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सत्यमेव जयते

Tuesday
7 July, 2009
16 Ashadha, 1931 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

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[P.T.O.]

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Web-site Address : <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>
<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
E-mail Address : rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday the 7th July, 2009/16 Asadha 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र का विकास

*41. श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी :††

श्री राम जेटमलानी :

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विश्व में शिक्षा के क्षेत्र को एक बाजार के रूप में पेश किया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या सरकार शिक्षा के क्षेत्र को उसके इसी रूप में विकसित करना चाहती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या नीति है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री कपिल सिब्बल): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) शैक्षिक सेवाओं को विश्व व्यापार संगठन के 'सेवाओं का व्यापार संबंधी सामान्य करार' के अंतर्गत एक सेवा के रूप में शामिल किया गया है परंतु भारत ने अभी तक शैक्षिक सेवाओं के प्रति कोई वचनबद्धता नहीं की है। 1992 में यथा संशोधित राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति, 1986 के अनुसार सरकार शिक्षा के वाणिज्यीकरण के खिलाफ है। भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कई निर्णयों में भी भारत में शिक्षा के वाणिज्यीकरण का निषेध किया गया है, तथापि शैक्षिक संस्थाओं के और अधिक विकास के लिए यथोचित राशि उत्पन्न की जा सकती है।

सरकार शैक्षिक संस्थाओं के वित्त पोषण और प्रबंधन के लिए इस शर्त के साथ निजी क्षेत्र के सक्रिय समर्थन और भागीदारी के पक्ष में है कि अर्जित बेशी राशि को संस्थाओं के विकास में वापस लगा दिया जाए। राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद द्वारा यथा अनुमोदित 11वीं योजना दस्तावेज में भी इस बात का उल्लेख है कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र की पहलों का और सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी के विभिन्न स्वरूपों का पता लगाने की आवश्यकता है।

Development of Education Sector

† *41. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: †††

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the education sector is projected as a market in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government intends to develop education sector as such; and

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी द्वारा पूछा गया।

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

†††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shivanand Tiwari

(c) if not, the policy of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Educational Services are included as one of the services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) but India has not made any specific commitment on educational services so far. As per the National Policy on Education, 1986 as modified in 1992, Government is against the commercialization of education. Several pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India, have also prohibited commercialization of education in India, though reasonable surpluses can be generated for further development of the educational institutions.

The Government favours the active support and involvement of the private sector for funding and management of educational institutions subject to surplus earned being ploughed back into the development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to explore private sector initiatives and various forms of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने जो जवाब दिया है, यह जवाब abstract है, बिल्कुल अमूर्त जवाब है। रोज़ हम लोग अखबारों में देख रहे हैं कि निजी विद्यालयों, विश्वविद्यालयों के विज्ञापन छप रहे हैं और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में जितनी गैर-बराबरी आज़ादी के बाद बढ़ी है, उतनी पहले नहीं थी। वैसे तो हर क्षेत्र में गैर-बराबरी बढ़ी है, लेकिन शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में ज़बरदस्त गैर-बराबरी बढ़ी है। आज़ादी से पहले शिक्षा में इतना वर्गीकरण नहीं था, जितना आज है। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में यह जो गैर-बराबरी है, इस गैर-बराबरी को खत्म करने के लिए कोठारी कमीशन और बाकी दूसरे कमीशनों ने कहा था कि शिक्षा में समानीकरण की नीति अपनाई जाएगी, इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या राय है?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to state on the Floor of the House that this is a very serious issue. It is in this context we have publicly stated, both in the President's Address as well as my public pronouncements, that we need to move forward in education on the basis of three large principles. The first one is expansion, then, inclusion and then excellence, which, if translated, means access, equity and quality. Now, the problems that have arisen today in the education sector are a mismatch between the three. Where you have excellence, you do not have access, where you have access, you do not have equity and where you have equity, you have no quality. So, we need to very carefully move forward in this area, because the needs of society have changed. The needs of education sector and society in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s are entirely different. Previously, society used to move forward by investment in physical assets. Today, society moves forward by investment in intellectual assets. The whole paradigm has shifted. Unfortunately, in our country, there is not sufficient debate on this paradigm shift. If the paradigm has shifted and the wealth of nation depends on the extent of intellectual property that is created, then only will the country move

forward. Therefore, you need greater access to institutes of excellence, along with equity. That is exactly what we are trying to do. Therefore, the hon. Prime Minister has moved forward very quickly. We are talking about setting up of 30 new Central Universities, creating 8 new IITs, 8 new IIMs and 5 Indian Institute of Education and Research. The kind of investments that we have made in education and the kind of investments that we are looking at are going to move forward very quickly. In the meantime, we are going to de-stress the system by allowing a lot of people to set up institutes with very strong entry barriers. That is what our policy is going to be. We need huge expansion in this area, because there is a mismatch between demand and supply. Unless that mismatch is rectified, we will not be able to move forward quickly. That is the statement I wish to make.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बहुत ही लुभावनी बातें कही हैं, बहुत lofty ideas को बयान किया है, इससे किसी को कोई ऐतराज नहीं हो सकता है, लेकिन जो कुछ ये कह रहे हैं, आज़ादी के 60-62 वर्षों में हमने उसको हासिल नहीं किया है, बल्कि वे जिस गुणवत्ता की बात कर रहे हैं, क्वालिटी एजुकेशन की बात कर रहे हैं, आज भी इस देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जो सरकारी विद्यालय हैं, उनकी क्या स्थिति है, यह हर कोई जानता है। हमारे संविधान के Directive Principles में यह लिखा गया है कि हम हर तरह की गैर-बराबरी को कम करने की कोशिश करेंगे, लेकिन इसके ठीक उल्टे हम सारे क्षेत्रों में गैर-बराबरी को बढ़ाने का काम कर रहे हैं। तो जो कुछ माननीय मंत्री जी ने बयान किया है, उसको achieve करने के लिए, हासिल करने के लिए कोई भी blueprint बजट में दिखाई नहीं दिया। सरकार ने बजट में primary education में महज सौ-सवा सौ करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया है और 'Right to Education' का बिल इतने लंबे समय से pending है। आज आप जो भाषण दे रहे हैं, वह तो हम आज़ादी के बाद से लगातार सुनते आ रहे हैं, लेकिन धरातल पर कुछ नहीं दिखाई दिया है।

श्री सभापति : कृपया, आप सवाल तो पूछ लीजिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम मंत्री महोदय यह तो बताएं कि जो कुछ उन्होंने कहा है, उसको हासिल करने के लिए उनके पास क्या योजना है और क्या time frame है?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the Right to Education Bill is concerned, hopefully, we will bring it to this House in this Session itself. So, these are not plans in the air. This is something that we are going to do. I need the support of all the Members of this House to have this passed as quickly as possible. As far as higher education is concerned, I think, what this Government has done, what the previous Government did, and what this Government intends to do, has never been done in the history of this country in the field of education. By the end of the Eleventh Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : महोदय, आज primary education का challenge है ...*(व्यवधान)*...। महोदय, इस देश के सामने आज भी primary education एक चुनौती है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : माफ कीजिएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I think, I have already mentioned that we are moving a Right to Education

Bill. Is that not concerned with the primary education? I thought, that is precisely what it was. We are going to have neighbourhood schools in every part of this country. The State Governments will be given the liberty to decide where that neighbourhood school should be; what is the habitation that that neighbourhood school is going to serve. That is left to each State Government. And, we hope that the State Governments cooperate and set up schools in every neighbourhood. There is guideline saying that within three years, if a particular area or a particular place does not have a school, that school shall be built in accordance with the norms that are set out in the Right to Education Bill. That is all about primary education.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I read in the newspaper that the Government is planning to have cooperation or joint venture, in the higher education, with foreign universities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the truth is. Are you going to have collaboration with foreign universities in higher education?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I wish to again place on record that this is something that the Government is contemplating. A kind of Bill has been drafted at the level of the Ministry. I hope to send it to the Cabinet very soon. And, whenever there is a consensus on this, we will move forward. I do believe that it is important for us to have access to the best in the world. There is nothing wrong with it. But, at the same time, we must build the best in the world also. What we need to do is to build world-class universities. Fourteen of them will be built in this country. We need to get access to the best institutions of the world as well because India needs the best, and we shall be the best in the field of education.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, we had a bad experience with the Special Economic Zones. Now, it appears that a new concept of Special Education Zones is coming up. Many educationists or educational institutions are asking for vast lands from the State Governments in the name of establishing education institutions. Now, you have said that the Government favours the active support on the involvement of private sector for funding and management institutions, subject to surplus funds being ploughed back into the development of the institutions. What is the scheme or mechanism you have to ensure that surplus funds would be ploughed back into the development of institutions?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, that is, in fact, the law of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has said that any surplus funds, generated by an educational institution, shall be ploughed back only to that institution and nowhere else. That's the law of the land. There is no question of any mechanism.

DR. (SHRIMATI) KAPILA VATSYAYAN: Sir, may I request the hon. Minister to throw a little more light on the recommendations that have been made in regard to the neighbourhood schools because it was in the reports of the Radhakrishna Commission, it was in the Mudaliar Commission; and it was in the Kothari Commission. I would also like to know how equity will be ensured in these schools. I would like to have a little elucidation on this.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: When the Bill, of course, comes to this House, it will be hopefully debated and all these aspects and the opinions of the hon. Members will be taken on record. But the neighbourhood school, as defined, — and it is not really defined in the Act itself — but what it suggests is that each State Government — because we don't want to decide for the State Governments where that school should be — in the context of its needs, in the context of populations which are concentrated in certain areas, will decide where that neighbourhood school will be. So, it caters to that local community. What is most important is that the local community must be catered to; the rural areas must be catered to. Sometimes, we have villages which have hundred people; sometimes, a thousand people. Now, where do you want that school to be located? That is something that the State Governments will decide and let us know. But within three years of that decision, that school shall be constructed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) KAPILA VATSYAYAN: ... rural level will also be taken into consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sorry, I didn't hear that. I didn't hear that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Vatsyayan, no second question, please. Question, No. 42. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: This is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just a minute, I want to say something on this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, it is a very important issue. Sir, there should be Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just one minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, we want Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I was inundated with request for Supplementaries. Under our norms, I cannot take more than three Supplementaries. I fully realise that this is a subject in which the hon. Members are deeply interested, and, I think, we shall, as we go along, structure a proper discussion on that; and the hon. Minister has already conveyed his agreement to it. Thank you very much. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question 42, please.

Unutilised Foreign Assistance

*42. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has unutilised foreign assistance worth Rs. 78,000 crore and is paying commitment charges to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for not using the sanctioned amount;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any initiative to address the issues being faced by various sectors for not utilising available funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) Commitment charge is payable on the amount of loan yet to be drawn. Payment of commitment charges is an integral part of the general terms & conditions of loan from the World Bank(WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The commitment charge has to be paid as the entire loan amount cannot be disbursed in one instalment right at the commencement of the project.

As on 31-3-2009, the undrawn external loan amount on government account is Rs.95,487 crore. Of this, the undrawn loan amount for the WB and ADB is Rs.57,202 crore against the sanctioned loan of Rs.1,19,783 crore. The commitment charges for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 for WB and ADB are as under —

(in rupees crore)

Year	World Bank	ADB	Total
2007-08	60.24	62.40	122.64
2008-09	50.58	62.63	113.21

Projects are checked against readiness indicators before they are launched. . During implementation, the projects are monitored through joint review meetings periodically. State level portfolio reviews and site visits are also undertaken from time to time.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, my first supplementary would be, it is not clear from the answer given by the Minister how much loan we have drawn from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. My question is, whatever amount we have taken from these two institutions, whether it is used or not. If it is not utilised, what are the reasons for that?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as per the information with us, there are 62 projects which are going on under the World Bank; funds value, 14.8 US billion dollars, whereas, there are 48 projects which are funded by ADB; value, 9 billion US dollars.

Sir, regarding utilisation of funds, these funds are being utilised. The hon. Member has asked about how much commitment charges we are paying, that I have given in my reply.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, my second supplementary would be, it seems that the whole amount has not been used so far. This non-utilization of the loan is a loss of development. Who is accountable for this?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, development projects are on-going projects and the funds are utilized by the various project proponents, by the States, by the line Ministries and the money is drawn from these Banks as and when required for these projects. So, this is an on-going process. All funds cannot be utilised in one go. It is a continuous process.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I can understand paying interest. But what about paying the commitment charges, when out of 1,19,783 crores, we have been able to utilize even less than half, fifty per cent? Can you not find out a mechanism so that this kind of unnecessary charges are not paid? Whoever is responsible, the Project Officers or the States, has to take responsibility for this kind of delays.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is anything being planned, at least, for future so that such commitment charges are not paid, and we plan it in such a way that we make a commitment as and when we really need the funds, and not that that we just go on paying commitment charges because there is a system. Also, action must be taken against erring officials.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I would like to clarify that the commitment charges are not a penalty; they are part and parcel of the loan agreements. These institutions charge commitment charges from all countries. When we draw loan in one go, where the interest is much higher, then the commitment charges begin. So, it is not that we are losing something. But I am in agreement with the hon. Member that these externally aided projects should be taken seriously and the Government of India should have a monitoring mechanism. At the Central level, there is a committee which reviews the projects. At the State level also, there is a committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State concerned to review these things and there are also site visits done by the lending agencies as well as by the projects' proponents. That is a mechanism already evolved under loans for these projects.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the reply is not really satisfactory. I hope the hon. Finance Minister would clarify it further. As per the reply, Rs. 235.85 crores are the commitment charges for two years and we are not able to pinpoint who is responsible and what is the mechanism to ensure that such things do not recur. The hon. Minister has made a general statement that there are commitment charges, that they were part of the loan agreement and that this was being done to every country. It is agreed that this is done to every country, but here, in a country where the resources are limited and we are getting funds, is it not the duty of the Centre, the State Governments or other agencies to see to it that the money is spent and drawn in time. And then, you are paying commitment charges to the tune of Rs. 235.85 crores and you are not able to take any action and fix responsibility. What is going to happen to the country and the system? We have to really have a serious look into this and have some mechanism evolved to see to it that such things do not recur. Will the Finance Minister be kind enough to respond and clarify the situation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member is a well-informed Member and he is fully aware that the commitment charge begins 60 days after the loan agreement is drawn. All multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank — the two wings of World Bank, the IBRD and IDA- and the Asian Development Bank, take commitment charges, and they have a point. This money is kept in liquidity and whenever the borrower demands, they have to pay for it and they cannot make any investments or use it in any other area. Therefore, for locking the money, commitment charges become inevitable. Details of commitment charges are being entered into the loan agreement, saying on which date, what percentage of commitment charge will be paid. And, this is a conscious decision. Every borrowing country accepts it. After all, the hon. Member would appreciate that the numbers of those who can lend are limited while the numbers of those who wish to borrow are much more. And it is simply not possible, Sir, for anybody, any institution, to complete a project for which we are espousing; from 61st day the project would start. But we have an elaborate reviewing mechanism. We are also trying to reduce the commitment charge as far as possible, and we are doing so. In some year, for instance, for 2009, through agreements we have been able to introduce the idea that commitment charge will not be charged. So, sometimes, it happens, as in the case of bilateral donors; except Germany, nobody charges any commitment charge. But loan conditions of multilateral agencies like the World Bank and its two wings, IBRD and IDA, are such that even after paying the commitment charge it is profitable to take money from these institutions. Therefore, countries run after it.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in the light of the on-going efforts to improve multilateral flows in the country, one of the serious factors for not being able to access the headroom for borrowing available to India from ADB and the World Bank is a declining disbursement ratio. Does Government contemplate any steps in the near future which can substantially improve the disbursement ratio from multilateral loans?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is a suggestion for action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.43.

*43 [The questioner Shri Sanjay Raut was absent. For answer *vide* page 23 *intra*]

Establishment of Deemed Universities

*44. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: ††

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Deemed Universities recognized during the last five years with State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the criteria for recognizing a University as a Deemed University;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchippan

(c) whether the approval of the State Government is required for recognizing an institution as Deemed University;

(d) how does the University Grants Commission (UGC) monitor the academic and financial performance of such Deemed Universities;

(e) the source of funding for such institutions;

(f) whether Government gives grants to Deemed Universities; and

(g) if so, the details of the annual grants given to these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sixty two institutions have been declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, as Deemed to be Universities during the last five years and till 30th June 2009. State-wise list is given below:

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Institutions Declared as Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'						Total
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (till 30.06.09)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	1	2	1	04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-	-	-	01
3.	Bihar	-	-	1	-	-	-	01
4.	Gujarat	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	1	1	1	03
6.	Karnataka	-	1	1	1	7	-	10
7.	Kerala	-	-	1	-	1	-	02
8.	Maharashtra	-	4	1	-	1	-	06
9.	Orissa	1	-	-	1	-	-	02
10.	Puducherry	-	-	-	-	1	-	01
11.	Punjab	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
12.	Rajasthan	1	-	1	-	-	1	03
13.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	2	2	10	-	17
14.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	1	1	-	02
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1	-	1	1	1	-	04
16.	West Bengal	-	1	-	-	-	-	01
17.	New Delhi	1	1	1	-	-	-	03
TOTAL		06	09	09	10	25	03	62

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission has laid down guidelines, as approved by the Government, for considering proposals for declaring an institution as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956. According to the guidelines, the University Grants Commission has to write to the State Government for their comments on such proposals.

(d) The Commission reviews the functioning of the institutions deemed to be universities periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting Committees of Experts.

(e) to (g) While some institutions which have got deemed to be university status, have been promoted by the Central Government or the State Governments, others are self-financed private institutions. As per information gathered from the University Grants Commission, they had provided Rs. 87.20 crore as Non-Plan Grant and Rs. 55.74 crore as Plan Grant during 2007-08 and Rs. 132.91 crore as Non-Plan Grant and Rs. 110.98 crore as Plan Grant during 2008-09, to institutions deemed to be universities.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the second part of the question regarding the criteria for recognising a deemed university is not fully explained. Sir, it is well-known that two types of deemed universities are coming up. One is for excellence in a particular field. The second is only for commercial purpose. They want to sell away degrees even at the level of Ph.D. Has the Government got any strong commitment to see that the dilution of education is stopped but, at the same time, excellence should be increased? Is there any body of excellence created to regulate them even though they were given the deemed university status?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to state that this is a matter that has exercised our minds as well because there is truly some element of dilution of standards. There are too many deemed universities that have been granted that particular status. Therefore, I decided that I would freeze all fresh grants of deemed universities and I have set up a committee to review all the previous grants that have been made. As and when the report comes to me, then we will take action. But it is not as if there are no guidelines or there is an absence of a regulatory procedure in the grant of that status. There are guidelines by the UGC; there are regulations by the UGC; there are inspections that take place; there are norms. There are norms in respect to physical asset; there are norms in respect to faculty; there are norms in respect to how many professors should be in a particular department, how many readers should be in a department and how many lecturers there should be in a department. All those norms are there. Now, we want to make sure whether the deemed universities have actually followed those norms or has there been any dilution in those norms because we have seen a sudden spurt in those institutions. So, we are carrying out a review. As and when the report is submitted, we shall take action.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, all these norms are till the degree is conferred on or pre-degree stage, for example, how the college or university will be initiated, where the building will be, how many class -rooms will be there, what will be the number of staff, the materials to be

provided and so on. But what happens after getting the degree? Are these people entitled to get a better job in the market? Is the creation of a discipline based on the data collected and demand in the market? We are following the western countries. But western countries are designing the course according to the need of their society. They find out that after five years they need such people in the society and, therefore, they start a course now. But we are starting something the end of which is a total disaster. What is the post-degree position in the job market?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the question necessarily does not relate to deemed universities. It relates to all universities — what is the demand in the market; Is our university structure satisfying that demand in the market; Is education only meant to meet market demand? These are all very big issues and I don't think that I can answer these questions in this fashion that university education should only be tailor-made to meet market demands. Market demands keep on changing. By the time, students get a degree there may be no market for that degree. So, the Government cannot control these things. But, yes, there should be a...

