system. The Andhra Pradesh Government has taken that decision. Yesterday only, the Civil Supplies Minister from Maharashtra contracted me and said that they have also taken a decision in their Cabinet to provide pulses through public distribution system. Whatever additional price will have to be paid, they will pay from the Government side and they will make available comparatively cheaper pulses through PDS to all sections -- whether it is AAY, BPL or APL. I am sure, each and every State is going to take initiatives like these so that probably, those who are practically affected by high prices will get some relief. It is my appeal to all the State Governments that as the Government of India is discharging its responsibility, similarly, in such a situation, they should also take certain responsibility and try to protect the interests of sections vulnerable of the society.

Sir, there are certain issues which were raised today in the discussion and certain demands were also made. In fact, these Members are not here. There was one suggestion, particularly from an hon. Member from Kerala. Regularly, whenever they get the opportunity, they always try to raise this issue as to why universalization of TDPS is not feasible and why are we not taking it up. In fact, in 1996. The Government of India took the decision to introduce targeted PDS. Instead of providing cheaper foodgrains to every section of the society, let us concentrate on the poorest people, those who come under the BPL and provide them 35 kilograms on a particular rate, and we should also provide for those who are Above Poverty Line at a subsidized rate, but, according to our stock position. So, this scheme has been introduced in June 1997 and this scheme is continuing till today. At present, under TPDS, the level of food subsidy is 78 per cent and 88 per cent on wheat and rice for AAY category. It is 72 per cent and 70 per cent on wheat and rice for AAY category. It is 72 per cent and 70 per cent on wheat and rice for BPL category. It is 60 per cent and 56 per cent on wheat and rice which is supplied to APL category. So, we are already supplying this.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

Sir, one of the important things is, till today, we have not changed the price which was fixed nine years back for PDS. Though we have substantially improved the Minimum Support Price for the farmers, yet we have not changed the issue price for BPL and AAY since last nine years because this Government feels that these vulnerable sections have a right to get foodgrains at a cheaper rate. That is why, that decision has been taken by the Government of India and that subsidy version has gone somewhat from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 55,000 crores which the Government of India has borne. It is possible to take such huge burden for only that section which is weaker, in the true sense. And, that is the reason, why, this targeted PDS has been introduced and implemented for that section. It is not possible to implement the scheme for each and every section of the society. That will be a substantial financial burden and that burden the Government of India is not able to take upon itself as of today.

There is also another complaint that allocation of foodgrains to the States under TDPS has been reduced. That is not correct. Each and every State is getting under BPL and AAY category 35 kgs. per family per month and that is issued everywhere. The expected number of the BPL family, which has been given by the Planning Commission, is 6.52 crores, that is, 30%-35% of the total population. There is no reduction in the allocation for the BPL and AAY categories in the States and the UTs.

There is another complaint that we are not giving anything to the APL category at all. That is also not correct. In fact, the APL allocation during the year 2009-10 is 172 lakh tonnes. Previously it was 112 lakh tonnes. We have enhanced it and we are providing, at least, 10 kgs. per APL family per month. The States which are taking advantage of it are definitely getting this type of allocation which we are regularly sending to them. So, this was also one of the important issues which were raised here. I tried to give a little more information about that.

One of the important issues raised by a few hon. Members was about futures trading and the rise in the prices of essential commodities was the effect of futures trading. In fact, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members about the possibility of futures trading spawning excessive speculation and thereby causing price rise. The fact shows that this has not been the case in our country. There is no futures trading in urad and tur since January, 2007. It has been suspended. But the prices of these commodities are showing a sharp increase even today, though urad and tur are not traded in futures. Then, why are the prices going up? The prices are going up because there is a mismatch between demand and supply. Future trading is not responsible for it. This is the observation. As against this, there is futures trading in gram. Year on year, change of prices of gram was negative. It was minus 6.8 per cent in 2008-09 and Minus 3.1 per cent as on 18th July, 2009. The future trading in wheat has been restarted recently. The prices of wheat are stable. There was a modest increase of 4.53 per cent in 2008-09 and 1.6 per cent this year. One of the reasons is that we have given better MSP. We have increased the MSP from Rs. 640 to Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,080 per quintal. In fact, the price in futures trading is hardly 1.6 per cent. So, the conclusion which some of the hon. Members have drawn here is that future trading is responsible. I am afraid, it is very difficult to reach that conclusion after going through the explanations that have been given.

In fact, we had appointed an Expert Committee to examine these issues. The Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Planning Commission Member, Prof. Abhijit Sen, to examine whether the future market was responsible for the rise in the prices of essential commodities. The Committee in its report acknowledged the fact that the futures market provide a platform for price discovery and price risk management, and the farmers would be benefited from this economic functions of the market. The Committee analysed the daily, weekly and monthly data on the price volatility, that is, spot price. The analysis made by the Expert Committee led it to conclude as follows. [Given these conflicting results from daily, as against weekly and monthly data, no strong conclusion can be drawn on whether introduction of the futures trade is associated with decrease or increase of the spot price volatility. The Committee also analysed annual growth rate in the prices of sensitive commodities in pre-future period and post-futures in some of the sensitive commodities that have higher weight in consumer price indices, it is not possible to make any general claim that inflation accelerated more in commodities with futures trading.]

Another issues was raised here about the volume of trade. I would like to mention that high volume of futures trade in commodities indicates the robustness of the market and should not be of much concern if the market is well regulated. It is true that futures trade value has grown from Rs. 21.55 lakh crores to Rs. 52.49 lakh crores, from 2005-06 to 2008-09, but in respect of the agriculture commodities, there has been virtually no increase. Whatever is the gain of the increase that we have seen that is in other areas, that is, gold, silver, other metal, crude oil and natural gas. That is why one should not be worried about all these things.

Last point, which was raised by some of the hon. Members, was about the action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to check the price rise and hoarding of the essential commodities. At present, there are 18 States and UTs which have issued orders imposing stock limits/licensing/stock declaration requirements for the essential commodities for which the Government of India has issued orders permitting the issue of such restrictions. These commodities are pulses, rice, paddy, edible oil, edible oilseeds and sugar. In the case of pulses, 13 States have issued orders imposing stock limits and another four have imposed licensing/stock declaration requirements. The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, gives powers to the State Governments to detain persons up to six months if it is found that they could act in manner prejudicial to the Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act. During the calendar year 2008, the States have detained 162 persons. These actions also help to keep in check the prices of essential commodities. My Ministry has been writing to the State Governments, from time to time, on the need for strong enforcement of these statutory provisions. As the august House is aware, these powers under EC Act have already been delegated to State Governments for effective implementation as per local conditions. We are also meeting with the State Government representatives on 8th August to discuss the situation along with various issues arising out of the current status of the monsoon. In this meeting, we would also be emphasising the importance of these regulations and the need for fully utilising the powers that are available with the State Governments today.

So far as the overall price situation is concerned, the situation is serious. But the Government of India is taking various steps. The Government of India is trying to augment the stock. The Government of India is trying to make availability of some of the items like pulses and sugar in open market. The Government of India has, practically, introduced a policy in regard to easy imports from anywhere in the world and also some financial support through the Public Distribution System. My request and appeal to the State Governments is, this is a different situation. Unless the State Governments and the Central Government come together and act collectively to protect the interest of the weaker sections of the society, those who are affected because of these higher prices, it will be difficult to improve the overall situation. I am sure the way the State Governments are taking initiative, probably we will be able to improve the overall situation. We are only worried about the overall situation of the monsoon. I am sure, if the months of August and September go well, we will see a different situation. This is a part of the time of test. I am sure, this Government will waste no efforts to protect the interests of the affected people. With these words, I conclude. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA : Would the hon. Minister consider re-introducing the Commodity Transaction Tax which he had withdrawn during the Budget?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, as far as introduction of new taxes is concerned, I am not the right person to say about taxation. But we will give a serious thought to this.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA (Contd.)

The Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :-

¶In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2009.

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up clarifications on the statement made by the Minister regarding import of raw and white/refine sugar. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

CLARIFICATION ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Import of Raw and White/Refined Sugar

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir, when are we taking up the Short Duration Discussion on education?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will take it after this...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : We can have it tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ahluwalia, it was made very clear yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Let us finish this first...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : There should be no problem tomorrow. We have only the Metro Railways Bill. The Rubber Bill is not coming...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me. Tomorrow, we have to take up all the pending Zero Hour Mentions because since the last two or three days, we have been having Calling Attention Motions. So, the whole of the morning will go for this. Of course, a decision has to be taken by the Chairman whether the Private Members' Bill has to be dispensed with or not. Then, we have the Metro Railways Bill, and we also have the farewell speech for some of the Members who are retiring. Then, our usual valedictory remarks and the singing of Vande mataram. So, time has to be fixed...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : So, fix up a time for it tomorrow, Sir. That is exactly my point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ahluwalia, my only request is, when we took a decision yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : At the fag end of the day, at 6.30 p.m., how can we discuss it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let me remind the House that it was decided yesterday that the House would not adjourn till we completed the last item on the agenda. That is what was agreed upon. Now, it is for the House to decide.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : That is why I am requesting the House...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let this clarification be over ...*(Interruptions)* I am sure you want the subject to be discussed.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : We are all concerned about the price of sugar.

श्री उपसभापति : आपका ही नहीं है, दूसरे मੈम्बर्स भी हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand) : Sir, there is a lecture by Shri Rangarajan at 6.30 p.m. We want to attend that lecture.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa) : We support you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : So, you don't want the discussion on education, is it?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, we are on the question of clarifications as the moment. Let us take up the clarifications.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When the Lok Sabha can sit up to 10 o'clock, then, why should we not?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Those who want to go for the lecture can go and attend it...*(Interruptions)*... The House is guided by the discussion by Members, not by the lecture...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO : The Minister has answered all the issues.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : He has not answered at all on the sugar issue. He has not at all replied on the sugar issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please ...*(Interruptions)*... You see, let the House decide whether we should finish the agenda or not. That is a different thing. But one thing is...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Education next time, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO : Education tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Then certain Members should give notice..

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : He said education next time, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA : Yes, next time, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is not for the Chair, Mr. Raja...*(Interruptions)*... First, you people force us to include all the subjects and we accommodate all that and, then, you ask us to...

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, we are keen on discussing it. But, seeing the atmosphere, I am saying this; there has to be a better atmosphere. Take it up next time, not now. That is what I am saying.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Are you taking about education or sugar?

SHRI D. RAJA : Education ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : तो क्लैरिफिकेशन्स तो पूछो भई।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, it is very well understood that prices depend on demand and supply. The hon. Minister has himself said that, this year, supply of sugar will be about 43 per cent less. I would like to give small information here. In 2003-04, the average sugar price was Rs. 1271 per quintal whereas the production was 139.95 lakh tonnes. Now, in 2005-06, it is 192.67; in 2006-07, 283.28; it is 263.28. Now, the hon. Minister has just mentioned that 100 lakh tonnes of sugar was in stock; the demand is 230 lakh tonnes; the total production is 150 lakh tonnes. Where is the security? In view of this, I want to make a few suggestions quickly. He has mentioned a limit on import of ten lakh tonnes. Ten lakh tonnes of sugar import is neither here nor there. If you want to have the sugar stock, you should give complete freedom; let any amount of sugar come into the country because, today, when the price of sugar is Rs. 25 or Rs. 26 per kilogram, we can also stop it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is not a clarification.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am suggesting, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No suggestions. You should seek clarifications.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : That is the clarification I want. He has mentioned ten lakh tonnes. I say I don't want ten lakh tonnes. I want to know whether he would like to increase it. He has talked about the quantity here. He should make it unlimited. Another thing, Sir, is that this SMP is introduced after the commencement of the season. Why should people produce sugarcane? SMP should be announced before the season; if necessary, even five years' SMP should be announced