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Then, what is the use of universities?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Okay, if universities are only to serve market demands, then, obviously, we should not have universities for research; we should only have universities catering to market demand. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a question that can be appropriately answered in this fashion; in one sentence. We need a whole policy framework in which we need to find out how much we should invest in basic research; what are the needs of the future of the country; what will happen in 2020 or 2030; what will be the needs of the society. It is in that context that we will have to formulate new policies. What is the changing vista of education in the world *vis-a-vis* nationally? What are kinds of market demands that we have created? What are the kinds of innovations that we want? What are the kinds of new areas of knowledge that we want to create? This has nothing to do with the market. Some parts of education have to do with the market; others have not. Technical education has something to do with the market. But, basic research and research institutions have nothing to do with the market.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the method of selecting the Governing Council in the deemed universities. Does the UGC ascertain the research infrastructure for fields like nano-technology and bio-technology in such deemed universities?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If a deemed university is, in fact, carrying out a course in nano-technology and bio-technology, of course, it is part of the UGC actually to inspect the premises and to find out what is the quality and calibre of that course. Those inspections check physical assets, equipments and everything including faculty. So, that is the responsibility of the UGC. What I am trying to find out

the present status of many of these deemed universities. Have the norms been actually fulfilled or not? Is the faculty in position there or not? All that will be looked at, and as and when I find that there are shortcomings, we will deal with that.

As far as Governing Council is concerned, that is for the deemed university to decide.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, whatever may be the interest, enthusiasm on the part of our HRD Minister to bring forth reforms in terms of quality, standard, access, excellence, etc., will he not be too late to do so in as much as much water has flown in terms of education, particularly self-finance colleges and deemed universities are looting and exploiting the public in so many ways? The Government should be aware that this has been going on for long. In spite of all these facts, he is trying to do something. I would like to ask what could be the timeframe before which he can do something concrete.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, no society lives on hopelessness; all societies live on hope. And, if something has gone wrong in the past, we need do something about it for the future. So, I think, all of us must generate hope in this House rather than hopelessness. That is number one. Number two, Sir, yes, I think there is a big problem about self-financing institutions. There is an issue of fees. There is an issue of commercialisation which we are looking at. But, remember this, any educational reform is not an overnight exercise, by the stroke of the hour, we decide to change the system. It cannot be done. Educational reforms affect every individual in this country, every parent in this country, every household in this country. It is the most sensitive area of the society. So, if we want to move forward, we must move with consensus and we must move carefully, and, therefore, I request the hon. Member that we are not going to give timeframe as to when things are going to be done, but we will give a commitment that we will change the system, we will make India a hub of education.

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह बताया है कि पांच वर्षों के अंदर 62 संस्थाओं को सम-विश्वविद्यालय घोषित किया गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि 1952 से लेकर 2004 तक कितने सम-विश्वविद्यालयों को मान्यता प्राप्त हुई और क्या पिछले पांच वर्षों के अंदर सम-विश्वविद्यालयों को मान्यता प्राप्त होने की संख्या ज्यादा नहीं है? अगर ज्यादा है, तो कृपया यह भी बताएं कि इस संबंध में क्या उनके ऊपर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए जांच की बात भी सोची जा रही है? अगर ऐसा है तो बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, if I am not mistaken, the total number of deemed universities are around 125. I am talking about universities since Independence. In the last five years, 62 were created. That is part of the answer that we have given to the question that was asked.

Now, there is a reason for it and I need to explain that. Right from the Independence till 1990 or so, most universities that were created, were created either by the Central Government or the State Governments through an Act of Legislature. There was very little investment going into education.

Ever since the whole liberalisation process started and the move from physical assets to intellectual assets started, and, people realised that economic activity is going to be generated through innovations and intellectual assets, the whole focus on education changed. Suddenly, the States — which were not setting up universities — realised that there is a need to set up universities, and, therefore, there has been an enormous investment in the State sector right from 1990. There were colleges at that point in time. They realised that the college fees was controlled by the State Governments through Acts passed by the States. They wanted to get out of the system. They took recourse to Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act because if they become deemed universities, their fees were not controlled.

So, they took this route, and, thereby, these universities are flourishing. A lot of them are running these self-financing courses and are commercialising education. As long as they give excellent education, we have no problem. So, I think, this whole issue has to be looked at not in the context that anybody has failed but in the contexts of demands of the new century; where is India going to go, and, what do we need to serve our own people. I think, we must look at it not with any coloured vision. If there is something wrong, we will do something about it but much more important than that is what do we do about the education sector to meet the demands of India.

डा. राम प्रकाश : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रश्न के "ख" भाग में वह क्राइटेरिया पूछा गया है, जिससे एक यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी बनाया जा सके। यू.जी.सी. एक्ट 1956 का सेक्शन 3 कहता है "The Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare, by notification in the official Gazette, that any institution of higher education, other than a University, shall be deemed to be a University..." यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी नहीं बनाना है, बल्कि हायर एजुकेशन के सेंटर को बनाया जा सकता है। मुझे यह प्रश्न सीधे तौर पर समझ में नहीं आया और इस नाते मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या एच.आर.डी. मंत्रालय ने डीम्ड टू बी यूनिवर्सिटी को डीम्ड टू बी शब्द हटा देने की अनुमति दी है, ताकि वह केवल यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का प्रयोग कर सके? मैं आपके माध्यम से यह इसलिए जानना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि पहले डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटीज अपने नाम के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का प्रयोग नहीं करती थीं। हिंदुस्तान की चार महान संस्थाएँ, टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज, 1936 में बनी और 1964 में डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टेटस मिला, बिरला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलाजी एण्ड साइंस, पिलानी 1926 में बनी, 1964 में स्टेटस मिला, थापर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नॉलॉजी पटियाला, 1956 में बनी, 1985 में स्टेटस मिला, एन.डी.आर.आई. करनाल में 1955 में आई और 1992-93 में यह स्टेटस मिला, लेकिन इन्होंने कभी भी अपने नाम के साथ यूनिवर्सिटी शब्द का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया। आज इस शब्द का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। जैसा कि इसमें कहा गया है, अगर वाकई में यूनिवर्सिटी, जो अच्छा काम नहीं करती, उसे डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने का कोई क्राइटेरिया हो, वह भी बताया जाए। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ। थैंक यू।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there seems to be some misapprehension. Universities do not become deemed to be Universities. It is only. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. RAM PRAKASH: Then, why is this statement there? It should be modified. Please read the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you allow me to answer the questions ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, only institutions of higher learning can become deemed Universities. For example, there is a college in Tamil Nadu, which is affiliated to a university. It is an institution of higher learning. It wants to disaffiliate itself from that university and wants to be a deemed university. Then it applies to the Government and says that I am an institution of higher learning and I want to be a university. The UGC has certain regulations. It inspects the college and then decides. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. राम प्रकाश : यह मेरा सवाल ही नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please.

श्री कपिल सिबल : आप ही ने दो सवाल पूछे थे, I am answering both. Therefore, those colleges can become deemed to be universities. Now the question is, whether they can use the word 'university.' Yes, they can. The only thing is that they have to indicate underneath by which notification they have been constituted as deemed to be universities. We have written a letter dated 13th September 2006 to all deemed to be universities saying that they can use the word "university" provided they indicate that they have been established under section 3, *vide* notification such and such, and for Central or State Universities established either by Parliament or State Legislature, the year of notification. So, all institutions of higher learning, which are deemed to be universities, established by a particular notification, must notify when they advertise by which notification they have been declared as deemed to be universities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 45.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I am a new Member. I have been raising my hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Sir. We will have a detailed discussion and you will get an opportunity, because I cannot take up more than three supplementaries.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Kindly permit me also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be patient. I understand your anxiety. We will find a solution to it.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Since morning I have been raising my hand. I do not know how my name is missing.

Expansion of NREGS

*45. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: ††

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to expand the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and is working towards increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment under the Scheme;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mahendra Mohan

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force to study the feasibility and financial impact of increasing the number of work days under the Scheme has since submitted its report to Government; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken and the steps taken to make the Scheme more effective?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) NREGA has been extended to cover entire rural areas of the country with effect from 1.4.2008. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government regarding increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment under the Act.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : सभापति महोदय, इससे पहले कि मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से प्रश्न पूछूँ, सर्वप्रथम मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने नरेगा के लिए बजट में 16 हजार करोड़ रुपए से बढ़ा कर 39 हजार 1 सौ करोड़ रुपए sanction किए हैं और 114 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की है। लेकिन नरेगा का जो उद्देश्य है, वह पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। मेरा प्रश्न था कि नरेगा के माध्यम से जो 100 दिन का रोजगार मजदूरों को दिया जाना था, उसमें क्या प्रगति हो रही है और किस प्रकार का कार्य चल रहा है। मेरे पास जो data आया है, उसके हिसाब से मजदूरों को एक वर्ष में केवल 48 दिन कार्य मिल पा रहा है। इसमें अधिकतम राजस्थान में 76 दिन मिला है और केरल में केवल 22 दिन का कार्य मिल रहा है। इसके अलावा मजदूरों तक नरेगा का जो फायदा पहुंचना चाहिए था, वह नहीं पहुंच पा रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह उनकी जानकारी में है कि नरेगा के जो कार्ड्स दिए जाते हैं, जिनको रखने की जिम्मेदारियां जिन सरकारी प्रधानों को दी गई हैं, वे उसका misuse करते हैं। वे उन कार्ड्स पर एक-दो दिन का कार्य देते हैं और 50 दिन का पेमेंट दिखाते हैं या वहां पर दलाली ली जा रही है।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि इस संबंध में कितने fake cards जारी किए जा रहे हैं? आप उनको 100 दिन का रोजगार कब दे पायेंगे? अगर इसको आगे बढ़ाने का आपका उद्देश्य नहीं है, तो आप उन मजदूरों को कम-से-कम 100 दिन का रोजगार कब तक दिला पायेंगे और कितने fake cards दिए गए हैं?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, वर्ष 2006-07 में इसका average 43 days आया है, 2007-08 में average 42 days आया है और 2008-09 में average 48 days है। तीन सालों में पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में स्कीम लागू करने के बाद average 100 days नहीं हो रहा है। मान्यवर, सबसे आश्चर्य की बात तो यह है कि बिहार जैसी स्टेट में 2006-07 में average 35 days है, 2007-08 में 22 days है और 2008-09 में 26 days है। मध्य प्रदेश जैसी स्टेट में 2006-07 में average 69 days है, 2007-08 में 63 days है और 2008-09 में 57 days है।

The third State I am citing is Orissa where in 2006-07, the average was 57 days; in 2007-08, the average was 37 days; and in the year 2008-09, the average was 37 days.

In the State of West Bengal, in the year 2006-07, the average was only 14 days; in the year 2007-08, it was only 25 days; and in the year 2008-09, it was twenty six days. ...*(Interruptions)*... इसलिए नरेगा का 100 days का जो concept है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Order, please. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Second supplementary.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मेरा यही तो प्रश्न था कि जो 100 दिन रोजगार देना था, वह इतना कम क्यों दिया जा रहा है और वे इसको कैसे सुधारेंगे। वे वही जानकारी दे रहे हैं, तो मुझे मेरे सवाल का उत्तर नहीं मिला।

महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न फिर से fake cards के बारे में है। अभी समाचार-पत्रों में हम लोगों ने पढ़ा कि मध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर * तथा इस प्रकार के नामों पर fake cards issue किए गए और नरेगा के नाम पर पैसा लिया गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No names, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... This will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... This will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: I withdraw the name. मैं तो सरकारी मशीनरी के बारे में बता रहा हूँ। मैं नाम वापस लेता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप सप्लीमेंटरी पूछिए relating to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : महोदय, मैं नाम वापस लेता हूँ, लेकिन ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं एक उदाहरण दे रहा था कि सरकारी तंत्र ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please observe the practice of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : सर, मैं नाम वापस लेता हूँ, लेकिन सरकारी तंत्र से जो fake cards दिए जा रहे हैं, उन fake cards ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए, भाषण मत दीजिए।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : माननीय सभापति जी, जो मेरा सवाल था, उसका जवाब तो मिला नहीं। मेरा सवाल यह है कि कितने fake cards हैं, जो जनता को दिए गए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Kurien, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: माननीय सभापति जी, जो 39,100 करोड़ रुपये नरेगा के नाम पर दिए गए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : आपका सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल क्या है?

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि सभी लोगों तक वह रुपया कैसे पहुंचे, इसके लिए क्या नियम बनाए जा रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: How many days in Tripura? You please mention that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijayaraghavan, please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : सही लोगों तक यह पैसा कैसे पहुंचे ...**(व्यवधान)**... नरेगा के नाम पर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vijayaraghavan, will you please resume your place? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Please, do not be agitated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Not recorded

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

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : ग्रामीण मजदूरों को नरेगा का लाभ कैसे मिलेगा ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, he is using it for political purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid. ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Member shall resume his place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid, this is not on. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, it is absolutely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, I have a right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Moinul Hassan, please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: What is the performance in Tripura? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your place? ...*(Interruptions)*... Will you please stop bobbing up like a spring? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : सर, मेरा संक्षिप्त सवाल है कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: What is the performance in Tripura? Let the Minister say. No, no. Let him say as to what is the performance in Tripura.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your place? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not interfere. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, this is a very important thing. He is using it for political purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the performance in Tripura?

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : सर, मेरा संक्षिप्त सवाल है कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, let me make one position clear. This House will run according to its rules. If you want to have an altercation, please step outside in the Lobby and carry on. But, this is not permissible. Will you please ask your second supplementary? Please do not make a speech.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन : ठीक है, सर।

सभापति जी, मेरा बहुत संक्षिप्त सवाल है कि वित्त मंत्री जी ने 39,100 करोड़ रुपए नरेगा में ग्रामीण मजदूरों के लाभ के लिए निर्धारित किया है। उसको कैसे सही रूप से वितरित किया जाएगा, उससे कैसे कम-से-कम सौ दिनों का रोजगार लोगों को दिया जाएगा?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, नरेगा को इम्प्लिमेंट करने का काम as per constitution स्टेट्स का है। स्टेट्स को इस बारे में कदम उठाने हैं। फिर भी इसकी ट्रांसपैरेंसी को मेनटेन करने के लिए भारत सरकार ने उनको गाइडलाइन्स दिए हैं कि जो पेमेंट होनी चाहिए, वह बैंक के माध्यम से होनी चाहिए, डाकघर के माध्यम से होनी चाहिए। हमने पेमेंट को एश्योर करने के संबंध में पूरे कदम उठाए हैं। हमने NIC का मॉडल बनाया है।

हमें NIC के माध्यम से सूचना आ रही है कि कौन आदमी कहां काम कर रहा है और क्या काम कर रहा है। लेकिन, माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह बात सही है कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को जिस ढंग से इसमें काम करना चाहिए, वह काम करने में वे असफल रही हैं। अभी त्रिपुरा वाले हमारे माननीय सदस्य बहुत एजिटेड हो रहे हैं, तो मैं उनकी भी जानकारी ठीक कर देना चाहता हूँ कि त्रिपुरा में 2006-07 में एवरेज 67 था, 2007-08 में वह 43 था और 2008-09 में वह 64 था। So, don't be touchy about it. Your own State is unable to complete 100 days. Why are you getting so agitated about it? Sir, this scheme is a demand-driven scheme. वहां पर जितना डिमांड जेनरेट होता है, उतना पैसा भारत सरकार दे रही है। Unfortunately, States where large number of poor people are living are not catering to the needs of the poor people. We are providing money, but, they are unable to do the work which they are supposed to do. मुझे आशा है कि माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, अपनी-अपनी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के संबंध में, हम जितना ज्यादा इस बारे में चिन्तित होंगे, उनकी मॉनिटरिंग करने का काम करेंगे, उतनी गरीब आदमी की मदद होगी। भारत सरकार इस स्कीम को बहुत अच्छे ढंग से लागू करना चाहती है, गरीब आदमी की मदद करना चाहती है और इसीलिए इस बारे में उसका एलोकेशन बढ़ा है।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Thank you, Sir. Sir, it is a very good programme of inclusiveness, but the main problem is the delivery. Also, there is no clarity. I would like to know from the Minister why there is no clarity on the kind of jobs that are going to be created. Very often, the nature of jobs comes on the basis of the expediency of immediate employment, as opposed to the logic of trying to provide a job for sustainable natural resource development. There is no visible asset that is seen and that does not lead to any sustained livelihood. The Ministry has also undertaken a pilot project with ICAR. I would like to know from the Minister how far has that project gone and what are his views on convergence with the various Ministries, whether it is the Ministry of Water Resources or whether it is the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is he going to take a more holistic approach? By when would such plans on convergence actually be implemented so that we get better benefits?

SHRI C. P. JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the provisions of the Act, section 1, Schedule 1, there are few activities which are already listed. Number 1, water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, irrigation canal including micro and minor irrigation works, provision of irrigation facilities, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by the households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to the below poverty line families, to the beneficiaries of the land reforms, to the beneficiaries under the Indira Avas Yojana of the Government of India, renovation of traditional Water Bodies including desilting of tanks, land development, flood control and protection works including drainage in water logging areas, dual connectivity to provide all-weather access and any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. These are the provisions which are already mentioned in Schedule-1. But I am aware about this that we require a holistic approach, and I can only assure the

House that we are seized with this problem, and at the earliest, we will come out with the holistic approach so that we will be able to cater to the needs of the entire poor people of the country.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, other than those people who do hard work, those people who are weavers, potters, blacksmiths, they can also have some job opportunities. It would be better if some steps are taken to give job opportunities to these persons also to make the scheme more effective. I would like to know whether the Government is proposing to take initiative in this respect. If not, the reasons therefor?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सही है कि व्यक्तिगत तौर पर जितना लाभ इन्हें देना है, वह नहीं हो पा रहा है। अभी हमने शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट, शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के ऊपर confine किया है, लेकिन जैसाकि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है we are thinking very seriously because इसमें नेशनल लिवलीहुड मिशन का एक concept और भी है और नेशनल लिवलीहुड मिशन में इस तरह के जो artisans हैं, उनको उनमें ट्रेनिंग दिलाकर उनकी स्कीम का enhancement करने का काम करेंगे। फिर भी चूंकि हम इसके स्कोप को एनलार्ज करने के बारे में डिस्कस कर रहे हैं, जो आपने बात कही है उसके बारे में सोचकर जब हम यह निर्णय करेंगे तब इसका भी ध्यान रखेंगे।

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर, शुक्रिया आपने मुझे टाइम दिया। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो यहां काम बताए हैं और उनमें जो 40 और 60 का रेशियो है, जिसमें 40 परसेंट material होगा और 60 परसेंट लेबर का रेशियो है, उसमें कई बार बहुत मुश्किलें आ रही हैं क्योंकि जिस तरह से इन्होंने irrigation का बताया, पानी के रिसोर्स को ठीक करने के बारे में बताया है, वहां हमको material ज्यादा चाहिए। क्या सरकार इस बारे में सोच रही है कि 50-50 ratio कर दिया जाए और क्या उसके लिए आप कोई instructions देंगे? दूसरे इसमें जो monitoring होती है, क्या वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की ओर से भी होती है या केवल स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ही करती है क्योंकि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की monitoring ठीक नहीं होती है। जिस तरह से कहा गया कि "नरेगा" का काम प्रधान के ऊपर ही रह गया है और वह आम लोगों तक नहीं पहुंच सका है, क्या आप इसमें भी improvement लाएंगे?