because sugar production is a long-term thing. Then, the last thing that I want to suggest is that the hon. Minister should constitute a committee, to be headed by an eminent economist, having representatives of following sectors - farmers, consumers, labour, industry -- to prepare the sugar policy which will remain in place without any change for a minimum of five years. Then, act upon the recommendations of the committee! Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal) : Sir, I hope the hon. Minister who knows so much about sugar, will agree that today prices of sugar are very high -- not what he said in the previous discussion that there is no price rise.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : I said price rise.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Anyway, Sir; price of sugar is Rs. 28.50 per kg in the सरकारी भंडार and anywhere between Rs. 30 and 35 in the market, depending upon the State in which you are buying sugar. Unless the Government wants to make entire India a victim of diabetes so that nobody wants sugar at all, the Government should be thinking of a policy, both short-term and long-term. I believe, Sir, the statement given by the Minister on the issue of import of sugar shows a complete failure of Government policy on this whole question of self-sufficiency in sugar production. As my hon. friend has said, two years earlier, we had so much of sugar that we were exporting. Two years down the line, we are so low that now we are importing. So, there is obviously something very wrong in the Government's approach and policy. That is helping whom? This is the question. Now, Sir, the first point atht I have is this. Why is sugar production low today? Do kisans have something to do with it or not? The first question I want to ask from the hon. Minister is this. What are the arrears of sugarcane farmers in the States? Please don't blame the States, saying this is a State matter; we have nothing to do with it. You have just said how much you are doing for the farmers of this country. Please inform us, at present, because last year, I saw your answer in Parliament, in which you said, something like Rs. 1,100 crores arrears for the sugarcane farmers in U.P. That was one answer I saw. You said, Rs. 87 crores have been added, in the last three months.

श्री उपसभापति : वृंदा जी, आप clarification पूछिए न।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, this is the clarification because the kisan is not mentioned here...(Interruptions)... As though sugar supply has nothing to do with the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : See, in the garb of seeking clarifications, we again start another debate...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Okay, Sir, my first question is about the farmers. What are the supplies and what are the arrears?

Sir, my second question is this. First, you allowed import of raw sugar in January. And the import of raw sugar in January is going on right up till now. Sir, what I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. What happened to the imported raw sugar; how much of it was processed; what are the stocks with the industry and how much of it is coming to the market? What my information is, Sir, whether it is right or wrong. I don't know, that there is a sugar scam brewing. I don't know; these are some of the reports, which I have got, and the details of which I am giving before the House. It says that import has been done; raw sugar has been processed; and some of the millers and some of the other people involved in this have made a killing in the last six months, but it is not coming to the market. **(Time bell rings)** I don't know whether it is right or wrong.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, the third thing is this. Sir, let me complete. Now, we are saying we are importing not only raw sugar but also white sugar.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If clarifications take five minutes, then, what can I do?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : When we are discussing the import of white sugar, the international price of sugar is hitting a high; it is 494 dollars a tonne, which is almost as much as it was at the peak, two years ago. And, India coming into the market for sugar, obviously, these prices are going to go sky-high. Now, you are importing. You are going to import; the high prices are back into India. That is also very clear. My point with the Government is this. What guarantee is there that in the name of import, what the trade is going to get out of it, because it is OGL, it is duty free; there are no duties...**(Time bell rings)**... So, what the industry is going to get out of it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Brindaji, if clarifications take five minutes, how am I to run the House? Please advise me...*(Interruptions)*... Does seeking clarifications take five minutes?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, what I want to know from the Minister is this...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, this policy ..*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am finishing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may have questions. But on clarifications, if I go on allowing five minutes, I can't understand.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, this is my last question..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If you start a debate, what can I do?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : What I want to say is this. Does the Government have any intention...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, the statement does not say anything about it. What can I do, Sir? The statement does not talk about the consumer; it does not talk about the kisan..*(Interruptions)*... Sir, my last question is this. Does the Government have any intention of getting those stocks out in the market so that sugar consumers in this country can benefit?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may have points. But you should have participated and said all those things in the debate.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Can you bring the stocks into market?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no; then I must stop allowing seeking clarifications.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Government ensure that the cuts in sugar in the PDS*(Interruptions)*... In Tripura State, there is no sugar not one grain of sugar is available in the ration shops there ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Vikram Verma.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Where will they get sugar*(Interruptions)*... So, will the Government ensure that sugar is put in the PDS at reasonable price? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Brindaji, time management is very important. We should learn to put our points within a given timeframe...*(Interruptions)*.. I am not advising, but time management is very important; otherwise, we cannot run the House.

श्री विक्रम वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं केवल तीन बिन्दुओं पर माननीय मंत्री जी से थोड़ा सा clarification चाहूंगा। स्टेटमेंट में यह आया है कि 2007-08 में 263 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ था और 2008-09 में 150-155 लाख टन चीनी के उत्पादन का अनुमान है यानी 108 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन कम होगा। सर, चीनी एक साल की क्रॉप नहीं होती है। माननीय मंत्री जी कृषि मंत्री भी हैं और वह इस बात को जानते हैं कि गन्ने की एक साल की क्रॉप से पूरे दो तीन साल तक प्रोडक्शन लिया जाता है, चीनी बनाई जाती है। हर साल कितना गन्ना बोया जाता है, इसके फिगर्स भी आ जाते हैं, तब क्या आपको इस बात की जानकारी नहीं थी कि कितना गन्ना बोया जा रहा है? क्या आपका कृषि मंत्रालय राज्यों से इस बात की जानकारी नहीं ले पाया था कि हमारा इस बार का रकबा घट रहा है? रकबे के घटने के कारण क्या परिस्थिति पैदा होगी, क्या उसके बारे में कोई प्रिकॉन्सिडर लिए गए? रकबा कम क्यों हुआ? वह इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि वास्तव में किसान को उसकी कम कीमत मिली। शुगर जब 13 रुपये थी, तब भी आपका सरकारी रेट 88 था और आज जब 30 रुपये हो रही है, तब भी आपका सरकारी रेट 88 है। किसान को गन्ने का कोई लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है। मैंने स्वयं इसी कारण 25 बीघे जमीन में पिछले साल गन्ना उखाड़ कर फेंक दिया और उसकी जगह कॉटन चालू कर दिया, क्योंकि गन्ने की कीमत नहीं मिल पा रही थी। जब किसान डायवर्सन कर रहा है, तब क्या आपने प्राइसिज के बारे में कुछ सोचा? इस देश में अभी तक गन्ने के बारे में, शुगर की कोई लॉग टर्म पॉलिसी नहीं है। उसका कारण बताएं**(समय की घंटी)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri D. Raja ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : सर, मेरा सैकेंड क्वेश्चन यह है, आपने बोला है कि 1 अगस्त 2009 को आपने कच्ची चीनी को शुल्क मुक्त आयात शुरू किया था। आपने देखा होगा कि इसके प्राइसिज मार्च-अप्रैल से बढ़ने चालू हो गए थे। जब आपने 1 अगस्त को यह चालू किया था, इससे पहले भी आपके पास रॉ शुगर आ रही थी, तब आखिर आपके यहां कितनी रॉ शुगर आई? उस सारी रॉ शुगर में से कितनी शुगर को रिफाईंड किया गया, कितनी शुगर बाजार में गई और फिर बाकी का क्या किया गया, हमें इस बात की सारी जानकारी नहीं है। यदि रॉ शुगर आया, उसके बाद हमारा अपना प्रोडक्शन और फिर आपने जो आयात किया, इस सब को मिला कर कुल कितना हुआ? उसके बावजूद भी फिर यह कमी क्यों आई ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri D. Raja ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : लास्ट में मैं पूछना चाहता हूं, मेरा तीसरा क्वेश्चन यह है कि अब आप फिर इसे दे रहे हैं, इसके लिए आपने जो टाइमिंग दिया है, उसके अनुसार 31 मार्च, 2010 तक आपने इसे निजी व्यापार के लिए खोल दिया है। अब इसमें सफेद चीनी और रॉ चीनी दोनों आएंगे, लेकिन किसान का जो गन्ना आता है, वह नवम्बर से लेकर अप्रैल तक आएगा। यदि यह बाहर की चीनी मिल्स आ कर कहेंगी कि हम रॉ मैटीरियल को रिफाईंड कर रहे हैं, तो उस समय किसान का गन्ना कौन खरीदेगा? क्या तब आप किसान के गन्ने की खरीद की बात को सुनिश्चित करेंगे? इसके लिए आप सदन को एश्योर करें, नहीं तो किसान का गन्ना खेत में खड़ा रहेगा और मिल मालिक कहेंगे कि हमारे पास इम्पोर्टेड चीनी है। इसके कारण किसान का गन्ना बिना बिके रहे जाएगा...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप बैठिए, आप बैठिए, प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : इस तरह तो एक नया क्राइसिज खड़ा होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया इन तीनों बिन्दुओं के बारे में बताने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, thank you. Shri Sharad Pawar is a very able and experienced Minister and is looking after Agriculture as well as Food and Civil Supplies. My simple question is, the sugarcane growers are agitating to get a price of Rs. 2,000 per tonne for the sugarcane. Even the Agriculture Prices Commission has fixed a price of, I understand, Rs. 1,550 per tonne of sugarcane. I do not know what the stand of the Central Government is. It is an urgent issue. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers are agitating. I understand that in several parts, the sugarcane growers are agitating. What is the policy of the Government towards this? Will you consider their demand of Rs. 2,000 per tonne for the sugarcane?

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura) : Thank you, Sir. I have 2-3 queries. Firstly, the sugarcane production has become less. This reason is not stated by the hon. Minister; I do not know why. The

sugarcane producer, the farmer, is moving away from production because he does not get the benefit of the prices and the mill owners also are depriving them in many ways. There is no remedy and that is why the production has come down. What would be the policy of the Government to raise production?