श्री सी. पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, बेसिकली यह प्रोग्राम सप्लीमेंटरी मींस ऑफ लिवलीहुड के लिए हैं, इसलिए material component के संबंध में Act में प्रोवीजन किया है कि [] मनी भारत सरकार देगी और [] मनी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट मैच करेगी। भारत सरकार द्वारा 40 परसेंट मनी देने के पीछे मंशा यह है कि कुछ assets create हो सके, लेकिन हमारा main stress उनका source of लिवलीहुड बढ़ाने के लिए है, सप्लीमेंटरी इनकम देने के लिए है। लेकिन, यदि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स आगे आकर यह बात कहे कि हम dovetail करना चाहते हैं, तो जब हम रिव्यू कर रहे हैं तो इस बारे में भी ध्यान रखेंगे कि हमारे द्वारा इसमें ¾ पैसा देने के बाद यदि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स अपना खुद का पैसा देकर dovetail करना चाहे तो भारत सरकार इसके बारे में सोचेगी। अभी हमारा trust केवल इतना है कि उनकी supplementary income generate हो। उस काम को हम प्राथमिकता के आधार पर करना चाहते हैं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : श्रीमन्, कल ही माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने मजदूरों की वेजेज को सौ रुपये करने की बात कही है। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह जानकारी है कि देश के कई राज्यों में मजदूरों की जो दैनिक मजदूरी है वह 120 रुपये के लगभग है? अगर यह 120 रुपये है, तो आपके इस नरेगा में 100 रुपये में कौन काम करेगा? मेरे सवाल का पहला हिस्सा यह है। सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि जिन लोगों को रोजगार देने की बात की जाती है, उनको

उनका हिस्सा मिल ही नहीं पाता है। बड़े पैमाने पर मशीनों से काम होता है। यह जानकारी आपके नॉलेज में भी आई होगी। फर्जी मस्टर रोल्स बनाये जाते हैं और उन मस्टर रोल्स के आधार पर पेमेंट की जाती है। अगर आपको इस तरह की जानकारी है तो इसको रोकने के लिए आप क्या काम कर रहे हैं? क्योंकि जब तक इसे नहीं रोकेंगे तब तक बहुत अच्छा उद्देश्य होने के बाद भी यह योजना सही रूप में क्रियान्वित नहीं हो सकती।

श्री सी. पी. जोशी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं कुछ स्टेट्स के नाम लूंगा जहां 100 रुपये से कम मजदूरी है। वे राज्य हैं - असम, आंध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, जम्मू-कश्मीर, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, मणिपुर, मेघालय, उड़ीसा, तमिलनाडु, त्रिपुरा, पश्चिम बंगाल, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड और उत्तराखंड। ये वे प्रदेश हैं, जहां कम से कम 100 रुपये से कम की मजदूरी का प्रावधान है। इसलिए आप जो कह रहे हैं कि 120 रुपये मिल रहे हैं, ऐसी स्थिति नहीं है। इसीलिए कल वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में कहा है...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : पंजाब, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश में क्या स्थिति है?

श्री सभापति : पहले सुन लीजिए।

श्री सी. पी. जोशी : पंजाब में होशियारपुर, जालंधर और नवांशहर में 100 रुपये से कम है। उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में मैंने आपको बताया कि वहां 100 रुपये हैं। बंगाल और त्रिपुरा में 100 रुपये भी नहीं हैं। पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में 15 से ज्यादा ऐसे प्रदेश हैं, जहां पर 100 रुपये की मिनिमम मजदूरी नहीं है। आप जो 120 रुपये की बात कर रहे हैं, उत्तर प्रदेश में भी 120 रुपये की मजदूरी नहीं है। आप जो कह रहे हैं - हमें इस बात की जानकारी है। इसलिए भारत सरकार ने - कांग्रेस के घोषणा पत्र के आधार पर कल वित्त मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि हम 100 रुपये की मिनिमम मजदूरी देंगे। This is the assurance of our party. ये 15 स्टेट्स जहां 100 रुपये से कम पैसा मिल रहा है, उसको भी हम 100 रुपये कर रहे हैं जिसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहिए। जहां तक इस शिकायत का सवाल है, इस शिकायत के संबंध में भारत सरकार चिन्तित है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को जितनी effective monitoring करनी चाहिए, वे उतनी effective monitoring नहीं कर रही हैं। माननीय सदस्य स्वयं यह कह रहे हैं कि मशीन का उपयोग हो रहा है। फर्जी जॉब कार्ड बन रहे हैं। इस जानकारी को ठीक करने के लिए हम शीघ्र ही ombudsman का एक नया concept ला रहे हैं जिसमें punishment भी मिलेगा। हम punitive actions भी लेंगे और corrective measures भी लेंगे जिससे यह काम ठीक ढंग से चल सके। इस संबंध में शीघ्र ही हम आपके सामने नया नियम बनाकर लाएंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.46 ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't agitate for that ...*(Interruptions)*... Q.46.

Joint Venture of BHEL and NTPC

*46. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:††

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prashant Chatterjee

(a) whether a joint venture has been formed between Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for manufacturing power plant equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether preference is being given for the location of such manufacturing unit in the closed PSUs having the requisite infrastructure like Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), Durgapur to reduce the investment cost *vis-a-vis* a green field unit;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the basis for selection of the location for this joint venture unit?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have started a joint venture company in the name of NTPC-BHEL Power Projects Private Limited (NBPPL) with 50:50 equity contribution. The Joint Venture agreement was signed on 11.01.2008 and the Company was registered on 28.04.2008.

The main objectives of the Company are to create capacity in the field of Balance of Plant (BoP) and manufacture of power plant equipments for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts.

(c) to (e) The Company is currently trying to identify a suitable piece of land to establish manufacturing facilities. Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), NBPPL had written to ten States for allocation of land. Out of which 4 States have responded. A Committee has been appointed to evaluate the 4 offers received by NBPPL.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, my question, particularly the portion (c) & (d), has not at all been replied. What are my questions? They are — whether preference is being given to a closed PSU, MAMC, at Durgapur to set up the project, and if not, the reasons therefor. The Minister has failed to reply to my questions. That he should first reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. So, one supplementary you have asked!

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: He should go through the portion (c) & (d).

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; please ask one supplementary at a time.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: No, no; I have two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know. Are you asking them together?

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: I am asking another one. Sir, I have two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this the first one or the second one?

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Why has he failed to reply to my question? What is the reason? ...*(Interruptions)*... As mentioned by the Minister, which are the four States that have responded for land? Which are the four States?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, the four States which have responded to this project are Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. I do agree with the statement made by the hon. Member about MAMC that no clear-cut reply was given.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: There was no reply at all, leave alone clear-cut. "Clear-cut" is different issue.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Since you have already asked this question, let me explain about MAMC. That is a sick company located in West Bengal. I must tell the hon. Member that there is a proposal to revive that particular unit. There is no question of considering it because a lot of loss-making companies are there. The land is encumbered. Some of the land has already been given back to the State Government because it was under lease. So, that could not be considered. This is one of the points which I would like to make. But there are other proposals which are under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: What is the time-frame by which the joint venture company will take off?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, now we have appointed an Expert Committee. It will go to these four States and it will come back with its recommendations because every State is interested to have this particular unit. We have sent an Expert Committee, it will come back with its recommendations and, within one month, we will take a final decision, so far as its location is concerned.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. My point is that the Ministry of Heavy Industry has already within its control a lot of sick public sector units which are closed down and all the employees are gone. The land is at its disposal. Why should it search for land here and there? So, the land is there. My point is that the BHEL is having its manufacturing units in all regions of the country, except in the eastern region, although BHEL has got a lot of customers or equipment receivers in the eastern region. A number of power projects are going on there. The Minister has also stated that MAMC's revival is under consideration. While taking up this kind of a venture or project — during the last UPA regime we have taken it up with your Ministry—one of the considerations should be using the existing infrastructure. The MAMC has already got a piece of land with it. So, it is necessary to consider this kind of a proposal at Durgapur itself which is having a big industrial infrastructure. My point is, in the matter of setting up this joint venture of BHEL-NTPC power equipment manufacturing plant, whether the Minister will consider, along with others, using the land already at the disposal of the Ministry at Durgapur and set up a plant there. I would like to know whether this will be considered.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, the land required for this project is nearly one thousand acres. So far as the land of the factory located in West Bengal is concerned, it is not of that particular quantum. So, there is no question of considering the proposal of MAMC for this particular project. We need about one thousand acres of land. There are other considerations also, not land alone. There are other logistics which we have to take into account. That is the reason why this may not be considered. We are considering to revive that particular unit. There is no question of its being closed down or keeping it idle because there is a revival proposal. ...*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, no discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: This can't be considered, so far as logistics are concerned. But for revival, we are willing to discuss it with you. There are proposals with us for its revival. We can consider them. This project can't be located in that particular place.

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर मौजूद है MAMC में और थोड़े से खर्चे पर उसको रिवाइव करके हम उपयोग में ला सकते हैं। तो क्या मंत्री जी ने जो अभी कहा है, वे देंगे? मैं समझता हूँ कि मंत्री जी को एक आश्वासन देना चाहिए कि उसको उपयोग में लाकर हम देश के हित में काम करेंगे।

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, I have already replied to this question that this particular project will be reviewed again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Borrowing by Mutual Fund Schemes

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

- (a) the Mutual Fund schemes which resorted to borrowing during the last two years;
- (b) whether investors of these schemes were adversely affected due to such borrowings; and
- (c) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In financial year 2007-08, 45 schemes have borrowed Rs. 12,450 crore and in financial year 2008-09, 98 schemes have borrowed Rs. 79,420 crore. The names of the schemes and amount borrowed are given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) SBBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 lay down the conditions and limits placed on borrowing by mutual funds so as to protect the interest of unit holders. As per Regulation 44(2), mutual funds shall not borrow except to meet temporary liquidity needs for the purpose of repurchase, redemption of units or payment of interest or dividend to the unit holders. They cannot

borrow more than 20 per cent of the net assets of the scheme and the duration of such borrowing shall not exceed a period of six months. Sale at very low prices, which may adversely affect the investors, can be averted by such borrowings. The borrowings given in Statement I and Statement II have been made as per the extant SEBI regulations.

Statement-I

Borrowings by Mutual Funds in the year 2007-08

Name of the Mutual Fund	Name of the Scheme	Amount Borrowed (in Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3
DBS Chola Mutual Fund	DBS Chola Short Term Floating Rate Fund	15000
UTI Mutual Fund	DBS Chola Short Term Floating Rate Fund	17000
	UTI Liquid Cash Plan	120000
	UTI Liquid Plus Plan	70000
Religare Mutual Fund	Religare Liquid Fund	3591
	Religare Ultra Short Term Fund	24471
SBI Mutual Fund	Magnum Insta Cash	62795
	Magna Insta Cash - Liquid Floatter	920
	SBI Premier Liquid Plan	50000
	SBI Ultra Short Term Plan	40000
Canara Robeco Mutual Fund	Canara Robeco Floating Rate	28312
	Canara Robeco Liquid Scheme	6123
	Canara Robeco Treasury Advantage Fund	124795
TATA Mutual Fund	TATA Liquid Fund	37400
	Principal Cash Management Fund - Liquid	23095
	Principal Government Securities Fund - Investment Plan	72
Principal Mutual Fund	Principal Income Fund- Short Term Plan	14
	Principal Monthly Income Plan	40
	Principal Global Opportunities Fund	57
	Principal Ultra Short Term Fund	3200
	Principal Floating Rate Flexible Maturity Plan	6800
Reliance Mutual Fund	Reliance Liquidity Fund	17500
Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund	Birla Sun Life Savings Fund	19800

1	2	3
HDFC Mutual Fund	HDFC Cash Management Fund Savings Plan	92500
	HDFC Liquid Fund	55000
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund	Templeton India Cash Management Account (<i>erstwhile</i> Templeton India Liquid Plus)	5855
Fortis Mutual Fund	Fortis Money Plus Fund	34000
IDFC Mutual Fund	IDFC Money Manager Fund - Investment Plan	20000
LIC Mutual Fund	LICMF Liquid Fund	326150
JM Mutual Fund	JM Contra Fund	703
	JM Equity Fund	249
	JM Floater - Short Term Plan	100
	JM Floater Fund	30
	JM Floater Fund Short Term Plan	21
	JM Floater Fund Short Term	124
	JM High Liquidity Fund	4026
	JM Money Manager Fund	51
	JM Money Manager Fund - Super Plus Plan	180
	JM Money Manager Super Plan	24
	JM Money Manager Fund Super Plus Plan	2301
	JM Short Term Fund	16
	JM Short Term Plan	246
HSBC Mutual Fund	HSBC Advantage India Fund	795
DSP BlackRock Mutual Fund	DSP BlackRock Money Manager Fund	21900
	DSP BlackRock Liquidity Fund	9700
TOTAL :		1244956

Statement-II

Borrowings by Mutual Funds in the year 2008-09

Name of the Fund	Scheme	Amount borrowed (in Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3
DBS Chola Mutual Fund	DBS Chola Freedom Income Fund	14200
	DBS Chola Interval Income Plan - Monthly	800
	DBS Chola Liquid Fund	90800

1	2	3
DBS Chola Mut Fund	DBS Chola Short Term Floating Rate fund	26700
UTI Mutual Fund	UTI Liquid Plus Fund	122500
	UTI MIP	7
	UTI Cash Plan	127500
Religare	Religare Active Income Fund	259
	Religare Liquid Fund	239442
	Religare Short Term Plan	66485
	Religare Ultra Short Term Fund	348659
SBI	SBI Insta Cash	243327
	Magna Insta Cash - Liquid Floatter	910
	SBI Premier Liquid Fund	786895
	SBI Ultra Short term	767299
Canara Robeco	Canara Robeco Liquid Scheme	21748
Mutual Fund	Canara Robeco Treasury Advantage Fund	27641
	TATA Floater Fund	26202
TATA Mutual Fund	TATA Liquid Fund	305814
ICICI Prudential	Flexi	13700
Mutual Fund	Float	18000
	Liquid	678269
ING Mutual Fund	ING Liquid Fund	29700
	ING Liquid Plus Fund	98300
Principal Mutual fund	Principal Cash Management Fund - Liquid	255400
	Principal Floating Rate FMP	174799
	Principal Floating Rate SMP	29060
	Principal Global Opp Fund	267
	Principal Income Fund	2995
	Principal PNB Fixed Maturity Plan - 385 days - Series VII June 2008	7787
	Principal PNB Fixed Maturity Plan 91 Days Series XIV May 2008	1115
	Principal PNB FMP 385 Days Series IX	8225
	Principal PNB FMP 385 Days Series VIII	450
	Principal PNB FMP 540 days Series I	215

1	2	3
	Principal Ultra Short term -Fund	12842
	Principial Income STP Fund	76
Relience	Reliance Liquid Plus Fund	160636
	Reliance Liquid Treasury Plan	47973
	Reliance Liquidity Fund	287387
	Reliance Medium Term Fund	80779
Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund	Birla Sun Life Savings Fund	166022
	Birls Sun Life Cash Plus	248324
HDFC Mutual Fund	HDFC Cash Management Fund Treasury Advantage Plan	42895
	HDFC Cash Management Fund-Savings Plan	26716
	HDFC Floating Rate Income Fund -Short Term Plan	21500
	HDFC Liquid Fund	59923
Deutsche Mutual Fund	DWS Cash Opportunities Fund	12100
	DWS Insta Cash Plus Fund	35500
	DWS Money Plus Fund	35100
	DWS Ultra Short Term Fund	59800
Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund	Kotak Mahindra Liquid Scheme	465
	Kotak Flexi Debt Scheme	65
Fidelity Mutual Fund	Fidelity Ultra Short Term Debt Fund	10000
	Treasury Management	193923
	Cash Management	25756
Franklin Templeton	India Ultrashort Plan	17571
Sundaram	Sundaram BNP Paribas Money Fund	2000
AIG Global Investment Group Mutual Fund	AIG India Liquid Fund	14500
	AIG India Treasury Fund	25500
Fortis Mutual Fund	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 10 Plan F	35600
	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 11 Plan A	3700
	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 11 Plan B	3000
	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 12 Plan A	787
	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 13 Plan B	1225
	Fortis Fixed Term Plan Series 13 Plan C	787

1	2	3
IDFC Mutual Fund	IDFC Cash Fund	41000
	IDFC Liquid Fund	17500
	IDFC Money Manager Fund - Treasury Plan	50000
Mirae Asset	Mirae Asset Liquid Fund	41473
Mutual Fund	Mirae Asset Ultra Short Term Bond Fund	9169
LIC Mutual Fund	LICMF Floating Rate Fund - (STP)	6500
	LICMF Income Plus Fund	160904
	LICMF Liquid Fund	394729
	JM Contra Fund	10
	JM Money Manager Fund- Super Plus Plan	33
JM Mutual Fund	JM Arbitrage Fund	1
JP Morgan Mutual	JP Morgan India Liquid Fund	5613
Fund	JP Morgan India Treasury Fund	1393
HSBC	HSBC Fixed Term Series 24	2520
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 30	8397
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 41	3563
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 44	900
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 45	131
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 46	5045
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 50	82
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 52	47523
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 53	127254
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 54	86305
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 56	9800
	HSBC Floating Rate Fund - Long Term Plan	8100
	HSBC Gilt Fund - Short Term	1248
	HSBC MIP Savings	250
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 57	30
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 59	89538
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 61	8459
	HSBC Fixed Term Series 63	1800
	HSBC Liquid Fund	476503
DSP BlackRock Mutual Fund	DSP BlackRock Liquid Plus Fund	44962
TOTAL :		7941957

Self financing courses in Universities

***47. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission(UGC) recognized Central and State Universities are increasingly launching self-financing courses;

(b) if so, whether such courses are recognized by the UGC;

(c) whether the UGC has formulated guidelines for launching self-financing courses;

(d) whether such guidelines also lay norms for the fee chargeable from the students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Central Universities and State Universities enjoy autonomy in academic matters under the respective legislative Acts and are free to launch courses, including self financing courses, leading to any degree so notified the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 or any diploma or certificate of such nomenclature to be decided by the concerned University.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Non-performing Assets of Banks

***48. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:**

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of global financial meltdown, the bankers have expressed concern that Non-performing Assets (NPAs) are likely to go up during 2009-10;

(b) if so, whether the bankers are not recovering the NPAs;

(c) whether Government has chalked out any strategy to recover NPAs and to ensure that banks' NPAs do not increase during 2009-10; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has not received any communication from banks expressing concerns that their non-performing assets (NPAs) are likely to go up during the year 2009-10.

(b) to (d) The banks manage their NPAs any effect recoveries in these accounts in accordance with their recovery policies and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines which, *inter-alia*, include prudential norms for provisioning and classification of NPAs, guidelines for prevention of slippages, Corporate Debt Restructuring and other restructuring Schemes, One Time Settlement schemes, the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (DRT)

Act, 1993. By utilizing these channels of recovery, the scheduled commercial banks have been able to reduce their Gross NPAs from Rs. 64,898 crore on 31.03.2004 to Rs. 56,435 crore as on 31.03.2008, despite increase in their Gross Advances from Rs. 9,02,027 crore to Rs. 25,07,885 crore during this period. The Gross NPAs to Gross Advances ratio of the scheduled commercial banks has come down from 7.2% as on 31.03.2004 to 2.3% as on 31.03.2008. However, during the year 2008-09 the Gross NPAs as per RBI's provisional offsite returns, have increased to Rs. 66,962 crore and the Gross NPAs to Gross Advances ratio has marginally increased to 2.4%.

This Government is ensuring that the targets of Gross NPAs, set by the Public Sector Banks in their 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' for 2009-10, are such that they strive to contain the level of their Gross NPAs within acceptable limits.

Rural Water Supply Programme

*49. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to complete 'Rural Water Supply Programme by 2011; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water supply is one of the components under Bharat Nirman. The targets for the four year period (2005-06 to 2008-09) for this component were coverage of 55,067 uncovered and 3,31,604 slipped-back habitations, and addressing 2,16,968 quality-affected habitations. State-wise targets and achievements are given in the Statement-I (See below).

Against 55,067 un-covered habitations to be covered during the Bharat Nirman period, 54,433 habitations have been covered by 29 June, 2009. The remaining 634 habitations will be covered by 2011.

The target of 3,31,604 slipped-back habitations has been exceeded. The habitations slip back due to many reasons such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, systems outliving their lives, increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability, etc. The figures for slipped back habitations are therefore dynamic. The entire strategy and focus of the Department and its current programme in the field is towards sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that the phenomenon of recurring slippage does not occur.

Of the 2,16,968 quality affected habitations, in case of 46,344 habitations potable water is being supplied through completed projects. The remaining habitations targeted under Bharat Nirman and subsequent new habitations are being tackled through projects either ongoing or approved and to be started shortly. An effort will be made to complete these projects by 2011. State-wise number of habitations covered and those being addressed is given in the Statement-II (See below).

Financial assistance from the Central Government beyond 2011 will be provided primarily to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Statement-I

*Targets and Achievements of Rural Drinking Water Supply during last four years
(2005-06 to 2008-09)*

(Number of habitations)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Target As on 1.4.2005				Achievement during 2005-06 to 2008-09			
		Un- covered	Slipped- back	Quality affected	Total	Un- covered	Slipped- back	Quality- affected*	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	29,744	4,050	33,794	0	28598	5696	34294
2	Arunachal Pradesh	668	2,752	0	3,420	668	870	986	2524
3	Assam	7,375	10,636	8,119	26,130	7375	8829	30829	47033
4	Bihar	0	47,597	776	48,373	0	42705	18593	61298
5	Chhattisgarh	0	19,007	5,021	24,028	0	29547	5021	34568
6	Goa	6	0	0	6	6	1	0	7
7	Gujarat	36	4,389	8,717	13,142	36	6046	8717	14799
8	Haryana	0	2,506	361	2,867	0	2990	366	3356
9	Himachal Pradesh	6,891	9,308	0	16,199	6030	9896	0	15926
10	Jammu & Kashmir	3,211	3,138	49	6,398	3211	398	49	3658
11	Jharkhand	0	17,225	168	17,393	0	17005	1279	18284
12	Karnataka	5,618	809	21,008	27,435	5618	8717	15303	29638
13	Kerala	7,573	421	867	8,861	8859	3946	979	13784
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	37,269	5,381	42,650	0	38512	5381	43893
15	Maharashtra	17,738	11,579	3,787	33,104	17738	14338	11342	43418
16	Manipur	0	80	37	117	0	517	74	591

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17	Meghalaya	251	4,341	160	4,752	250	3563	180	3993
18	Mizoram	112	271	26	409	112	357	78	547
19	Nagaland	731	202	157	1,090	262	141	196	599
20	Orissa	0	14,900	32,254	47,154	0	39902	32254	72156
21	Punjab	1,931	5,247	2,093	9,271	1825	2234	2313	6372
22	Rajasthan	2,300	33,680	41,072	77,052	1871	26927	42004	70802
23	Sikkim	74	783	0	857	74	510	76	660
24	Tamil Nadu	0	44,080	5,574	49,654	0	33123	5559	38682
25	Tripura	0	651	7,031	7,682	0	825	6755	7580
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	19,886	5,062	24,948	0	24620	5564	30184
27	Uttarakhand	272	7,567	0	7,839	218	5611	0	5829
28	West Bengal	0	3,536	65,156	68,692	0	7635	66286	73921
29	A & N Islands	102	0	26	128	94	0	26	120
30	D & N Haveli	60	0	0	60	66	0	0	66
31	Daman & Diu					0	0	0	0
32	Delhi					0	0	0	0
33	Lakshadweep	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
34	Puducherry	108	0	16	124	120	33	88	241
35	Chandigarh					0	0	0	0
TOTAL :		55,067	331,604	216,968	603,639	54433	358396	265994	678823

* Addressed and Covered

Statement-II

Status of Quality-affected habitations during last four years

(2005-06 to 2008-09)

S.No.	Name of State/ UTs	Number of Quality- affected habitations	Total no. of habitations covered	No. of habitations addressed with projects*
1	Andhra Pradesh	4050	2611	5696
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	401	986
3	Assam	8119	1626	28181
4	Bihar	776	6306	18583
5	Chhattisgarh	5021	1042	5021
6	Gujarat	8717	3551	8717
7	Haryana	361	205	356
8	Jammu & Kashmir	49	0	49
9	Jharkhand	168	175	997
10	Karnataka	21008	3238	15303
11	Kerala	867	691	979
12	Madhya Pradesh	5381	559	5381
13	Maharashtra	3787	3622	11212
14	Manipur	37	0	74
15	Meghalaya	160	98	174
16	Mizoram	26	26	78
17	Nagaland	157	46	196
18	Orissa	32254	5124	32254
19	Punjab	2093	703	2097
20	Rajasthan	41072	5355	40832
21	Sikkim	0	0	76
22	Tamil Nadu	5574	1300	5451
23	Tripura	7031	683	6687
24	Uttar Pradesh	5062	2882	5564
25	West Bengal	65156	6012	64570
26	A & N Islands	26	0	26
27	Puducherry	16	88	88
TOTAL :		216968	46344	259628

*Includes habitations subsequently identified as quality affected and being addressed.

Regulation of Private Educational Institutions

*50. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to regulate private educational institutions affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), including the minority institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure to regulate admission, admission fees, and curriculum of these institutions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken against such institutions which have violated Government norms in this regard in the last two years till 30 June 2009, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have to follow the provisions of the Affiliation Bye-laws, the Examination Bye-Laws, and also circulars and guidelines issued from time to time, whereas schools affiliated to Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) have to follow the "Guidelines for Affiliation". The nature of the regulation is circumscribed by the Constitutional guarantees for the minority institutions.

CBSE has the following provisions on admission fees, admission procedure and curriculum to be followed by its affiliated schools:-

- (i) Fees charged should be commensurate with the facilities provided by the institution. Fees should normally be charged under the heads prescribed by the Department of Education of the State/U.T for schools of different categories.
- (ii) No capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the school or for any other purpose should be charged/ collected in the name of the school.
- (iii) Admission in the school affiliated to CBSE shall be made without any distinction of religion, race, caste, creed, place of birth or any of them.
- (iv) A school affiliated to CBSE shall follow the syllabus prescribed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for middle classes. The secondary and senior secondary classes of the school should follow the syllabus prescribed by CBSE, which is based on the model syllabus prepared by NCERT.

CISCE has prescribed the following:

- (i) The fees charged by the school should be commensurate with the facilities provided.
- (ii) No school is allowed to charge capitation fees in any form or to accept donations for the purpose of admission of pupils.

(iii) The schools affiliated to CISCE are required to follow the curriculum for classes IX to XII as prepared by CISCE.

(d) State-wise details of the complaints received by CBSE and action taken thereon in the last two years are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Details of the complaints received by CBSE in the last 2 years upto
30.06.2009 and action taken*

Sl. No.	Type of Complaint	States involved	Action	Taken
1	Hike in fee	Kerala	2009-01 2008-04	Enquiry Committee appointed. Comments of the schools were asked for. In one case, the complaint was not substantiated.
		Maharashtra	2009-06 2008-01	Comments of the schools asked for. The school was asked to refund the fee
		Karnataka	2009-01 2008-01	Comments of the school asked for. Comments of the schools were asked for and on enquiry, no violation was found.
		Himachal Pradesh	2007-01	Comments of the school asked for. The school has returned the extra fee charged.
		Gujarat	2009-01	Comments of the school asked for.
		Delhi	2009-01 2007-03	Comments of the school asked for. Comments were asked for. In one case, the school justified its stand and in another case the school has refunded the extra fee.
		U.P	2007-01 2008-01	Comments of the schools were asked for. The school has been able to justify its action. Comments of the school were asked for. The school refunded the extra fee.
2.	Irregularities in granting admission	Maharashtra	2008-01	Comments of the school were asked for and the school was able to justify its stand.
		U.P.	2007-01	Comments of the school were asked for and the school justified its action.

In all such cases complaints received are examined and are forwarded to the concerned schools for offering their comments amongst supporting documents. The replies submitted by such schools are processed and in the event of substantial evidences, further inquiry is conducted and appropriate action is taken as per the provisions of the Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Board. Cases of gross violation may lead to disaffiliation of the school

Effect of recessionary trends on Tax collections

*51. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have realised the revised tax target of Rs.3.45 lakh crore during 1st April, 2008 and 31st March, 2009;

(b) if so, whether the recessionary trends resulting in shrinkage of export orders or piling up of inventory of finished goods in the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal have adversely affected tax collections; and

(c) if so, what is the percentage-wise impact on exports, manufacturing and services sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the Financial Year 2008-09, Government's revenue collection was as follows:-

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Nature of Duty / Tax	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Provisional collection
A	Direct Taxes	3,65,000	3,45,000	3,38,212
B	Indirect Taxes	3,21,264	2,81,359	2,69,879
C	TOTAL :	6,86,264	6,26,359	6,08,091

This lower collection performance under indirect taxes, *vis-a-vis* estimates, was occasioned by both, the Government's foregoing of revenues of over Rs.40,000 crores to provide fiscal stimulus to the economy, as also the economic slowdown resulting from the global financial meltdown and consequent economic recession in developed economies. The direct tax collections were only slightly adrift of the Revised Estimate finalised.

The global meltdown affected India's export performance and a sample survey conducted by the Department of Commerce (during August'08 -April'09) for 648 exporting units located across the country, in sectors including Textile, Leather, Engineering, Gems & Jewellery, Food processing including Fruits & Vegetables and Spices, Minerals, Marine products etc. revealed that there had been loss of export orders to the tune of Rs.8,982 crores. According to statistics provided by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), exports in US\$ terms during April - October'08 grew by over 24%, Thereafter, during November'08 - March'09 export growth fell sharply to (-)21.5%. The decline in exports may have resulted in a shrinkage in export orders and increase in inventory of finished goods.

During the year 2008-09, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the manufacturing sector registered a growth rate ranging between 4.5 to 6.9% during the first 4 months. However, after July, it declined except for the month of September 2008. During the last quarter, the growth rate was mostly negative. Month-wise growth rates for the year 2008-09 are given below:-

Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
6.7	4.5	6.1	6.9	1.7	6.2	-0.6	2.7	-0.6	1.0	-0.9	-1.6	2.5

Revenue collections from Service Tax in 2008-09 showed a steady decline over the corresponding periods of 2007-08. The quarter-wise growth rates were as follows:-

First Quarter	33%
Second Quarter	30%
Third Quarter	17%
Fourth Quarter	3%

This decline is an indication of shortfall in the growth of the Service Sector in the 3rd & 4th Quarters.

Establishment of New Colleges

*52. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new colleges in near future in educationally backward districts;

(b) if so, how many colleges are likely to be set up in minority dominated districts;

(c) whether such districts have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is a proposal to launch a new scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national GER. These include 62 districts identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs as minority concentration districts where the population of the minority group is over 20% on the basis of the 2001 census data on population, and have poor socio-economic indicators and basic amenities indicators, 17 districts where minorities constitute 20% or more of the population and 36 districts which are dominated by those who are religious minorities nationally but are a majority in the respective States.

During the remaining period of the XI Plan, subject to the approval of the competent authority, the Central Government proposes to provide some financial assistance for establishing 200 model colleges, in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

Strained existing facilities by Private Airlines

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

- (a) whether the increasing number of private airlines have strained the existing facilities at most of the airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to cope up with the increase in the number of flights, passengers amenities and to facilitate timely landings?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The unprecedented growth in civil aviation sector has thrown up challenges for airport infrastructure, specially at busy metro airports. Upgradation of Airport Infrastructure is a continuous process and is undertaken taking into consideration the growth rate, availability of land, availability of resources, socio-economic considerations and economic feasibility. Following steps have been taken to improve airport infrastructure both in air side as well city side in the country:

- (i) Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured through joint venture route. Joint Venture Companies are undertaking the upgradation/development of these airports at an estimated cost of Rs.8975 crores (first phase) (completion in March 2010) and Rs.9802 crores (completion in December 2012) respectively.
- (ii) Two new Greenfield 'state-of-art' airports have become operational at Hyderabad and Bangalore in the year 2008.
- (iii) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is undertaking development/modernisation of Kolkata and Chennai airports at an estimated cost of Rs.1942.51 crores and Rs.1808 crores, respectively.
- (iv) Development of airports in North East Region is being taken up by AAI on priority basis.
- (v) Besides, AAI is also undertaking modernisation of following 35 non-metro airports. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu & Pune Airport.

In addition to the above, CNS/ATM facilities are also being provided in collaboration with ISRO, Bangalore. Upgradation and installation of latest navigation aids like Instrument Landing System (ILS), Doppler Very High Omni Range (DVOR) & Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), Flight Data Processing System (FDPS), Remote Control Air Ground System (RCAG), Primary and Secondary Radars, etc. is also undertaken, as a continuous process.

Ragging in Schools and colleges

*54. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of directions issued by the Supreme Court for checking ragging in various schools and colleges in the country, ragging has taken many lives during the month of March, 2009;

(b) if so, whether the University Grants Commission has taken a number of steps and has urged all schools and universities that violation of rules may result in penal action, stoppage of grants and even derecognition of institutions;

(c) if so, to what extent these warnings have helped;

(d) whether any Ordinance was issued by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps and measures taken by Government thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, a case involving death of a medical student was reported in the month of March, 2009, as a consequence of an incident of ragging at the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission has notified its regulations on the Curbing of the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions. These regulations are comprehensive and provide for a number of punitive and prohibitive measures including stopping of grants by UGC and also withdrawal of affiliation/recognition or other privileges conferred, if higher education institutions fail to comply with any of the provision of regulations or fail to curb ragging effectively. The regulations also require higher education institutions to take effective steps in order to sensitize students on the dehumanizing effects of ragging and generate awareness among all stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. An anti-ragging toll free "Helpline" has been made operational by UGC with Call Centre facilities in English, Hindi and some regional languages to begin with, for helping victims of ragging besides facilitating effective immediate coordinated action by all concerned. The above steps taken by UGC are likely to considerably curb the menace of ragging. The UGC Regulations however are not applicable to schools which impart education upto 12th standard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Fall in Inflation Rate

*55. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Ministers of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of inflation fell consistently during March-April this year but there was no corresponding reduction in prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The fall in year-on-year inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in March-April 2009 was an extension of the

declining trend which set in from September 2008. The monthly average WPI inflation, which was 4.9 per cent in January 2009, declined to 1.2 - 1.3 per cent in March - April, 0.4 per cent (provisionally) in May and turned negative in June at (-) 1.5 per cent (provisionally), up to June 20, 2009.

The WPI is a weighted average of 435 commodities traded in the wholesale market, classified in three groups of primary articles (wt=22.02%), fuel, power & light (wt=14.23%) and manufactured products (63.75%). The fall in WPI inflation reflected the impact of the deceleration in global prices in items like fuels, metals and oilseeds. The negative inflation in June stemmed from a major decline in the fuel group and a lesser decline in the group of manufactured products, accruing from a high statistical base in the corresponding period in 2008. Despite the fall in overall inflation, inflation in essential commodities continues to remain high, on account of lower agricultural production in some crops, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand.

Details of overall inflation, as also in some major essential commodities are indicated in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: Year-on-year inflation in terms of WPI

WPI inflation: Overall vs. Essential commodities (%)

Commodities	Over all	Rice	Wheat	Coarse cereals	Pulses	Potatoes	Onions	Edible Oils	Tea	Sugar	Salt
Wt.%->	100.0	2.45	1.38	0.57	0.6	0.26	0.09	2.76	0.16	3.62	0.02
07-Mar-09	0.89	16.44	4.46	11.12	10.73	-13.76	90.59	-9.37	25.15	26.78	10.52
14-Mar-09	0.71	17.24	4.58	10.10	10.67	-13.01	51.95	-10.18	23.90	22.85	10.52
21-Mar-09	0.84	17.43	4.89	10.53	10.74	-12.66	73.09	-9.91	20.44	21.00	10.52
28-Mar-09	0.84	14.94	4.53	10.68	9.38	-5.30	59.18	-7.59	29.44	18.39	10.52
04-Apr-09	0.83	14.42	4.54	11.47	9.20	9.20	40.50	-8.46	18.21	24.18	5.71
11-Apr-09	0.96	13.62	4.18	13.96	12.75	13.01	35.42	-6.37	16.98	25.45	17.80
18-Apr-09	1.62	14.99	6.86	15.24	15.97	17.92	30.59	-5.51	16.79	29.30	17.09
25-Apr-09	1.75	15.74	7.39	15.46	16.83	23.40	52.04	-2.85	28.72	32.04	16.97
02-May-09 P	0.48	13.72	6.51	15.01	14.82	19.04	43.37	-2.83	15.65	28.14	12.35
09-May-09 P	0.61	14.58	6.56	16.36	14.87	25.81	41.77	-1.70	30.18	29.89	12.94
16-May-09 P	0.61	14.52	7.46	16.73	14.38	21.89	68.23	-3.48	42.57	29.97	12.94
23-May-09 P	0.48	14.66	7.57	18.27	15.35	20.26	60.01	-5.21	48.44	31.00	8.87
30-May-09 P	0.13	15.62	6.89	17.17	15.09	35.46	54.83	-7.24	47.42	31.27	8.87
06-Jun-09 P	-1.61	16.11	6.94	19.34	16.77	44.77	28.31	-7.62	46.08	32.91	20.08
13-Jun-09 P	-1.14	15.92	6.80	17.64	17.06	45.77	29.83	-9.72	42.34	33.33	20.08
20-Jun-09 P	-1.30	15.24	6.52	15.49	16.52	49.77	29.27	-11.84	34.56	34.59	19.82

P: provisional

Jharsuguda Airport

† *56. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the repeated demand to operationalise the old airport of second World War period located at Jharsuguda in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the facilities to make Jharsuguda a commercially successful airport are available;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken some steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be operationalized?

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

(b) No, Sir. Jharsuguda Airport in Orissa is a Non-operational airport.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal for development and operationalization of Jharsuguda Airport. In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to develop this airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. However, action for further development of this airport will be considered after additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government of Orissa to AAI free of cost & free from all encumbrances.