My second question is, in the Item No. 2, the Minister has stated that the Government has now decided to extend the terminal date. The terminal date is being extended. But it is not stated, within the date, the amount they have collected. What is the amount of their import? It is not stated. But they have extended the time. So, I think there is some hide-and-seek policy. I am saying hide-and-seek policy because what you have actually received by import is not mentioned here. Whether it is sufficient or not, we cannot know. Third thing is that my State Tripura is suffering seriously from the crisis of sugar. In item No. 5, you have extended the time up to the 30th November. But the Holi Poojas are performed within this period and during this period we need to get additional quota. We are not getting our normal quota, what to talk of additional quota. People of the North-Eastern Region, particularly Tripura, are suffering for the last four months because there is no supply of sugar. The State Government is compelled to reduce the quantity to ration cardholders. So, this is the situation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the situation will be improved and what steps the Government is going to take in this regard. Thank you.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि देश में शक्कर की जो कठिनाई है, वह हर तीन-चार साल के बाद आ जाती है। इसके लिए जब तक कोई long term policy नहीं बनाई जाएगी, तब तक शक्कर की दुविधाओं से हम लोग अलग नहीं हट सकेंगे। यह बहुत short term policy होती है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 150 लाख टन शक्कर का प्रोडक्शन हुआ। उनके यह कहते ही शक्कर के दाम बढ़ने शुरू हो गए, जबकि हमारे पास starting में 100 टन शक्कर थी, 150 लाख टन का प्रोडक्शन हो रहा था और 220 लाख टन के करीब हमारे यहां consumption होता है, तो कोई ऐसी हालत नहीं थी, जिसके कारण इसके दाम 16 रुपए से बढ़ कर 30 रुपए किलो पहुंचा दिए जाते। लेकिन, इस प्रकार की जानकारी देने के साथ ही हमारी कठिनाई यह हुई कि उन्होंने जो इम्पोर्ट अलाऊ किया, उसमें यह सीमा लगा दी कि इसमें 10 लाख टन ही इम्पोर्ट हो सकता है। उस पर कोई सीमा नहीं होनी चाहिए। बाहर के दाम इतने अधिक हैं कि शक्कर वही मंगाएगा, जो यहां पर बेच सकेगा और सही दामों पर बेच सकेगा। लेकिन, इसमें जो असली बात है, जो मुद्दा है, वह यह कि इसकी कमी क्यों होती है? जब तक हम किसानों को गन्ने का पूरा मूल्य नहीं दिलवाएंगे, शक्कर के अंदर लगभग 73 प्रतिशत जो लागत है, वह गन्ने से आती है, इसलिए जब तक उसको सही मूल्य नहीं मिलेगा, तब तक किसान गन्ना पैदा नहीं करेगा। इसलिए अगर हमें इसे long term के लिए सही करना है कि शक्कर की कमी देश में नहीं हो और आम आदमी को सही दाम से शक्कर मिले...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : मैं इनसे सही जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह किसानों को गन्ने का सही मूल्य दिलवाने की कोई व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? क्या वह यह चाहते हैं कि शक्कर का जितना भी अधिक से अधिक आयात किया जा सकता हो, बगैर किसी सीमा के, उसको अलाऊ कर दें, जिससे कि देश में शक्कर की कमी खत्म हो तथा आम आदमी को पुराने दामों पर शक्कर प्राप्त हो? जब तक वह इस प्रकार के कदम नहीं उठाएंगे, तब तक शक्कर की कमी रहेगी तथा इस प्रकार के शक्कर के जो scams इस देश में होते रहे हैं, वे और आगे भी होते रहेंगे।

इसके अलावा एक बहुत बड़ा मुद्दा यह है कि जब चुनाव पास में थे, तब शक्कर के release orders शक्कर मिलों को release कर दिए गए। उस वक्त शक्कर traders के पास पहुंचा गया। ..(समय की घंटी)... Traders को यह जानकारी मिल गई कि इसकी कमी होने जा रही है, तो ट्रेडर्स ने उसकी hoarding कर ली। इस प्रकार traders के पास जो hoarding पड़ी है, यह कहेंगे कि होर्डिंग का विषय तो राज्य सरकारों का है, लेकिन, इसमें केन्द्र सरकार कुछ कदम उठाए और उस hoarding को समाप्त कराए। शक्कर की कमी देश में नहीं है, बल्कि इस वक्त उसकी hoarding है। इसके अलावा प्रोडक्शन में जो कमी हो रही है, उसका कारण केवल यह है कि किसानों को गन्ने का सही मूल्य ही नहीं मिलता।(समय की घंटी).. उस ओर ध्यान देना बहुत आवश्यक है। इस कार्य को किया जाए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक ही सवाल पूछना चाहूंगा। दिसंबर, 2008 में जबकि सरकार को यह मालूम था कि देश में शक्कर का उत्पादन कम रहेगा और shortage आएगी, तब canalize import की बात की गई। उस समय दुनियां से, विश्व-बाजार से, 16 रुपए प्रति किलो के भाव में यहां आयात हो सकता था। आज आयात में इसका दाम 25 रुपए तक बढ़ गया है। यदि ऐसे में 25 रुपए में आयात करके उसे 30-35 रुपए में कोई बचेगा, तो राहत क्या देंगे? इसलिए मेरा specific सवाल यह है कि आम आदमी को राहत देने के लिए BPL को राशन पर 500 ग्राम देते हैं, APL को तो कुछ दे नहीं रहे हैं, तो क्या सरकार 15 रुपए किलो में 5 किलो शक्कर देगी या नहीं देगी?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, one should not forget about the sugar production and sugar availability. If we study its last 20 years, it is a cycle. The cycle is such that for three years you would see in India too much production, prices having been totally dropped, farmers facing problems and the mills becoming sick and in the other two years there is less plantation and availability of sugar in the market is less, the prices go up and the farmers get abnormal prices for sugarcane.

After two years he will plant like anything that the prices will drop. So, this is a cycle which I am observing for the last 20 years and these who know fate are fully aware of them. The sugar farmer immediately shifts from one crop to another crop if he feels he is not getting proper price. Recently, this is a regular phenomenon. A number of issues have been raised here. Firstly, why we had taken a decision of import.

7.00 P.M.

One point has also been raised that because it was disclosed that such and such production will be there, that is why prices have gone up. I have made the position absolutely clear today also in the House. Our assessment this year is : production will be 150 lakh tons. We have carry over stock of Rs. 100 lakh tons. That is last year's production. So, the total availability in the country is 250 lakh tons. Domestic consumption is between 223 to 225 lakh tons. That is why whatever the total domestic requirement maybe, we got more than the requirement. That is the overall position of the country today. Now, it was suggested that we should import more and, I said, that this year our plantation report shows that the production will be 160 or 170 lakh tons and that is why certain decisions have been taken. We have not encouraged to import refined sugar. If we encourage to import refined sugar, definitely, sugar will come here. It will be immediately available in the market. Instead of refined sugar, suppose we encourage to import raw sugar, raw sugar will come here. It will be immediately available in the market. Instead of refined sugar, suppose we encourage to import raw sugar, raw sugar will be imported, it is cheaper. It will be processed here. Mills can utilise their capacity. Workers can continue to work in the mills. They can get the wages and insted of importing finished sugar, raw sugar import is comparatively a better route and that is a conscious decision, with the consultation of industry and farmer, Government of India has taken. Now, it was asked what is the total availability and hat is te contract basis? Whatever information which I got, the raw sugar contract 29 lakh tons. Raw sugar arrive or in the process of arrivals is 18.40 lakh tons. So, it is just contracted and they have come. The process has not started. The process generally starts when the bagasse is availabe. Now, mills are not working. If anybody wants to start a mill it requires fuel. Unless and until normal season starts, bagasse is not available. Unless and until bagasse is not available we cannot run the boiler. So, in such situations mills are not working today. There might be some mills in South, particularly in Tamil Nadu and others, where particularly round the year there is a practice of season, otherwise, in rest of the country whether it is Uttar Pradesh, whether it is Maharashtra, whether it is Gujarat, whether it is Karnataka, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, not a single mill is working there, barring some there and there. But mills are not working. That is why whatever contracts on sugar which has reached here, my own impression is the process will start when the sugar factories will actually start crushing. We have put a condition that after importing and processing within three months they have to dispose of in open market. There is no other restriction. But, they have to make available in the open market.