BPL Households in the country

*57. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT is pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Below Poverty Line(BPL) households as on 1st January, 2008;

(b) how his Ministry had arrived at this figure;

(c) whether there is any proposal for New Survey to prepare correct list of BPL families; and

(d) if so, the details regarding BPL categorization in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) 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 following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The latest estimates of the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line is available for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round of NSS. These estimates are made based on persons and not households. As such, the total number of BPL households as on 1st January 2008 is not available. As per the latest estimate, available for the year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) of the NSSO, 30.17 crore persons (27.5% of the total population) lived below the poverty line.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan to identify the BPL households in the rural areas who could be targeted under its various programmes. Last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For the next BPL Census, an Expert Group to recommend the suitable methodology to identify the BPL families in the rural areas has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development in August, 2008.

Under Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) of Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, house-to-house survey is carried out by the States/Union Territories for the identification of genuine beneficiaries of the scheme among the urban population on the basis of certain economic and non-economic parameters. The States/UTs are requested from time to time to carry out such BPL Survey on the basis of the revised/updated State Specific Poverty Lines released by the Planning Commission.

Environment clearance for infrastructure projects

*58. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Ministry of Finance panel has recommended that infrastructure projects should be subjected to simpler environmental clearance rules;

(b) if so, whether under Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, projects need to get numerous clearances under sections 3,6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(c) if so, whether the panel had suggested that industrial/infrastructure projects should be allowed to bypass these provisions and that EIA Notification should be comprehensive enough to cover all other rules and regulations; and

(d) if so, what are the other suggestions made by the panel and to what extent they have been approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Expert Group constituted in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has recommended that the environment clearance prescribed for industrial / infrastructural projects under the terms of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006 should be made comprehensive enough to cover the requirements of multiple rules formulated under various sections of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(d) The other major simplifications, suggested by the Expert Group, in the existing procedure of environmental clearances, are given in the Statement. A High Power Committee (HPC) has been constituted under the chair of Secretary. Planning Commission to examine the recommendations of the Expert Group on statutory clearances.

Statement

Simplifications suggested in the existing system of environment clearances by the Expert Group

- i. The State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) should be constituted expeditiously for the remaining States (19 out of 28 States and 4 out of 7 UTs have constituted the authorities so far) so that the appraisal process in respect of Category 'B' projects is decentralized and completed at the States' level.
- ii. Standardized Terms of Reference (ToRs) should be evolved for activities which are of repetitive nature.
- iii. It should be endeavored to hold meetings of the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committees [EACs] (in MoEF) and State EACs (in SEIAAs) at regular intervals and at least once every month.
- iv. Certain categories of projects - of simple and repetitive nature - should be exempted from public hearing.
- v. The environment protection guidelines/processes for clearance should be re-drafted/re-engineered in line with the general recommendations of the report: application formats and proformas to be objective and clearly defined; data requirements to be clearly identified; public hearings to be conducted in a transparent manner, with well defined questionnaires for eliciting information from project affected persons (PAPs); the entire process of according clearances - by all major Central and State authorities - to be web enabled; timelines to be defined in respect of all major clearances; and, a 'deemed' system of clearances to be put in place, where the application is taken as approved if no other intimation is provided till the date of expiry of the prescribed timeline.

Research work in Deemed Universities

*59. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

- (a) the basis of recognizing an institution as Deemed University;
- (b) whether they are supposed to conduct research in sunrise areas;
- (c) if so, the method of assessing the research work conducted in these universities in such sunrise disciplines;
- (d) whether the University Grants Commission ascertains the academic and research infrastructure and financial position required to undertake such research, before granting them the Deemed University status;

(e) whether there is any provision of peer review of the academic performance of these institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government declares, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, by notification in the Official Gazette, institutions which for historical reasons or for any other circumstances are not universities and yet are doing work of a high standard in specialized academic field comparable to a university and that granting of the status of a university would enable them to further contribute to the cause of higher education. The applicant institutions should generally be engaged in teaching programmes and research in chosen fields of specialization which are innovative and of very high academic standards at the Master's (or equivalent) and /or research levels. Institutions that are in the emerging areas with the promise of excellence could also be declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' under the *de novo* category.

(c) to (f) According to the University Grants Commission, the performance of such institutions, including research work done by them, is assessed by the Commission, with the help of Expert Committees constituted by it. Members of the Expert Committees are chosen from relevant disciplines, and the Committees make 'on the spot assessments' of the applicant institutions and give their report on the basis of various parameters, including academic and research infrastructure and financial position of the institutions.

Teaching of Urdu in Schools

*60. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether convents and private schools force Muslim students to study Sanskrit;

(b) the status of implementation of Urdu as optional subject therein; and

(c) the status of availability of Urdu books/ Urdu teachers in Government- run schools and details of selection procedure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No such complaint has been received by either Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) in respect of schools affiliated to them.

(b) Both CBSE and CISCE offer Urdu language as a subject at secondary and senior secondary levels.

(c) National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has developed first language Urdu textbooks for classes I to XII based on National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005. In addition, NCERT has also published Urdu version of the text-books of other subjects for different

classes. It is for the respective State Govts. and concerned organizations to determine the selection procedure of Urdu teachers in their schools, and to ensure the availability of Urdu teachers and Urdu text-books.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

272. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal for upgradation and modernization of Raipur and Ranchi Airports;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the amount earmarked for the modernization of these airports;
- (d) whether Government has plans to commence international flights from these airports; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) At Raipur Airport, construction of new integrated terminal building complex including two aerobridges to cater to 700 passengers (300 international + 400 domestic) at a time, has been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 135.72 crores and the expected date of completion is December, 2009.

At Ranchi Airport, the work of construction of a new integrated terminal building for 700 passengers (500 domestic & 200 international) with modern amenities and two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 137.79 crores has been taken up and the expected date of completion is March, 2010.

(d) and (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided all facilities required for operation of international flights at new Integrated Terminal Building under construction at Raipur and Ranchi airports. However, at present, there is no request from any Foreign Carrier/Airline for operation through Ranchi and Raipur airports. With regard to Indian carriers, they are free to start international operations from any point in India to the agreed international destinations as per bilateral arrangements.

Madurai Airport

273. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether integrated terminal is being built at Madurai Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the terminal would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) with modern passenger facilities like

Passenger Boarding Bridges, Conveyors, Escalators and Elevators is under construction at Madurai Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 128.76 crores. NITB can handle 500 passengers at a time. The entire project is expected to be completed by December, 2009.

Services outsourced by Indian Airlines and Air India

274. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various airport services which are outsourced by the Indian Airlines and Air India at Airports;

(b) the details of facilities provided to the Members of Parliament, in particular and senior citizens, in general; and

(c) how the ratio of reservation is maintained for various Group A,B,C,D employees of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The services outsourced by erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India at various airports are (i) arrangement of transport facility for staff; (ii) maintenance and operation of ground support equipments, Power Plants, Air Conditioning Systems etc.; (iii) Tarmac transportation (iv) various functions at arrival/departure, make up/break up, passenger check in & baggage handling; (v) customer agents and handymen for passenger facilitation of Air India & all customer airlines flights; (vi) security services; and (vii) cabin cleaning, toilet and water services.

(b) The facilities provided to the Members of Parliament include (i) Duty Manager/Senior Official facilitates Hon'ble MPs in completion of all the formalities at airport including check-in-immigration, security etc.; (ii) Choice of seats are provided to Hon'ble MPs, subject to availability, (iii) City check-in facility is provided to Members of Parliament in the Parliament House Booking Office for 1C coded flights; (iv) Wherever Air India has its exclusive lounges, Members of Parliament are offered the facility of use of lounges; and (v) In case of flight delays, Members are informed telephonically about the extent of delay and the revised departure time.

As regards facilities to senior citizens, Air India offers 50% discount on the normal Economy class fare to Indian nationals residing in India for journeys undertaken on domestic sectors on its domestic network. Senior citizen discount is available from the age of 65 years in case of males and 63 years in case of females. All possible assistance/facilitation including provision of wheel chair etc. are provided to make the journey of Senior Citizens comfortable.

(c) The ratio of reservation for the employees of group B, C and D is maintained by the Administrative Division of Ministry of Civil Aviation as per the instructions issued by Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT) from time to time. For group A, the reservation aspect is looked after by the DOPT directly.

Ground Handling Policy in Six Metro Airports

275. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to implement any new airport ground handling policy in six metro airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that this new policy is opposed by airline companies since it would force them to retrench staff in thousands and jack up their operation costs; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the security requirements and balancing them with the requirement of providing ground handling services of international standards in a competitive environment, Government had decided to implement a new ground handling policy at airports.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Airline operators had expressed their concerns about the new Ground Handling policy. The matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after undertaking a comprehensive review and with inter-ministerial consultations in a time bound manner.

FDI in Aviation Sector

276. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to permit foreign airlines to invest upto 25 per cent in domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons for increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation sector when the 'Vision 2020' document is not yet finalized;

(c) whether it is a fact that after 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, bringing FDI in domestic carriers would be a security threat or risk;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons for bringing such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

Upgradation of Non-metro Airports

277. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current economic slowdown has forced Airport Authority of India (AAI) to put aside ambitions to upgrade 35 non-metro airports for which work was to start in the last financial year;

(b) if so, what was the exact amount of non-payment of dues by domestic and foreign airlines to AAI which lead to defer its non-metro upgradation plans; and

(c) how much amount the modernization exercise of all the 35 airports, is estimated to cost indicating the details of non-metro airports AAI has been targeting to upgrade by the end of financial year 2009-10?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated amount for upgradation of 35 non-metro airports is Rs.2911.57 crores. Development works completed at various non-metro airports are as follows: Vizag (Andhra Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 94.94 crores; Aurangabad (Maharashtra)- construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 99.60 crores; Nagpur (Maharashtra)- expansion and modification of terminal building for international operations at a cost of Rs. 79.03 crores; Jaipur (Rajasthan)- construction of new international terminal complex at a cost of Rs. 94.87 crores; Udaipur (Rajasthan)-construction of new terminal building complex at a cost of Rs. 77.44 crores; Trichy (Tamil Nadu)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 74.70 crores and Dehradun (Uttarakhand)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 72.50 crores.

Development works scheduled to be completed in Financial Year 2009-10 at various non-metro airports are as under:

Raipur (Chhattisgarh)- construction of new terminal building with a cost of Rs. 135.72 crores; Ahmedabad (Gujarat)- construction of new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 291 crores; Ranchi (Jharkhand)- construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 137.79 crores; Mangalore (Karnataka)- construction of new terminal building including apron at a cost of Rs. 145 crores; Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 135.04 crores; Indore (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 135.6 crores; Pune (Maharashtra)-extension and modification of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 96.30 crores; Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)- expansion of existing terminal building at a cost of Rs. 145 crores; Madurai (Tamil Nadu)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 128 crores; Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)- construction of new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 129.40 crores; Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)- construction of new international terminal building including aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 94.11 crores; Chandigarh (Union Territory)-construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 47.58 crores; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)- construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 75.32 crores.

New facilities at Metro Airports

†278.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that several new facilities have been provided at some of the metro airports last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these facilities were dedicated to the public within the prescribed schedule of time;

(c) the amount spent on the publicity and accommodation for the VIPs who participated in these programmes; and

(d) the ratio of this expenditure as compared to the expenses incurred on the renovation of services in the aviation sector?

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

(c) No public expenditure was incurred for dedicating these facilities.

(d) Does not arise.

Airports managed by AAI

279. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at present;

(b) the number of airports which are operational;

(c) the number of airports which earned profit and made losses during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the performance of loss making airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 125 airports in the country including Civil Enclaves at Defence Airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) 86 airports are operational.

(c) Out of 125 airports & civil enclaves managed by AAI, the number of profit making airports during last three years are 13 (2005-06), 14 (2006-07) and 15 (2007-08).

(d) The airports are being upgraded to accommodate large type of aircrafts and airlines are requested to make use the additional facilities provided. This will improve the realization of more revenue to AAI. AAI is also making efforts to increase the non-traffic revenues at airports by better exploitation of the commercial opportunities.

Charging of development fee by DIAL

280. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) has levied passengers with the development fee on both domestic and international routes;

(b) if so, the reasons for charging this fee from the passengers for services that are not available;

(c) whether Government would intervene and withdraw charging the passengers by DIAL; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Due to reduced expectation from refundable security deposits as a means of finance, development fee (DF) on *ad-hoc* basis for 36 months has been levied to bridge the funding gap.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The completion of modernisation of IGI Airport, New Delhi, in a time bound manner, is of paramount importance specially in view of the Commonwealth Games 2010.

Demand of equity infusion by NACIL for expansion programme

281. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states:

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Ltd. (NACIL) has demanded equity infusion of Rs.1231 crores to help its expansion programme and Rs.2750 crores in the form of a soft loan on easy terms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country's flag carrier had registered a loss of over 4000 crores in 2008-09; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aviation Company of India Limited submitted a proposal in October, 2008 for equity infusion of Rs.1,231 crores and provision of soft loan of Rs.2,750 crores, with an interest of approximately 5%, payable over 15 years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per provisional estimates, NACIL is expected to register a loss of approximately Rs.5000 crores in 2008-09 largely due to high operating expenses, which have been compounded due to the present economic recession resulting in a drop of passengers, as also the high oil prices last year alongwith the servicing of debt on account of acquisition programme. NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity infusion and provision of soft loans.

National Civil Aviation Policy

282. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether much awaited National Civil Aviation Policy is expected to be put on fast track;

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

(c) what are the problems with which the sector is besieged, as per the memorandum submitted by aviation industry experts;

(d) whether a regulatory authority on the lines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) would also be considered by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Most of the issues which are *inter-alia* as under set forth in the proposed National Civil Aviation Policy have already been implemented:

- (i) Revised FDI Policy for airports has been put in place *vide* which 100% FDI, through automatic route, has been permitted in Greenfield airports.
- (ii) FDI requirements for air transport side of civil aviation have been revised and separate limits have been prescribed in respect of different sectors such as cargo, airlines, non-scheduled operators, MRO etc.
- (iii) Greenfield Airport Policy has been announced, which lays down policy guidelines for establishment of new airports.
- (iv) Relaxed procedure for establishment of private airports for private use has been announced.
- (v) The statute for establishment of economic regulator for the airports *viz.*, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has been passed by the Parliament and notified on 05.12.2008.
- (vi) Private domestic airlines have been permitted to fly on overseas routes subject to specified guidelines. Further, bilateral arrangements with other countries have been gradually liberalized. These initiatives have enabled considerably better international connectivity.
- (vii) Air India and Indian Airlines have been merged to create a strong and efficient national carrier.
- (viii) A new Flying Training Institute has been established at Gondia, Maharashtra. Further, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi has been restructured. These measures would help in putting in place better training infrastructure for technical manpower in the aviation sector.

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

(c) The major problems which the sector is besieged with are the decline in passenger, price of ATF and its impact on the operating cost of airlines, resulting into huge losses.

(d) and (e) (i) The statute for establishment of economic regulator for the airports *viz.*, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has been passed by the Parliament and notified on 05.12.2008. (ii) As per policy, Government does not interfere in commercial matter of private airlines. However, there are sufficient number of rules/regulations and legislations to regulate the aviation industry in general and airlines sector in particular.

Resumption of services at Kadappa and Warangal Airports

283. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government had requested the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for resumption of services at Kadappa and Warangal airports and also to undertake site selection for locating Greenfield airports at Ramagundam in Karim Nagar Distt., Kothagundam in Khammam Distt., Tadepalligudam, Nizamabad, Ongole, Kurnool, Nellore and Adilabad;

(b) if so, the status of above said request; and

(c) by when these requests are likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) for the development of Kaddappa and Warangal Airports for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft.

On the request of GoAP, AAI has carried out the feasibility study of the proposed sites for the development of 8 Regional Airports by GoAP at Nellore (Nellore District), Ongole (Prakasam District), Ramagundam (Karimnagar District), Kothagudem (Khamam District), Kurnool (Kurnool District), Tadepalligudem (West Godavari District-existing World War-11 air strip), Nizamabad (Nizamabad District) and Bobbili (Vizianagaram District). Report has been submitted to GoAP for taking further necessary action.

AAI has undertaken the construction of new Runway, Apron, link Taxi Track, and allied works for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft at Kadappa Airport. The target date for completion of this work is August, 2009. Action for construction of New Modular Terminal Building for handling 100 passengers at a time, has been initiated.

AAI has requested Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for acquiring and handing over 438 acres of land for taking up the development works at Warangal Airport.

Modernization of Chandigarh Airport

284. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to modernize the Chandigarh airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering the introduction of international flights to London and Canada from that airport; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) At Chandigarh airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken construction of new integrated terminal building to cater for 400 passengers at a time which is likely to be completed by September, 2009.

In addition, AAI has planned for provision of aerobridge and realignment of apron, widening of approach road (subject to availability of land from Array). There is also a proposal to build an International Civil Air Terminal, for which Government of Punjab has provided the land, the cost of which is being shared equally between Government of Punjab and Government of Haryana.

(c) and (d) The designated airlines of U.K. are entitled to commence operation to/ from any point of call in India including Chandigarh as per their commercial judgment. Chandigarh is not available as a point of call for designated airlines of Canada. However, Indian Carriers are free to mount operations from Chandigarh to U.K. and Canada as per their commercial judgment.

Revival of National Birds Control Committee

285. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of increasing bird menace at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) Government has decided to revive the National Birds Control Committee;

(b) if so, the number of bird-hit-mishaps occurred at IGIA and other airports during the year 2008;

(c) whether the Central Government has asked all the State Governments to adopt responsive strategies to deal with birds around airports; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments and the steps taken to prepare a roadmap to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a)
Yes, Sir. A high power National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation and having representatives from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Director General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, Airline and Airport operators, Ornithologists etc. to effectively coordinate various measures for preventing bird hit incidents.

(b) There were 67 bird hit incidents reported at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and 237 bird hit incidents reported from other airports during the year 2008.

(c) and (d) Airfield Environment Management Committees (AEMC) have been constituted at those airports where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. AEMCs are headed by the Senior officers of the State Government. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water

logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Customer services of Air India

286. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that customer services of Air India has deteriorated;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that most of the Government Organisations being served by Air India are also not satisfied with the services provided by Air India;
- (c) if so, whether Government would examine the whole matter in a holistic manner; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The customer services provided by Air India are comparable in the Airline Industry, besides, Air India services have been continuously monitored, reviewed and upgraded to provide satisfaction to its customers.

(b) None of the Government Organizations being served by Air India have expressed dissatisfaction on the services provided by the Company.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sleeping of pilots during flights

†287. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that pilots have been found sleeping many times during domestic and international flights;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against guilty cockpit crew members; and
- (c) the details of effective steps that would be taken by Government for the protection of life and property of air passenger keeping in view the Director General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) affirmation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No such cases have been reported to the Government in the recent past.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prescribed flight time, flight duty time and rest requirements for the aircrew to avoid such situations. DGCA has also reiterated these

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

requirements in their Air Safety Circular No. 2 of 2009 and prescribed further measures for management of crew fatigue during flights.

Status of air connectivity in Rajasthan

288. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of air connectivity, air services and airports in Rajasthan;
- (b) the plans to strengthen and upgrade these services in near future, if any;
- (c) the status of the construction and development of civil airports;
- (d) the cases where the projects are behind schedule and the extent thereof;
- (e) the steps proposed to speed up the operations; and
- (f) whether any new projects are proposed to be taken up in the State in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, scheduled domestic air service operations are available to/from Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur in the State of Rajasthan. International operations are available to/from Jaipur. The details of air connectivity in the State of Rajasthan are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In the State of Rajasthan, the following civil airports are operational:

- i) Jaipur International Airport;
- ii) Udaipur Airport;
- iii) Scheduled flights also operate to Jaisalmer and Jodhpur airports (in winters only)
- (c) Details are as per the Statement-II (*See below*).
- (d) Details are as per the Statement-III (*See below*).
- (e) Regular review and monitoring of projects at Regional and Headquarters level are done to expedite early completion of projects.
- (f) Details are as per the Statement-IV (*See below*).

Statement-I

Domestic Connectivity

NACIL (1)	Mumbai- Jaipur-Mumbai	07 flts/week
	Mumbai-Udaipur-Jodhpur-Delhi & VV	04 flts/week
	Kolkata-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Kolkata	02 flts/week
	Kolkata-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Kolkata	02 flts/week
Alliance Air	Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur & VV	06 flts/week

Jet Airways	Mumbai-Jaipur-Mumbai	14 flts/week
	Mumbai-Udaipur-Jaipur-Delhi & VV	07 flts/week
	Delhi-Udaipur-Delhi	13 flts/week
	Mumbai-Udaipur-Mumbai	06 flts/week
	Mumbai-Jodhpur-Mumbai	07 flts/week
Kingfisher Airlines	Mumbai-Udaipur-Mumbai	07 flts/week
	Delhi-Jaipur-Delhi	21 flts/week
	Delhi-Udaipur-Jodhpur & VV	07 flts/week
	Bangalore-Mumbai-Jaipur & VV	07 flts/week
	Kolkata-Raipur-Indore-Jaipur & VV	03 flts/week
Go Air	Mumbai-Jaipur-Mumbai	07 flts/week
	Delhi-Jaipur-Delhi	07 flts/week
IndiGo	Jaipur-Hyderabad-Bangalore & VV	07 flts/week
	Jaipur-Kolkata-Guwahati & VV	07 flts/week
	Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai & VV	07 flts/week
	Jaipur-Mumbai-Jaipur	07 flts/week
Spice Jet	Chennai-Hyderabad-Jaipur & VV	07 flts/week
	Goa-Ahmedabad-Jaipur & VV	07 flts/week
	Kolkata-Jaipur-Kolkata	07 flts/week
	Bangalore-Mumbai-Jaipur & VV	07 flts/week
International Connectivity		
NACIL (I)	Jaipur-Delhi-Dubai & VV	07 flts/week
Air India Express	Delhi-Jaipur-Dubai-Amritsar & VV	03 flts/week
Air Arabia	Jaipur to/from Sharjah	—
Oman Air	** Jaipur to/from Oman	

** Jaipur is available as point of call to 13 foreign countries (UAE (Sharjah), UAE (Abu Dhabi), Oman, Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan). Actual operations is guided by commercial judgement.

Statement-II

Details of development projects of airports

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Sanctioned Amount	Probable date of completion	Present progress (31.5.2009)
Udaipur Airport				
1.	Construction of new terminal building complex	77.44	Apr-08	100%
2.	Extension and strengthening of runway and allied works	44.31	May-09	100%
3.	Extension of Apron, link taxiway	14.55	Feb-08	Phase-1 completed
4.	Construction of Control Tower & Technical Block	9.38	Oct-09	55%
5.	Construction of Fire Station and Emergency Medical Centre	3.29	May-09	100%
6.	Rain Water Harvesting (Grading of area)	1.15	Sep-09	32%
7.	Construction of Administrative Block	4.64	Sep-09	67%
Jaipur International Airport				
1	Construction of new international terminal complex	94.87	Apr-09	100%
2	Construction of new apron and taxiway	30.32	Jun-09	New apron has been operationalised. Minor work in progress.
3	Construction of modern E & M workshop and MT Pool	1.99	Sep-09	50%
4	Rain water harvesting in operational area, TB residential area etc.	1.05	Jun-09	95%
Jodhpur — Civil Enclave				
1	Expansion of apron and strengthening of existing taxi.	11.00	Jan-07	Work completed
Jaisalmer — Civil Enclave				
1	Construction of terminal building, apron and taxi and other associated works.	81.00	Dec-10	Work in progress

Statement-III

Details of projects running behind schedule

Sl. No.	Name of work	A/A & E/S Amount	Date of Completion/ PDC	Phy. Prog. as on date 31.05.09	Remarks
Rajasthan					
Udaipur					
1.	Construction of control tower & technical block	9.38	Oct-09	55%	5 — months delay due to change in location of site necessitating fresh geo-tech-nical study and revision of structural design thereon in view of CAR policy of DGCA.
2.	Construction of Admn. Block (operational offices).	4.64	Sep-09	67%	6 months delay due to construction taken up in-phases as complete site was not available.
Jaipur					
1.	Construction of new apron and taxiway	30.32	Jun-09	New apron has been operationalized. Minor work in progress	2 months delay due to slow mobilization,
	hinderances due to non				supply of construction material specially aggregate due to prolonged agitations on accounts of Guijar agitation.

Statement-IV

New projects proposed to be taken up in the State in the near future:

- (i) Kishangarh - A MoU has been signed between AAI and State Govt. for taking over the airstrip and developing into a full-fledged airport for operation of AIR type of aircraft.
- (ii) Bikaner - Additional land requirement projected to the State Govt. for development of Civil Enclave.
- (iii) Paladi - M/s. Rajasthan Aerosports Club Pvt. Ltd. have been accorded in principle approval for construction of a airport under private / public category.

Remuneration to travel agents by foreign airlines

289. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently issued letter to foreign airlines asking them to explain reasons for not giving commission or remuneration to travel agents;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to discontinuation of commission to agents by foreign airlines, the travel agents have boycotted booking of tickets; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue between foreign airlines and travel agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with certain foreign airlines regarding the issue of reduction of agency commission by some foreign airlines to zero percent with a view to ascertain whether its adoption in India is compatible with the IATA Resolution on the subject and whether it is appropriate in the Indian context to ask travel agents to charge transaction fees from customers instead of receiving commissions from the airlines.

(c) and (d) This is a matter that the Associations of travel agents negotiate with the concerned airlines. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation will try to facilitate early resolution of this dispute.

Financial Crisis of Air India

290. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India is running into financial crisis and has recently announced that salaries to its employees would be given after 15 days of the due date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a step of the Air India has exposed the credibility of the airlines which is running into losses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure payment of salaries to its employees in time and also to take corrective steps to bring the Air India out of red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to liquidity crunch, Air India has deferred the salary payable in the month of June, 2009 to all its employees which will be paid by 15th July, 2009.

(c) No, Sir. Deferment of salary in Air India is only for the month of June, 2009. In view of worldwide economic slowdown, almost all airlines globally have resorted to cost cutting measures that include cuts in pay and cutback in employees to tackle the financial situation.

(d) The deferment of salary for the month of June, 2009 for 15 days is only a temporary measure in view of the present liquidity crunch in the airline. NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity infusion and provision of soft loans.

Safety measures for Civil Aviation

291. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cabinet Secretary presided over a meeting of Committee on Security and anti-hijacking at civil airports to analyse aviation security scenario in the country following an incident of emergency landing of an Indigo aircraft at Delhi Airport on 1 February and hijacking scare;

(b) if so, whether Government has also instructed authorities concerned to act swiftly to make our skies safer;

(c) if so, whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also finalized reports on airports; and

{d} if so, what are concrete measures the Union and State Governments has taken for safety of civil aviation and also checking up of hijacking of airways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Cabinet Secretary presided over meetings with representatives of various organisations/committees involved in aviation security following the incident of emergency landing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To insure Security the following additional measures have been initiated:-

(i) Check Posts put by ASG/APSU at the approach road to airports for random checking of vehicles/persons/articles; (ii) All unattended articles to be reported and checked for IED etc; (iii) Enhanced surveillance/watch on land side and airside areas of airports; (iv) Perimeter Patrolling and

guarding of funnel area during operational hours; (v) Reinforcement of all access control points; (vi) QRTs/ Striking Reserve at airports strengthened; (vii) Secondary Security Checks at ladder point of aircrafts being carried out and; (viii) A thorough and complete screening of both the hold baggage and hand baggage are being carried out.

Nominal Security at small airports

292. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is nominal security at smaller airports from where flights are also undertaken towards the metropolitan airports;

(b) if so, whether this lackadaisical approach could endanger flights being commandeered by subversives and insurgent elements like suicide bombers; and

(c) whether the Central Government in co-ordination with State law-enforcing agencies, has developed any foolproof security system to guard against such eventualities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Equal standards of security for all airports has been laid down in the country. Aviation Security Group of Central Industrial Security Force provides security cover to 57 airports (including major metropolitan airports) in India, as per guidelines issued by this Ministry. The basic security scheme is the same for all airports irrespective of their size.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Emergency arrangements at airports

293. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing arrangements at all airports in case of emergency;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to multiple-tier system, the authorities are encountered with various problems, particularly during emergencies at airports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is formulating new measures to deal with airports emergencies at all the international airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Commensurate with the requirements of aircraft being operated at Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports, appropriate level of fire and safety services and security set up is maintained at all airports in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)/ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/ Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) requirements to deal with various types of

emergencies like hijacking, bomb threat, crash accident, disabled aircraft removal, building fire and aircraft fire, non scheduled suspicious aircraft, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Aircraft emergencies are dealt as per the prevailing international norms stipulated by ICAO/DGCA/BCAS.

Dues of Airlines

294. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kingfisher Airlines owes Rs. 785 crores to various public sector oil companies and to Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details of Kingfisher and other Airlines owe to oil companies and AAI as on 31 March, 2009;

(c) what are the penal provisions to be imposed in case an airline fails to pay its dues to Government or PSUs which are under control of Government; and

(d) what action his Ministry has taken against the above defaulting airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Kingfisher Airlines owes Rs. 181.43 crores to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Rs. 807.50 crore to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as on 31st March, 2009.

(b) The details of dues owed by airlines to Airports Authority of India as on 31.03.2009 are: Go Air - Rs. 818.20 lakhs, IndiGo - Rs. 517.07 lakhs, Jet Airways - Rs. 2208.84 lakhs, Jet Lite - Rs. 141.07 lakhs, Kingfisher - Rs. 18143.11 lakhs, Paramount Airways - Rs. 1222.63 lakhs, SpiceJet - Rs. 1385.70 lakhs & NACIL - Rs. 59925.58 lakhs.

The details of dues owed by airlines to OMCs as on 31.03.2009 are: NACIL - Rs. 542.07 crore, Jet Airways - Rs. 688.97 crore and Kingfisher Airlines - Rs. 807.50 crores.

(c) and (d) In case of default in payment of dues by Airlines, OMCs take action for recovery of dues in line with the mutually agreed commercial terms between the airlines and OMCs. The defaulting Airlines are also put on 'Cash & Carry' and interest is recovered on all overdue payments.

In case of failure of airlines to pay the dues to AAI, the AAI levies interest for the over-due period on the defaulting airlines. The security deposit furnished in form of Bank Guarantee/FDs is en-cashed wherever necessary. Security Deposit in respect of defaulting airlines is suitably increased based on their operations/dues. If necessary, airlines operations are put on Cash & Carry basis.

However to resolve the issue of outstanding dues, an arrangement had been worked out between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Civil Aviation in a meeting held on 22nd

October 2008 for clearing the outstanding dues of airlines with the oil companies. The arrangements for providing Airlines some times to pay their dues was upto 31st March 2009. As such, OMCs were allowed to get into individual commercial agreement with the airlines after 31st March 2009. The matter of dues were taken up by the Ministry of Civil Aviation with the airlines and they were advised to have discussion/negotiation with OMCs and resolve outstanding issues to the satisfaction of both the parties. They were also advised to clear their outstanding dues promptly.

Financial Package for Air India

295. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has sought financial package and soft loan from Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken regarding bail out package to Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India had sent a proposal in October, 2008 for an Equity capital of Rs.1231 crores and provision of soft loan of Rs.2750 crores.

(c) National Aviation Company of India Limited has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity induction and provision of loans, before the Government can take a final decision.

Stake in domestic carriers by foreign airlines

296. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has requested Government of India for allowing foreign airlines to acquire 49 per cent stake in domestic carriers;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Air India has asked for infusion of funds to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crores for its bailout or allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Air India; and
- (d) if so, why the Ministry hanging on both the options?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No. However, the proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

(c) and (d) National Aviation Company of India Ltd. has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for induction of equity and loans.

Credit-deposit ratio of nationalized banks in Orissa

297. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many nationalized banks including the State Bank of India are not maintaining the credit and deposit ratio and specially in backward States like Orissa the State Bank of India, Andhra Bank and UCO Bank credit is much more less than the deposit credit ratio; and

(b) if so, the details of the credit and deposit of State Bank of India, Andhra Bank and UCO Bank in Orissa from 2007 to 2009, year-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Credit Deposit Ratio of banks vary from State to State for various reasons including the availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, credit absorption capacity of the region, development of medium and large industries, conducive atmosphere for investment, entrepreneurial initiatives, law and order situation, etc.

(b) The details of CD Ratio of State Bank of India(SBI), Andhra Bank and UCO Bank in Orissa for the last three years, as compared with the average CD Ratio of all PSBs is given below:-

Bank	CD Ratio in Orissa		
	Mar-07	Mar-08	Mar-09
SBI	75.3	66.0	54.4
Andhra Bank	26.4	25.6	27.2
UCO Bank	77.2	70.8	63.6
Average of PSBs	65.2	58.5	52.5

It can be seen from above that the CD Ratio of both SBI & UCO Bank in Orissa is much higher than the average CD Ratio of all PSBs in Orissa.

Disinvestment Plan

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to sell 49 per cent stake in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in disinvestment plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for disinvestment in each PSU-wise; and

(d) how Government is going to spend the amount received from such disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As announced in the President's Address to Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June 2009, the

policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% equity and retaining management control with the Government. The cases of disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis.

- (d) The proceeds would be channelised into the National Investment Fund.

Pensionary Benefits

299. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to consider granting of 20 per cent basic pension to its present living pensioners who have attained the age of 75 years or above because of ill-health and other financial problems being faced by them; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to make any budgetary allocation this year to announce additional quantum of pensionary benefits to its living pensioners who have attained the age of 75 years instead of asking them to wait upto 80 years of age as recommended by the Sixth Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Service conditions in banks

300. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pay, allowances, pension and other social security benefits are different in all Nationalized Banks, State Bank of India and all Gramin Banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor when all of them belonged to Government-control banks and the officers' and employees' are doing the same work;

(c) whether State Bank of India, Nationalized Banks, Gramin Banks, General Insurance, Life Insurance Officers' and employees' organizations have given strike calls; and

- (d) if so, what are the steps Government proposes to avoid the strike calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Pay and allowances, pension and other social security benefits are by and large the same in the Nationalized Banks, State Bank of India and the Regional Rural Banks. There are variations in the pension scheme available in State Bank of India and the Nationalized Banks. Regional Rural Bank employees do not have pension facility. Special Pay positions for the Award Staff is different in the State Bank of India compared to the Nationalized Banks. Gratuity Rules in State Bank of India and Nationalized Banks are also different.

(b) State Bank of India historically had different service conditions compared to other banks. When salary structure of other banks got rationalized in 1st Bi-partite Settlement of 19.10.1966, the State Bank of India was not a party to the said settlement. Therefore, some differences remained in the service conditions of Nationalized Banks with that of State Bank of India. Subsequently, the service conditions of Nationalized Banks were extended to employees of Regional Rural Banks in the year 1991. However, pension scheme is not extended to them.

(c) As of today, no strike call is pending in the Banking Industry except the notice given by the six constituents of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an apex body of Employee Unions of Public Sector Bank dated 22nd June, 2009 for a day's strike on 6th July, 2009 against the proposed merger of State Bank of Indore with State Bank of India.

(d) Wage Negotiations are under way between United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Issues such as Compassionate Appointment, another option for pension etc. are also being discussed between IBA and UFBU.

Unlawful financial business

301. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalites in Bihar and adjoining States have set up banks capitalizing on money from robberies, kidnapping etc. and loaned out the same at lower rates of interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop this unlawful and unregulated financial business?

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

Inflation and rise in retail price

302. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail prices of sugar, tea, pulses, cereals etc. have gone up steeply during the last few months when the wholesale price index-based inflation was going down nearing zero level;

(b) if so, the comparative retail prices of main agricultural/food products since January 2009 and wholesale price index month-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons for variation in the prices during these months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The year-on-year monthly inflation rates measured by WPI are given in table 1. Retail prices of essential commodities for Delhi centre, monitored by Department of Consumer Affairs is indicated in table 2 below:

TABLE 1 : Monthly WPI inflation in 2008-09

Year	WPI All	Food index	Cereals	Pulses	Edible Oils	Sugar	Tea
Jan-09	4.9	9.5	10.9	13.6	-0.2	16.9	43.2
Feb-09	3.5	9.1	12.7	16.8	-4.3	24.0	29.8
Mar-09	1.2	7.5	11.7	10.8	-10.0	21.4	25.3
Apr-09	1.3	9.0	11.6	13.7	-5.8	27.7	20.3
May-09	0.4	9.0	12.4	14.9	-4.1	30.0	36.8
Jun-09	-1.5	8.6	12.9	16.5	-10.3	33.8	39.9

NOTE: Inflation of May is provisional and for June average of 3 weeks.

TABLE 2: Daily Retail Prices of Essential Commodities of Delhi (Rs./Kg.)

	Current Date	1 Month Back	3 Months Back	6 Months Back	1 Year Back	% Increase 29-9-09/
Commodity	29-6-09	29-5-09	29-3-09	29-12-08	29-6-08	29-6-08
Rice	20	20	22	22	20	0.0
Wheat	13	14	13.5	13	13	0.0
Gram	34	34	33	35	34.5	-1.4
Tur/Arhar	66	61	52	50	43	53.5
Sugar	27	27	24	21	17	58.8
Groundnut	105	109	101	111	122	-13.9
Mustard Oil	66	70	62	77	83	-20.5
Tea (Loose)	144	146	138	143	121	19.0
Urad Dal	52	56	45	45	38	36.8
Moong Dal	56	57	46	45	38	47.4
Masur Dal	56	58	51	61	48	16.7

The fall in year-on-year inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was an extension of the declining trend which set in from September 2008 and turned negative in June, 2009. The negative inflation stemmed from a major decline in the fuel group and a lesser decline in the group of

manufactured products, accruing from a high statistical base in the corresponding period in 2008. Despite the fall in overall inflation, inflation in essential commodities continues to remain high, on account of lower agricultural production in some crops, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand.

Housing loan interest rate

303. SHRIMATI T. RATNABAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give loans at the rate of 6.5 per cent for the housing sector to boost its image;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the present status of loans for the housing sector for loan amount of rupees 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 lakhs in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh where the people of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe are demanding to give loans at low level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal of the Government to give loans at the rate of 6.5% for the housing sector at present. Rates of interest above Rs.2 lakh are deregulated and are determined by the banks themselves.

(d) Data on loans for the housing sector in the manner desired is not being maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, keeping in mind the interests of the common man, an incentive package was announced for the housing sector on 16.12.2008 by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) under which the public sector banks are providing new housing loans up to Rs.5 lakhs at a rate of interest which is not to exceed 8.5% p.a. for the first five years. For housing loans from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs, the rate of interest is not to exceed 9.25% per annum for the first five years. As a further incentive, there are no processing charges, no pre-payment charges/penalty and a free insurance cover is to be provided to the borrower for the entire amount of outstanding loan.