Now, I come to import of white sugar. White sugar is hardly contracted. It is 1.25 lakh tons and it has reached here to 0.61 tons. It is limited sugar but process has been started. A decision, as I said, was taken not to encourage import of refined sugar, but encourage raw sugar which I have already explained.

Now, Sir, one more issue was raised here. It is that the farmer is not getting a proper price. In fact, I have already briefed the House today. Last year's price was Rs. 81 per quintal. This year's price is Rs. 107 per quintal. There is a difference between the Minimum Support Price and the Statutory Minimum Price. The Government of India always announces the MSP for other crops, like wheat, rice, jowar, bajra, etc. If the market goes below the MSP decided and announced by the Government of India, it is the responsibility of the Government of India to enter into the open market, procure the same and provide that price to the farmer. That is not the case of sugarcane. The price which has been introduced in this country for sugarcane for many years is SMP, not MSP. It means, Statutory Minimum Price. We are not in a position to purchase sugarcane. What will the Government do with sugarcane if the price goes down? So, this is called the Statutory Minimum Price. We give one indication that mills should not pay below this. If mills want to pay more than this, they are allowed. In fact, States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana have introduced the SAP -- State Advisory Price. They have passed a separate law in their respective States. As per that law, Uttar Pradesh is announcing a different price than the national price *i.e.*, SAP. They are giving more than the Statutory Minimum Price which the Government of India gives. So, from Rs. 81, we have gone to Rs. 105. Now, what is the meaning of 105? One should try to understand the economics of Rs. 105. Sir, Rs. 105 means, the farmer will actually get Rs. 1500 per tonne, plus Rs. 300 harvesting charges. That means, Rs. 1,800 per tonne is the cost of cane. We have to process the cane and convert it into sugar. The conversion charges are Rs. 500. That means, the total cost will be Rs. 2,300 per quintal. If Rs. 2,300 per quintal is the price, one should not expect that sugar will be available in the market for less than Rs. 24 or Rs. 25 per kg. Nobody should complain about that. In fact, the same thing I was telling in the House three years back that this will happen. I told the House, if you are going to insist that the price should be, somewhat, near Rs. 14 or Rs. 15, in another two years, the prices will go to Rs. 30 per kg. It is because the farmer immediately shifts. And, exactly the same thing happened in this country. So, today, Rs. 108, has been announced and the ultimate manufacturing price would be Rs. 2,300 and that is why the prices would be somewhat near to...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Sir, I would like to know whether the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices has recommended a higher price of Rs. 125.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Now, it is Rs. 108.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : I would like to know whether CACP has recommended for Rs. 125.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the CACP has recommended twice. I will tell you what happened. About two years back, initially, the CACP sent a Report for Rs. 81 for 12 months. After four months, CACP gave another Report. When the Government had accepted the recommendation of Rs. 81 of the CACP and communicated to all States, then, within three or four months, the CACP has given a fresh Report. In the fresh Report, it has recommended for something like Rs. 115. In that Report, the CACP had suggested that the Government of India should pay bonus. You see, in Uttar Pradesh, Bajaj is going to produce sugar. He is going to sell sugar there. He is going to earn money there...*(Interruptions)*... The Government of India has to pay bonus for this ...*(Interruptions)*... So, we, still, have to accept that. That proposal was not accepted; that proposal was rejected. This year also the proposal came and what he is saying is correct that it was a little more. They gave some calculations, but they were not according to the guidelines. In calculation, one of the conditions is, whatever the price will be fixed, it will be including the cost of cultivation, return to the farmers and the price for the consumer in the open market. The CACP has bypassed the third category. They have not paid any attention to that. That is why, that particular section was not accepted by the Government and the Government announced the price as Rs. 107/- with a proviso that mills have liberty to give more than this. This is the benchmark. This is the minimum price. So, they can give more also and there are many ways. I know that in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, mills are paying much more than the price which the Government has announced. I am not sure about Uttar Pradesh, but this is the position. About Brindalji's question that after importing what they should do, I have replied that within three months, they have to make it available in the market; otherwise it will be taken for Public Distribution System. That condition has already been put.