Agriculture Credit

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks achieved the envisaged agriculture credit target of Rs. 250000 crores during the fiscal 2008-2009;

(b) if so, what are the projected targets of agriculture credit for 2009-2010;

(c) whether the repayments schedules are maintained;

(d) if not, what is the percentage of non-payments by farmers; and

(e) whether the percentage of repayments for agriculture credit and industrial credit is same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As against the agriculture lending target of Rs. 1,95,000 crore set for the year 2008-09, the domestic commercial banks, including Public Sector banks, have lent Rs. 2,23,668 crore to the agriculture sector.

(b) The Government has enhanced the target of agricultural credit flow to Rs. 3,25,000 crore, by all banks, for the year 2009-10.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Monopolistic capitalism in industrial sectors

†305.SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister on more than one occasion has accepted that due to provision of special facilities in certain industrial areas monopolistic capitalism is emerging;

(b) whether this has resulted in increase in regional economic inequality and economic imbalance;

(c) whether as a result of increasing tendency of globalization India's basic small and medium industry is contracting;

(d) whether as a result of efforts made with reference to global recession this trend has increased further; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In a speech made in the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, in May 2007, the Hon'ble Prime Minister drew attention to a comment in the media that most of the billionaires among India's top business leaders operate in oligopolistic markets, and in sectors where the government has conferred special privileges on a few. He also stressed the need to find credible policy solutions to help reduce regional imbalances in industrial development.

(c) to (e) In the wake of global financial crisis, representations have been received from micro and small enterprises (MSEs) associations highlighting problems with regard to credit squeeze, high rates of interest, reduction in orders and delayed payment by big enterprises. Keeping in view the impact of global recession on MSMEs, the Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Public Sector Banks have taken several measures for providing a stimulus to the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) an advisory to central Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (v) refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the MSE sector; (vi) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vii) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and for SMEs by 0.5 per cent.

Guidelines to Public Sector Banks on bad assets

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

(a) whether Government has recently issued guidelines to Public Sector Banks on bad assets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in the meeting of Chief Executives of the public sector banks (PSBs) and public financial institutions with the Finance Minister on 10.06.2009, a need was emphasised to closely monitor the restructured accounts to check the growth of potential non-performing assets. The PSBs were also advised to further enhance their provisioning coverage to maintain the strength of the Indian public sector banking system.

Proposal to increase income tax ceiling

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

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the ceiling on Income tax exemption for all categories of tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) *Vide* the Finance (No.2) Bill, 2009, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 6th July, 2009, following changes have been proposed in the income-tax rate structure for the Assessment year 2010-11;

(i) In the case of every individual, Hindu undivided family, Association of Persons or Body of Individuals (whether incorporated or not) or Artificial Juridical Persons, the basic exemption, is proposed to be increased from Rs. 1,50,000/- to Rs. 1,60,000/-.

(ii) In the case of a woman resident in India who is below the age of 65 years, the basic exemption is proposed to be increased from Rs. 1,80,000/- to Rs. 1,90,000/-.

- (iii) In the case of a senior citizen resident in India, who is of the age of 65 years or more, the basic exemption is proposed to be increased from Rs. 2,25,000/- to Rs. 2,40,000/-.

Non-Performing Assets of Banks

308. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in different banks;
- (b) whether the NPA position in the banks improved;
- (c) if so, the bank-wise details thereof from 2000 to 2009;
- (d) whether it is a fact that many Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Banks including some of the nationalized banks showing less NPA is only manipulation of accounts and paper transaction;
- (e) if so, what Government intends to do to curb these activities in banks; and
- (f) the total amount of loan waived to various industries and industrial house in last three years in way of negotiating settlement of NPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Bank-wise details of gross Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of scheduled commercial banks are given in Annexure [See Appendix 217 Annexure No. 7]. The data indicate that the Gross NPAs to Gross Advances ratio of the scheduled commercial banks has come down from 13.11% as on 31.03.2000 to 2.3% as on 31.03.2008. However, during the year 2008-09 the Gross NPAs as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s provisional offsite returns, have increased to Rs. 66,962 crore and the Gross NPAs to Gross Advances ratio has marginally increased to 2.4%. The Government is ensuring that the targets of Gross NPAs, set by the Public Sector Banks in their 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' for 2009-10, are such that they strive to contain the level of their Gross NPAs within acceptable limits.

(d) and (e) RBI has laid down detailed guidelines on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning for the banks. The statutory audit of the nationalised banks; all Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks having deposits of Rs. 25 crore & above and registered in those States which have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with RBI, and those registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 is carried out by the independent qualified audit firms. The statutory auditors also broadly peruse compliance of RBI guidelines on classification of assets and provision made for NPAs by the banks. Further, compliance with the RBI guidelines is also examined during the Annual Financial Inspection of banks by RBI and statutory inspection of Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks. As and when any instance of deviation from RBI guidelines is observed, the concerned bank is advised to rectify the asset classification and make appropriate provisions.

(f) The existing Management Information System of RBI does not generate the data in the desired form. However, the scheduled commercial banks have written-off a sum of Rs. 11,578 crore during the year 2005-06, Rs.11,844 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 11,661 crore during the year 2007-08 in NPA accounts.

Proposal for disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

309. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to disinvest a part of its shares in profit-making Public Sector Undertakings in order to raise resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. As announced in the President's Address to Joint Session of Parliament on 4 June 2009, the policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% equity and retaining management control with the Government.

(b) The cases of disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis.

Retails assets delinquencies

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

(a) the details of retail asset delinquencies with respect to credit cards and home loans in Indian Banks over the last two years, bank-wise; and

(b) the number of cases of unlawful coercion by debt collectors on banks that the Reserve Bank of India has acted on since its guidelines for the same were issued, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The consolidated data on retail asset delinquencies with respect to credit cards and home loans in Indian banks over last two years are given in Table below:-

	(Amount Rs. in crore)	
Retail Loan Details	March-08	March-09
Housing Loan - Credit Outstanding	2,34,069	2,59,838
Housing Loan - Impaired Credit	5,409	5,958
Credit Card Receivables - Credit Outstanding	13,714	14,370
Credit Card Receivables - Impaired	2,037	2,867

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

Rejection of India's request by Switzerland

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the documents sent to the Swiss authorities by India seeking details of one Hassan Ali Khan's accounts, were rejected by them on the plea that they were forged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement in 2007 sent a Letter Rogatory to the Swiss authorities and enclosed two documents recovered and seized by the Income Tax authorities during search of the various premises of Shri Hassan Ali Khan. These documents indicated that the said Shri Hassan Ali Khan had been maintaining and operating Accounts with a Swiss Bank. The Swiss authorities informed that their enquiry revealed that the banking information provided to them was forged.

(c) The Enforcement Directorate has taken action under relevant applicable statutes based on all material available with it.

London Summit of G-20 Nations

312. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the London Summit of G-20 nations was able to come out with any concrete plan to arrest and reverse the global downturn and able to achieve the purpose as how to revive global growth and jobs, create better financial regulations and resist protectionism; and

(b) whether G-20, whose members account for 90 per cent of World GDP and 80 per cent of global trade were able to coordinate on issues affecting global finance/global economy which has slipped into a recession since the great depression of 1929?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The G20 London Summit was able to come out with some concrete measures aimed to arrest and reverse the global downturn. These, *interalia*, are:

Coordinated counter-cyclical policies

The G20 member countries have committed themselves to deliver an unprecedented and concerted \$ 5 trillion fiscal expansion supported by accommodative monetary policies for restoring global growth. Amongst other things, this includes comprehensive support to their banking systems to improve liquidity, recapitalise financial institutions, and address decisively the problem of impaired

assets. Taken together, these actions constitute the largest fiscal and monetary stimulus and the most comprehensive support programme for the financial sector in modern times. There is a clear understanding that acting together strengthens the impact of such counter-cyclical policies implemented individually by the member countries. G 20 members have committed to conduct all their economic policies cooperatively and responsibly with regard to the impact on other countries and have refrained from competitive devaluation of their currencies. At the same time, member countries have resolved to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and price stability and are committed to put in place credible exit strategies on restoration of global demand.

Augmenting resources of International Financial Institutions

Member countries have agreed to increase the resources available with the IMF, the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Bodies (MDBs) by an additional \$ 1.1. Trillion to help kick-start the global economy, meet balance of payment needs and provide social support for countries in crisis. This includes trebling resources available with the IMF to \$750 billion, a new general SDR allocation of \$250 billion, at least \$100 billion of additional lending by the MDBs, \$ 250 billion of support for trade finance, and additional resources from agreed IMF gold sales for concessional finance for the poorest countries.

Strengthening Financial Supervision and Regulation

Member countries have committed to the reform of global financial system through strengthening the framework of internationally agreed standards of financial regulation and supervision and to ensure that the strengthened regulatory and supervisory framework keeps pace with innovation. Members are also committed to strengthening their domestic regulatory systems so as to comply with these strengthened internationally agreed norms. In particular, members have agreed to establish a new Financial Stability Board (FSB) with a strengthened mandate, as a successor to the Financial Stability Forum (FSF); including all G20 countries, FSF members, Spain, and the European Commission. Amongst other things, members have also agreed for developing an effective early warning system which can spot a build up of risks threatening global financial stability, to extend regulation and oversight to all systemically important financial institutions, instruments and markets, to prevent excessive leverage by financial institutions and to take action against non-cooperative jurisdictions, including tax havens to protect their public finances.

Resisting Protectionism

Member countries have reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing World Trade Organisation (WTO) inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. Member countries are also committed not to retreat into financial protectionism, particularly measures that constrain

worldwide capital flows, especially to developing countries. They remain committed to reaching a balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round.

Lowering of lending rates

313. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had lately directed the Public Sector Banks to pare their lending rates to provide reasonable credit to housing and industry;

(b) if so, the rates of housing industry and other credit fixed by State Bank of India and other Public Sector Banks; and

(c) how it compares with earlier prevailing rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Interest rates have been deregulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government does not issue directions to Banks on interest rates. However, the Government has, from time to time, been emphasising to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to provide adequate credit to the needy sectors of the economy at reasonable rates of interest.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Banks (PSBs), including the State Bank of India (SBI), have reduced their Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLRs) since October, 2008 and correspondingly the interest rates on all existing loans including Home Loans and Industrial Loans linked to BPLR have come down. Interest rate charged on new loans have also been reduced compared with earlier prevailing rates.

Tracing of money in Swiss Banks

314. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sent some documents to Swiss Government in 2007 to trace money allegedly deposited in Swiss Banks by one Hassan Ali Khan, Pune-based stud farm owner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During searches conducted in January, 2007 by the Income Tax Department at various premises of Shri Hassan Ali Khan, certain documents were recovered and seized which included copies of documents indicating that the said Shri Hassan Ali Khan had been maintaining and operating accounts with a Swiss Bank. These documents were enclosed by the Directorate of Enforcement with the Letter Rogatory sent to the competent Swiss authority with the request to provide other relevant information/details.

Safeguarding the economy from economic meltdown

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

(a) whether Government is taking any important steps like to put in place mechanisms that protect developing countries from the impact of the economic meltdown, and ensure that the projected slower growth rates do not lead to reduced allocation for the social sector in national budgets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far; and

(c) the funds being allocated for the social sector meant for use of minorities in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government has been constantly monitoring and evaluating the effect of global economic developments on the Indian economy, in formulating its economic policies. Fiscal stimulus packages have been provided by the Government, from time to time, to address the adverse impact of global meltdown, on the domestic economy. The fiscal measures, *inter-alia* include expansionary plan expenditure, reduction in indirect taxes and sector specific measures. These measures have been supplemented by monetary measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Government has provided adequate allocations in the Budget, for flagship programmes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, National Programme of Midday Meals in Schools, Integrated Child Development Scheme, National Rural Health Mission and Bharat Nirman. The share of Central Government expenditure on social services and rural development in total expenditure has increased from 15.48 percent in 2007-08 to 19.44 percent in 2008-09 (revised estimates).

(c) The Government of India has increased the allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs, for social welfare & security, investment in National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and Central sector plan, to Rs. 2091.50 crore in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2009-10 (Vote-on-Account), from Rs 1389.38 crore in 2008-09 (Revised Estimates). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has allocated an amount of Rs. 177 crore in Budget Estimates 2009-10, Vote-on-Account, for Minority Welfare.

Black Money

316. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering ways and means to unearth black money kept abroad to utilize the same for development of the country;

(b) if so, whether it would be prudent to give a chance to all concerned for self disclosure of unaccounted money in India and abroad; and

(c) if not, how Government proposes to get the best results?

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

Disinvestment proposal

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to disinvest certain Public Sector Enterprises;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether retrenched employees are proposed to be rehabilitated;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the approximate revenue likely to be earned out of such disinvestment?

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

(b) The cases of disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis.

(c) and (d) The policy of the Government is Disinvestment of small percentage of Government shareholding while retaining 51% equity and the management control with the Government. Therefore, there would not be any retrenchment of the employees on account of such disinvestment.

(e) It is not feasible to estimate the realization as the same would depend on various factors such as the percentage of equity to be disinvested, the prevalent market conditions, the time of actual disinvestment etc.

Defaulters of Income Tax

318. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the revenue tax collection target last year from Income tax, custom and excise and the actual collection of 2008-09;
- (b) the 100 biggest defaulters of Income tax among Industrial Houses, Industries and individuals; and
- (c) what are the steps Government intent to take to collect the default amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The revenue collection target and the actual collection from Income Tax, Customs and Central Excise for the year 2008-09 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Head	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Collection
Income Tax	3,65,000	3,45,000	3,38,212
Customs	1,18,930	1,08,000	99,817
Central Excise	1,37,874	1,08,359	1,09,346

(b) The updated list of defaulters of Income Tax is not maintained centrally.

(c) Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of default amount as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors etc. attachment and sale of immovable property, etc) the following special measures are being taken to expedite the recovery of default amount:-

- (i) Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- (ii) Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose of such appeals early.
- (iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 of the Income-Tax Act.
- (iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose of high-demand cases expeditiously.

Capital disinvestment in Public Sector Units

†19. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the financial deficit Government is making any plan to mobilize some economic resources by capital disinvestment from Public Sector Units (PSUs);

(b) if so, the PSUs from where capital is planned to be disinvested and the PSU-wise amount thereof; and

(c) by when this capital disinvestment will be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As announced in the President's Address to Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June 2009, the policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% equity and retaining management control with the Government.

(b) The cases of disinvestment would be decided on a case by case basis.

(c) The process of Initial Public Offerings in NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited are already in progress.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Loans to Self Help Groups

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

- (a) the number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of SHGs those who are sanctioned loan by the banks, State-wise;
- (c) the rate of interest charged against these loans; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to lower the interest rates on such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As on 31 March, 2008, 50.09 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) were having Saving Bank accounts with various banks with total Savings of Rs. 3,785.39 crore. Of these, 36.25 lakh SHGs were having outstanding bank loans amounting to Rs 16,999.91 crore from various banks. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Banks, viz., Public Sector Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional rural Banks are reportedly charging interest rates in the range of 9.5% to 14% on loans to SHGs, based on their cost of funds, transaction costs, provisioning for Non-Performing Assets [risk costs] and a small margin.

Statement

Details of Savings and Loans Outstanding of SHGs with Banks

Statewise - position as on 31 March 2008

(Amt. in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Region/States	Savings		Loans Outstanding	
		No. of SHGs	Amount	No. of SHGs	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Northern Region					
1	Haryana	23570	1365.15	10967	10742.07
2	Himachal Pradesh	38591	2822.21	35982	12609.52
3	Punjab	25718	2571.28	7728	5382.98
4	Jammu & Kashmir	2608	189.57	2407	2245.67
5	Rajasthan	111248	5223.02	72599	25004.45
6	New Delhi	6431	596.46	5100	598.13
SUB TOTAL :		208166	12767.69	134783	56582.81
B. North eastern Region					
7	Assam	149719	5800.06	75405	24224.37
8	Meghalaya	14199	309.89	4368	1921.86
9	Nagaland	3405	119.08	1161	634.67

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Tripura	19904	1129.15	5040	2028.19
11	Arunachal Pradesh	2001	53.33	4395	1664.29
12	Mizoram	4225	792.96	2778	1363.15
13	Manipur	7945	367.95	8305	2556.62
14	Sikkim	1647	60.76	1972	1169.97
SUB TOTAL :		203045	8633.18	103424	35563.11
C Eastern Region					
15	Bihar	95869	4562.89	73750	38555.03
16	Jharkhand	62692	3466.57	57250	16218.19
17	Orissa	391540	25994.44	283202	121707.35
18	West Bengal	522201	46549.19	338425	91282.91
19	A & N Islands (UT)	1742	26.56	421	104.82
SUB TOTAL :		1074043	80599.65	753048	267868.30
D Central Region					
20	Chhattisgarh	133695	3242.31	61467	30861.40
21	Madhya Pradesh	150845	9203.35	53607	19088.23
22	Uttarakhand	30078	1310.88	95736	82381.04
23	Uttar Pradesh	330279	19774.47	115954	61212.55
SUB TOTAL :		644896	33531.01	326763	193543.22
E Western Region					
24	Goa	5306	747.71	4599	2200.96
25	Gujarat	87821	5635.25	32130	12024.79
26	Maharashtra	379607	26680.27	409821	102130.14
SUB TOTAL :		472734	33063.23	446550	116355.90
F Southern Region					
27	Andhra Pradesh	1007071	97125.26	808203	538569.68
28	Karnataka	484376	38849.06	231633	138957.73
29	Kerala	297022	22331.01	341230	80974.31
30	Tamil Nadu & UTP	618441	51638.86	480307	271575.60
SUB TOTAL :		2406910	209944.20	1861373	1030077.32
GRAND TOTAL :		5009794	378538.94	3625941	1699990.66

Unaccounted money to Indian nationals in Liechtenstein

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

(a) whether it is a fact that German tax authorities have sent to the Indian Government bank details of Indian nationals who have stashed their unaccounted money in a bank in Liechtenstein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken, or proposed to be taken by Government against these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The German tax authorities have given to the Indian Government information available with them regarding accounts concerning Indian nationals with the LGT Bank of Liechtenstein.

(b) The information has been provided by the German authorities under the Article concerning exchange of information of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Germany read with the Protocol thereto. The disclosure of the same is governed by the secrecy provisions of the said Article of the DTAA, which provides that any information received by a State shall be treated as secret and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the DTAA. The German authorities, while giving the information, have emphasized that the information is subject to the confidentiality provisions of the DTAA and may be used only for the tax purposes specified therein.

(c) The information was immediately forwarded to the concerned Income-tax authorities for initiating necessary action. The assessment proceedings in the cases of the persons involved have been reopened under the Income-tax Act, 1961. Similar action under the provisions of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 has also been initiated.

Harnessing of black money for National Developmental Works

322. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of harnessing black money stashed away in foreign banks like Swiss banks for nation building was discussed at G-20 summit this year;

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

(c) the steps and strategy to be adopted for harnessing such money for national developmental works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government has intensified its efforts to negotiate Agreements having an article on exchange of information through which tax related information can be obtained from foreign countries for appropriate action under the tax laws.

Recovery from global recession

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chinese system of financial management has withstood the adverse impact of global recession and slow down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government will take some cues from the Chinese experience; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken for early recovery on fast track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The global financial crisis has affected all economies including China and India. As per the latest World Bank Global Development Finance Report 2009, the global economic growth rate declined from 3.8 per cent in 2007 to 1.9 per cent in 2008. In the case of China, the growth rate declined to 9.0 per cent in 2008 from 13.0 per cent in 2007. The report also projects that the economic growth in developing economies in 2009 would slow down to 1.2 per cent amid a negative growth of 2.9 per cent in global output. China with expected growth rate of 6.5 per cent and India with 5.9 per cent remain the two main economies sustaining the developing countries growth in 2009. The report further forecasts 7.5 per cent growth for China and a higher 8.1 per cent for India for 2010.