One point was raised here why you could not get proper information about not reaching such and such level of production. Why have you not collected information from the States in this regard? Yes we are collecting information from all the States. All the States have given me, through the Government, different information within eight months. Initially, the State Governments, all together, had communicated in writing to the Government of India that production will be 220. Within three months, they communicated that the production will be 200. After two months, they communicated that production will be 185 and lastly, they have communicated that production will be 160. So,

wrong information was communicated. Secondly, this year, the sugarcane productivity was dropped because there was a delay of monsoon in a particular sugar belt. That is why, the production was less. When we realised this with the last information which we got from various State Governments, immediately, we took a decision to allow raw sugar and from that day, the process has been started. With regard to the last question which was asked by Mr. Javedkar as to whether such and such quantity will be available at ration shops, I would say that unless and until the new season starts, I will not be able to say anything. But we will make efforts to take certain decisions which will, ultimately, help to improve the availability in all the three categories of PDS, that is AAY, BPL, and APL. We would make available the sugar. The matter is under consideration. I do not want to give all the details, because, if I say something, suddenly, it will have some effect in the international market too. That is why, I have to be cautious, but we are moving in that direction. Without imports also, probably, we will be able to take some decision, which will make available sugar in the Public Distribution System. Thank you.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to take measures for protection of life and property of train passengers

in view of the increasing incidents of crime in trains

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड) : महोदय, सरकार जहां रेलवे में यात्रियों की सुविधाओं के लिए, सुरक्षा पर प्रतिवर्ष करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करती है. वहीं रेलवे सुरक्षा को धत्ता बताकर रेलवे में लूटपाट, चोरी, डकैती की घटनाएं प्रतिवर्ष बढ़ती जा रही हैं। इसी क्रम में 1 अगस्त को बड़बिल टाटा-हावड़ा जनशताब्दी एक्सप्रेस (2022) में घाटशिला और गिधनी स्टेशनों के बीच सशस्त्र अपराधियों ने दुस्साहसि दंग से दो वातानुकूलित बोगियों में लाखों रुपये नगद, मोबाइल, आभूषण लूट लिए और अपराधी चैन खींचकर आराम से चले गए। लूट के शिकार होने वाले लोगों में भाजपा युवा मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष भी है, जिनकी सोने की चेन, अंगूठी, मोबाइल व नगदी लूट ली गई।

अतः मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि रेलवे में बढ़ती हुई आपराधिक घटनाओं को देखते हुए, ऐसे स्थानों की पहचान की जाए, जहां पर इस प्रकार की घटनाएं ज्यादा होती हैं। रेलवे अधिकारियों की जिम्मेदारी तय की जाए तथा यात्रियों के जान-माल की सुरक्षा हेतु ठोस कदम उठाए जाएं। धन्यवाद।

**Need to form a clear policy on scientific research pertaining to
animal and human clones and artificial insemination**

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान मानव अनुवांशिकी एवं प्रजनन पर चल रहे आधुनिक अनुसंधान की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। मैं विज्ञान और विकास का पूर्णरूप से पक्षधर हूँ। मैं आश्वस्त हूँ कि वर्तमान समाज विकास के जिस सोपान पर खड़ा है, वह विज्ञान की देन है। इसके लिए मानव जाति विज्ञान की ऋणी रहेगी, परन्तु कुछ खोजों के दुष्परिणाम मानव जाति को सदियों तक भोगने पड़ सकते हैं। जब अल्ट्रासाउंड मशीन का प्रयोग शुरू हुआ, तो आशा बंधी की गर्भस्थ शिशु को रोगों से बचाने के लिए यह वरदान सिद्ध होगी। तब मुझे भी बहुत प्रसन्नता हुई थी। इससे गर्भ में पल रहे शिशुओं को लाभ पहुंचा होगा, मैं नहीं मानता, परन्तु अकेले भारत में नन्हीं बालिकाओं की जन्म से पहले ही हत्या, इसी मशीन की कृपा से हो चुकी है। यहां तक कि देश में महिला-पुरुष के अनुपात का संतुलन बिगड़कर, खतरे के निशान को पार करने लगा है।

महोदय, आजकल विश्व में तथा भारत में पशुओं और मनुष्यों के क्लोन बनाने की विधि पर तेजी से कार्य हो रहा है। इनमें भैंस, भेड़ और चूहे आदि के क्लोन सफल रूप से बनाए गए हैं। दूसरी ओर कृत्रिम शुक्राणु बनाकर बिना नर के सहयोग से बच्चे को जन्म देने में चूहों पर सफलता प्राप्त की गई है तथा मनुष्यों पर प्रयोग जारी है। मुझे विज्ञान से शिकायत नहीं है, मगर मेरा मानना है कि यह एक गंभीर मुद्दा है और इस पर गहन चिंतन एवं चर्चा की आवश्यकता है। इसके परिणामों एवं दुष्परिणामों को पूरी तरह समझना आवश्यक है। प्रकृति का संचालन प्राकृतिक सिद्धांतों के आधार पर होता है। उसे परिवर्तित करने के लिए प्रजनन प्रक्रिया के साथ बुनियादी छेड़छाड़ करना किस हद तक तर्कसंगत होगा और इसके परिणाम कितने हितकारी होंगे, यह प्रश्न चिंतनीय है। यह प्रश्न मेरा या आपका नहीं है, बल्कि पूरी मानव जाति की सृष्टि का है, इसलिए इस पर कोई कदम बढ़ाने से पहले गहन चिंतन आवश्यक है। अतः सरकार को इस विषय पर अपनी नीति स्पष्ट करनी चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

Need to provide security forces with vehicles fitted with Anti-mine Technique

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : दिनांक 20-7-09 को लिखित प्रश्न क्रं. 2744 के उत्तर में कहा है कि सुरंग निरोधी वाहन तो बनाए जाते हैं, पर वे उपकरण नहीं बनाए जाते, जो सुरंग निरोधी हैं। आयात की जानकारी भी वर्तमान में उपलब्ध नहीं है। 10 राज्यों में ये वाहन काम आ रहे हैं। इनमें अधिकांश नक्सल प्रभावित हैं। ज्यादातर सुरक्षा व पुलिस बल सुरंगों द्वारा उड़ाए जा रहे वाहनों में मारे जा रहे हैं। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी का पूर्ण उपयोग कर इनको उचित उपकरणों से शीघ्रताशीघ्र शुरू कर लोगों की जान-माल की रक्षा की जाए, यह मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है।

Demand to open ESIC medical college in orissa

SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa) : Sir, the ESIC Board decided to start a medical college for better medical care and super speedy treatment of insured persons and have more doctors. Replying to my Starred Question, the hon. Minister has replied that the ESIC has the proposal for opening of 27 medical colleges in different States, but not in Orissa. Orissa is a backward State having less medical colleges. Even though the original ESIC Board proposal included Orissa State and the medical college place was selected to be at Bhubaneshwar, unfortunately, it is not included in the Ministry's reply. This has created frustration among all the ESIC beneficiaries and all Orissa people in general.

The ESIC and the Ministry say that Orissa Government is not giving 25 acres of land which is required for the medical college. Whether Orissa Government is really not giving the land or the ESIC is not interested in having a medical college in Orissa, we do not know. But, Orissa State, as a whole, is losing a medical college proposed by the ESIC.

I, therefore, urge upon the Labour Ministry to discuss with the Orissa Government to get the required land for medical college or the ESIC may also directly purchase 25 acres of land and start a medical college or else Orissa people and ESIC personnel may start agitation programme to press for their right for having a medical college and a dental college of ESIC in Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Demand for linguistic minority Status to Nepali speaking people in the country

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान नेपाली/गोरखी भाषा-भाषियों को भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक दर्जा दिए जाने की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, नेपाली भाषा देश के हर क्षेत्र में बोली जाती है। यह भाषा बोलने और समझने वालों की अनुमानित जनसंख्या एक करोड़ से ज्यादा है। नेपाली भाषा बोलने वाले विशेष रूप से दार्जिलिंग एवं पश्चिमी बंगाल के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से लगे सिक्किम, असम, मेघालय, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, दिल्ली, मुंबई, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड एवं दक्षिण भारत के कुछ हिस्से में निवास करते हैं।

महोदय, किसी भी जाति का चिह्न उनकी भाषा एवं भूमि से जुड़ा हुआ होता है। लेकिन हिन्दी भाषा और उर्दू भाषा भारत के हर क्षेत्र में बोली जाती है। उनको एक निश्चित प्रदेश की भाषा के रूप में नहीं जाना जाता है। वैसे ही नेपाली भाषा भी किसी एक प्रदेश की निश्चित भाषा नहीं है। वह देश के हर प्रांत में बोली जाती है। लेकिन हिन्दी एवं उर्दू की तरह नेपाली भाषा विकसित नहीं हो पाई है, क्योंकि हर राज्य/प्रदेश में यह भाषा क्षेत्रीय भाषा या अल्पसंख्यक भाषा के रूप में है। 1992 में नेपाली भाषा का आठवीं अनुसूची में मान्यता प्राप्त होने के बाद भी इसका आशानुरूप विकास नहीं हो रहा है।

महोदय, भारतवर्ष विभिन्न भाषा, साहित्य-संस्कृति एवं परम्परा मिश्रित देश है। यह विभिन्नता में एकता एवं अखंडता का बेमिसाल नमूना है। अगर नेपाली/गोरखी भाषा और भी सम्बद्ध एवं विकसित हुए, तो यह देश के मिश्रित भाषा, साहित्य-संस्कृति धरातल को और मजबूत करने में मददगार साबित होगा।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि वह नेपाली भाषा-भाषियों को हर राज्य/प्रदेश में भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक का दर्जा प्रदान करने में मदद करे।

Need to protect the fossils and cave paintings from Mining Mafia and smugglers in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, उत्तर प्रदेश के सोनभद्र जिले में सलखन पार्क में 150 करोड़ वर्ष पुराने फासिल्स का रख-रखाव, संरक्षण करने में लापरवाही बरती जा रही है। इस स्थल की जानकारी वैज्ञानिक मैकलेनन ने 1831 में दुनिया को दी, लेकिन उसके 112 साल बाद 1993 में जे. वी. आर्डन ने सलखन आकर अध्ययन से यह साबित किया कि अमेरिका के यलो स्टोन नैशनल पार्क से भी फासिल्स का बेहतर उदाहरण यहां मौजूद है। जबकि सोनभद्र में ही एक और जटाशंकर फासिल्स पार्क के अस्तित्व ने पृथ्वी पर जीवन के प्रारंभ के प्रमाण उपलब्ध कराए।

5 दिसम्बर, 2002 को जब विश्वविख्यात भू-वैज्ञानिक एवं मैकनिल यूनिवर्सिटी कनाडा के एच. जे. हाफमैन यहां पहुंचे तो 150 करोड़ वर्ष पुराने फासिल्स को देखकर अपनी प्रसन्नता को व्यक्त करने से नहीं रोक सके। उन्होंने नाचते हुए कहा, " पूरे विश्व में इससे खूबसूरत और स्पष्ट फासिल्स और कहीं है ही नहीं।" अमेरिका से आई दो महिला वैज्ञानिकों ने माना था, सलखन के फासिल्स 150 करोड़ वर्ष पुराने व परिपक्व हैं। जबकि यलो स्टोन अमेरिका के फासिल्स अभी निर्माण प्रक्रिया में हैं।

वर्ष 2002 में फासिल्स पार्क को धरोहर का दर्जा दिया गया है। स्थानीय प्रशासन की लापरवाही की वजह से मूर्ति तस्कर और पत्थर माफियाओं की नजर इस पार्क पर है। इससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि इसे धरोहर घोषित करने का कोई मायने नहीं रह गया है। यहां के स्थानीय लोगों ने राज्यपाल, राज्य सरकार ही नहीं, केन्द्र सरकार को भी कई बार ज्ञापन भेजे हैं, और चिट्ठियां थमाई हैं, परन्तु कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई।

मैं सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि 150 करोड़ वर्ष पुराना फासिल्स व हजारों वर्ष पूर्व आदि मानव द्वारा पहाड़ियों पर बनाए गए चित्रों को खनन माफियाओं व मूर्ति तस्करों से बचाएं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.a.m.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 7th August, 2009.