The effect of global economic recession has, therefore, been minimal on the Indian economy *vis-a-vis* most other countries. An unimpaired financial system, large domestic market and fiscal and monetary stimulus packages have been responsible for the resilience exhibited by the Indian economy against the adverse impact of global economic slowdown.

Income Tax ceiling on home loan interest payments

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to increase the income tax ceiling on home loan interest payments from the present ceiling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any demand from the Ministry of Urban Development in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

- (b) Nil.
- (c) Yes Sir.

(d) It has been requested that the deduction on account of interest payment available under section 24 of the Income-tax Act should be increased to the extent of full interest paid in housing loan taken, for all categories of assesses, at least in respect of one house.

(e) The ceiling of Rs. 1.5 lac is applicable only in case of self occupied property. This ceiling of Rs. 1.5 lac in the case of self occupied property is adequate and no upward revision is required to be made. However, in the case of rented property, the entire interest paid on home loan is already allowed as a deduction. Therefore, there is no case for any further increase in this regard.

Non-installation of container scanner at Chennai Port

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

(a) whether it is a fact that illicit exports of antiques through Chennai Port are happening frequently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such illicit exports could not be prevented since there is no container scanner at the Chennai Port; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-installation of container scanner at Chennai Port and steps to be taken by Government to install such scanner to prevent illicit exports atleast in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Illicit exports of antiques through Chennai Port are not happening frequently. Only two cases have been noticed during the entire period of 2008-09 and one case during 2009-10.

(b) No, Sir. However, container scanner will be useful to identify concealed metal objects and the antiquity nature can be ascertained only on physical verification and examination by the Archeological Survey of India.

(c) A project is already underway to install one fixed X-Ray Container Scanner and one Gamma Ray Container Scanner at Chennai Port.

Per capita indebtedness

†326. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of per capita indebtedness during the last three- decades in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of short term and long term debts and State-wise overdue balance of both the categories out of the above;

(c) the details of amount taken from financial institutions, rural money lenders and private sources and the status of their being overdue; and

(d) the present ratio of per capita indebtedness and per capita income of indebted people and how much has this decreased or increased in the last decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The details of per capita rural indebtedness during the last three decades in the country, State-wise, is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The details of per 1000 rupees distribution of outstanding loan, taken by farmer households in different States from different sources of loans, including financial institutions, rural money lenders and private sources, as given in National Sample Survey (59th Round) Report on Indebtedness of farmer household, is given in the Statement-II (See below).

(d) State-wise ratio of per capita indebtedness to per capita income of indebted people, as reported by National Sample Survey Organisation, is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Average loan Amount per rural Household by Major States, 1971-1991

(as on 30th June)

	Name of State	1971*	1981*	1991	2003@
1	Andhra Pradesh	637	934	2,731	23,965
2	Assam	177	50	343	813
3	Bihar	288	202	645	4,476
4	Jharkhand				2,205
5	Gujarat	930	848	1,925	15,526
6	Haryana	921	962	5,090	26,007
7	Himachal Pradesh	573	353	1,435	9,618
8	Jammu & Kashmir	356	251	1,443	1,903
9	Karnataka	731	1,249	2,762	18,135
10	Kerala	366	951	3,688	33,907
11	Madhya Pradesh	395	568	1,860	14,218
12	Chhattisgarh				4,122
13	Maharashtra	591	848	2,521	16,973
14	Orissa	163	346	1,158	5,871
15	Punjab	1039	1,499	5,596	41,576
16	Rajasthan	893	1,157	3,891	18,372
17	Tamil Nadu	705	1,009	2,580	23,963
18	Uttar Pradesh	343	448	1,581	7,425
19	Uttaranchal				1,108
20	West Bengal	188	297	1,589	5,237
	All-India	487	653	2,116	12,585

Note: Debt includes cash loans & current liabilities

*: Relate only to outstanding cash dues payable.

@ per farmer household

Source: All India Debt and Investment Survey

Statement-II

*Per 1000 rupees distribution of outstanding loan taken
by farmer households in different States*

State	Sources of Loan								
	Govt.	Co-op. society	Bank	Agri./ pro- fessional money lender	Trader	Relatives & friends	Doctor, lawyer etc.	Others	All
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	10	104	200	534	48	53	9	41	1000
Arunachal Pradesh	61	0	208	0	159	507	0	65	1000
Assam	70	27	278	155	120	247	5	99	1000
Bihar	22	25	370	328	11	128	12	106	1000
Chhattisgarh	13	206	505	130	42	63	7	35	1000
Gujarat	5	418	272	65	44	177	9	10	1000
Haryana	11	239	426	241	31	34	15	4	1000
Himachal Pradesh	61	116	476	72	55	170	1	49	1000
J&K	131	2	543	11	155	153	0	2	1000
Jharkhand	39	45	557	190	17	136	4	12	1000
Karnataka	19	169	501	200	19	68	4	21	1000
Kerala	49	283	491	74	17	66	10	9	1000
MP	19	169	381	226	90	101	5	8	1000
Maharashtra	12	485	341	68	8	59	3	24	1000
Manipur	15	0	167	329	40	401	0	49	1000
Meghalaya	60	0	0	128	3	809	0	0	1000
Mizoram	243	31	499	0	33	193	0	0	1000
Nagaland	75	77	536	3	153	155	0	0	1000
Orissa	130	181	437	148	8	84	1	10	1000
Punjab	19	176	284	363	82	63	6	7	1000
Rajasthan	13	59	270	365	192	69	18	14	1000
Sikkim	348	0	230	73	221	67	0	61	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tamil Nadu	20	233	281	397	4	52	1	11	1000
Tripura	164	28	605	20	39	119	0	25	1000
UP	24	67	512	191	29	138	19	20	1000
Uttaranchal	315	48	398	59	17	149	0	14	1000
West Bengal	103	192	285	130	107	154	7	23	1000
Group of UTs	307	147	136	103	61	245	0	1	1000
All India	25	196	356	257	52	85	9	21	1000
Estimated Number (00)	14769	114785	117100	125000	53902	77602	7181	14605	434242
Sample Number	992	5844	6296	6919	3018	4528	345	872	23935

Statement-III

State-wise ratio of per capita indebtedness to per capita income of indebted people

States	Average annual income (Rs.) per farmer household	Average amount of outstanding loans in Rs. per farmer household	Ratio (%)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	19,608	23,965	122
Arunachal Pradesh	89,460	493	0.55
Assam	37,932	813	2.14
Bihar	21,720	4,476	20.60
Chhattisgarh	19,416	4,122	21.23
Gujarat	32,208	15,526	48.21
Haryana	34,584	26,007	75.20
Himachal Pradesh	39,708	9,618	24.22
Jammu & Kashmir	65,856	1,903	2.89
Jharkhand	24,828	2,205	8.88
Karnataka	31,392	18,135	57.76
Kerala	48,048	33,907	70.56
Madhya Pradesh	17,160	14,218	82.86
Maharashtra	29,556	16,973	57.42

1	2	3	4
Manipur	32,892	2,269	6.90
Meghalaya	53,952	72	0.13
Mizoram	58,344	1,876	3.21
Nagaland	43,080	1,030	2.39
Orissa	12,744	5,871	46.06
Punjab	59,520	41,576	69.85
Rajasthan	17,976	18,372	102.20
Sikkim	39,096	2,053	5.25
Tamil Nadu	24,864	23,963	96.38
Tripura	20,904	2,977	14.24
Uttar Pradesh	19,596	7,425	37.90
Uttaranchal	40,212	1,108	2.76
West Bengal	24,948	5,237	20.99
Groups of UTs	38,820	10,931	28.16
All India	25,380	12,585	49.59

SOURCE: Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers, 2005, NSSO Report No.497 & 498.

Difficulties in tax collection

327. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been difficulties in tax collection and direct tax mop up growth slow down by 13.21 per cent to Rs.2.47 lakh crore;

(b) whether during 2008-09 Government had estimated Rs.1 lakh crores of the target but tax collection till January, 2009 have risen at a mere 13.21 per cent to Rs.2,47,396 cores as against Rs.2,18,536 crores collected a year ago;

(c) if so, what were main reasons and what are the steps taken to improve the position; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has affected the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The collection of Direct Tax up to the period of January, 2009 was Rs 2,47,396 Crores at a growth rate of 13.21% over corresponding figure of last year. The Budget estimate and Revised estimate of Direct Tax collections during 2008-09 were Rs 3,65,000 Crores and Rs 3,45,000 Crores respectively.

(c) and (d) In 2008-09 up to the first half, the collection was growing at a growth rate of 32.54% over the corresponding collection during the previous year. However, the global slow down

in economy started impacting the Indian economy severely which dented the profits of companies and also resulted in less salaries pay outs to employees, both resulting in decrease in collection in Corporation Tax & Personal Income Tax. The Income Tax Department carried out a number of surveys & inspection to detect defaults in deduction of tax at source and depositing of the TDS deducted into the Govt. Accounts. The tax payments of big assesseees were closely monitored. All out efforts were under taken to collect the tax dues from defaulting assesseees. Because of all these measures, the Department could collect Rs. 3,38,212 at a growth rate of 8.33%, despite the difficult times.

Bank loans to infrastructure sector

328. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banks' loans to infrastructure sector has not made any improvement despite various measures being taken by Government to help revive demand and growth in the economy;

(b) if so, the details of the loans disbursed to various infrastructure sectors by the banks and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, so far; and

(c) what are the reasons for slow growth of demand for credit in the infrastructure sector and remedial measures being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. There has been an improvement in the banks' loans to infrastructure sector. The total credit flow to this sector has increased to Rs. 64,852 crores in F.Y. 2008-09 from Rs 30,545 crores in the year 2006-07.

(b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL), sector-wise details of the Credit to Infrastructure Sectors by Banks and IIFCL during the years 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 are given in the Statement-I & II, respectively (See below).

(c) The Banks' loans to Infrastructure have slowed down due to moderated demand for credit after October 2008 reflecting the slowdown of the economy in general and the industrial sector in particular.

As a part of first stimulus package announced by the Govt to revive demand, IIFCL was allowed to raise Rs. 10,000 crore by way of tax free bonds for refinancing bank lending of longer maturity to eligible infrastructure bid based PPP Projects of about Rs. 25,000 crore. Further under the 2nd stimulus package announced by the Government, a provision has been made to enable IIFCL to raise an additional Rs. 30,000 crore by way of tax free bonds to refinance banks lending to infrastructure projects of about Rs. 75,000 crore.

Statement-I

*Sector-wise details of outstanding credit/credit flow
to Infrastructure Sectors by Banks*

(Rs. Crore)

	Outstanding Credit as on			Credit flow during		
	31-Mar-07	28-Mar-08	27-Mar-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Infrastructure	143,375	205,120	269,972	30,545 (27.1)	61,745 (43.1)	64,852 (31.6)
Power	73,158	95,067	124,447	13,001 (21.6)	21,909 (29.9)	29,380 (30.9)
Telecommunications	19,446	38,043	50,326	991 (5.4)	18,597 (95.6)	12,283 (32.3)
Road and Ports	24,984	34,530	47,060	5,289 (26.9)	9,546 (38.2)	12,530 (36.3)
Other Infrastructure	25,747	37,479	48,159	11,201 (77.0)	11,732 (45.6)	10,680 (28.5)

NOTE: 1. Data are provisional and relate to select banks which cover 95% of total non-food gross, bank credit extended by all scheduled commercial banks.

2. Figures in brackets are credit growth in per cent in the respective periods.

Statement-II

Sector-wise details Credit to Infrastructure Sectors by IIFCL

(Rs crore)

Sector	FY- 2007-08	FY- 2008-09
Road	584.21	1288.30
Power	600.19	1633.65
Port	58.85	42.98
Airport	298.13	218.34
Urban Infra	-	1.81
PMDO*	-	12.04
TOTAL :	1541.38	3197.12

*Pooled Municipal Debt Obligations

Investments by foreign financial institutions

†329.SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that capital investment by foreign financial institutions has been increasing constantly during last few years;

(b) if so, the details of total investment made by these institutions in March, 2004 together with its status in March, 2009; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount of remittance sent out of India, by these institutions during March, 2004 to March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) It is presumed that capital investments by foreign financial institutions relate to investment by foreign institutional investors (FIIs), registered with SEBI.

SEBI has informed that the investment made by FIIs has increased during the financial years 2004 to 2009, except for the financial year 2008-09. The details of net investment and cumulative FIIs investments for the financial years 2003-04 to 2008-09 are given below:

Year	Net Investment (US\$ Million)	Cumulative Net Investment (US\$ Million)
2003-04	10005.40	25941.70
2004-05	10351.50	36293.20
2005-06	9363.30	45656.50
2006-07	6820.50	52477.00
2007-08	16441.50	68918.50
2008-09	-9837.40	59081.10

(c) The details of outflows by FIIs in the capital market are captured by RBI who have given the following data for Financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09:

(In US\$ Million)			
Year	Gross Inflows	Gross Outflows	Net Inflow
2004-05	40,413	31,729	8,684
2005-06	65,553	55,627	9,926
2006-07	105,754	102,530	3,224
2007-08	226,621	206,294	20,327
2008-09	127,350	142,365	(-) 15,015

Economic offences

330. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of economic offences registered during last year and the current year so far;
- (b) the status of each case;
- (c) the names of those against whom cases have been registered alongwith the names of their organisations; and
- (d) the total amount involved in all these cases?

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

Dividends given in Indian Stock Market

†331. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of dividend earned from investments made in Indian Stock Market is more than dividend earned from investments made in Stock Markets of other countries;

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

(c) the amount of dividend given in India on an average in May, 2009 in comparison to dividend earned from stock markets of developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Declaration of dividends by Companies depend on a variety of reasons such as profits earned by the company during the year, reserves, scope for ploughing back those profits into the business of company to enhance growth, cost of raising capital in the prevailing markets, the management's perception on market environment and fund raising, expectations of shareholders on dividend payout, tax environment, and general culture / track record of the particular company regarding dividend payout to shareholders. Therefore, it may not be possible to attribute any one factor to the trend in dividend payout by Indian companies as compared to foreign companies.

As per information available from stock exchanges, listed companies declared a dividend of Rs 15629.68 crore in May 2008 as against Rs 16908.24 crore for the month of May 2009. The comparative data for companies listed on foreign stock exchanges are not available with Government.

Global Economic Prospects for 2009

†332. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank's report 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009' one third population of India will be living in extreme poverty till 2015;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for poverty alleviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the World Bank's report 'Global Economic Prospects 2009', 25.4 per cent of the population (313.2 million people) of India will be living on less than \$ 1.25 per day while 57.9 per cent of the population (714.5 million people) will be living on less than \$ 2 per day in 2015.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government of India is implementing a number of programmes in order to eradicate poverty. The major schemes and programmes in this regard include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). These are in addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process.

Tax collection

333. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the direct and indirect Tax arrears as on 31 March, 2009;
- (b) the total Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks as on 31 March, 2009;
- (c) the reserve and surplus of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as on 31 March, 2009;
- (d) whether any part of the above is being targeted as investible surplus;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the total public investment in 2008-09 in agriculture, health, education and social security schemes?

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

Negative rate of inflation

†334. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that inflation rate had been negative at the end of week ending on 6 June, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that prices of primary articles like cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, sugar etc. have increased instead of decline; and
- (d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard and what would be its impact on the common man's monthly budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation measured by WPI was negative at 1.6 per cent in the week ended June 6, 2009. In the three commodity groups of Primary articles, Fuel, power, light & lubricants and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Manufactured products, the rate of inflation was 5.8 per cent, (-) 12.8 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively in the week.

(c) The inflation details of select food articles in the week ended June 6, 2009, are indicated in table below:

Commodities	Cereals	Pulses	Fruits	Vegetables	Sugar	Tea
Wt. % ->	4.41	0.6	1.46	1.46	3.62	0.16
06-Jun-09 P	13.57	16.77	-0.12	20.63	32.91	46.08

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

Loss making PSUs

†335.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Central Government are running in loss;
- (b) if so, the details of loss of these PSUs during the last three years, PSU-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the work performance of these PSUs running into loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2009, there were 39 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), incurring losses for the last three years, that is, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The details of loss of these CPSEs during the three years are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The Government constituted the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004, *inter-alia*, for examination of the cases for revival/restructuring of CPSEs and to make appropriate recommendations to the Government. The administrative Ministries/Departments first identify the sick enterprises and subsequently submit comprehensive revival proposal to the BRPSE for consideration and for making suitable recommendations.

Performance improvement of CPSEs is a continuous process; enterprise specific measures for their turn around are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and the CPSEs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

This, *inter alia*, includes (a) financial restructuring such as conversion of loan into equity, waiver of loan and interest including penal interest, Government guarantee for raising loans, grant of moratorium on payment of interest/loan, (b) business restructuring, such as, formation of joint ventures, merger with another PSE, modernization and improved marketing strategies, etc.

Statement

List of loss-making CPSEs for the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of CPSE	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar ISL. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	-3193	-1340	-1215
2.	Airline Allied Services Ltd.	-5916	-8536	-5654
3.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-1069	-469	-845
4.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	-2673	-3470	-7138
5.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	-1362	-2414	-2488
6.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	-10584	-6237	-9978
7.	British India Corporation Ltd.	-1396	-1340	-2087
8.	Brushware Ltd.	-7	-6	-3
9.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	-15129	-15186	-44274
10.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	-150483	-143259	-129400
11.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	-43500	-31068	-29532
12.	Hindustan Fertilizer Copn. Ltd.	-110198	-106514	-96461
13.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	-78948	-65306	-56090
14.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	-1375	-1463	-1383
15.	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	-2672	-8350	-8597
16.	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	-4904	-3991	-3088
17.	HMT Machines Tools Ltd.	-4050	-14978	-656
18.	HMT Watches Ltd.	-14695	-19581	-7631
19.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	-5189	-7297	-3803
20.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.	-2497	-1271	-304
21.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	-2109	-2291	-343318
22.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	-29824	-35116	-35391
23.	ITI Ltd.	-36682	-40526	-42876

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Instrumentation Ltd.	-3337	-2780	-2451
25.	IDPL (Tamilnadu) Ltd.	-276	-120	-42
26.	J & K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	-20	-18	-342
27.	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	-1380	-4404	-1777
28.	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	-14499	-23328	-23561
29.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	-13485	-11478	-13174
30.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	-48713	-79449	-42431
31.	National Textile Corpn. Ltd.	-151467	-53580	-700
32.	NEPA Ltd.	-3767	-4447	-5193
33.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	-246	-247	-263
34.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	-61	-71	-134
35.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	-5960	-3762	-4259
36.	Triveni Structural Ltd.	-5080	-4685	-4891
37.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	-4888	-4793	-4769
38.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	-2045	-3750	-3008
39.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd.	-121	-119	-116

Rehabilitation of loss-making PSUs

336. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for rehabilitation of 17 loss-making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) So far as Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) is making recommendations on revival and future of the PSEs. Based on recommendations of BRPSE Government has approved implementation of revival/restructuring packages in case of 15 PSEs.

- Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
- Bridge & Roof Co.Ltd.
- Hindustan Salts Ltd.
- BBJ Construction Co.Ltd.

- Praga Tools Ltd.
- HMT (Bearings) Ltd.
- Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
- Braithwaite & Co.Ltd.
- Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
- HMT (MT) Ltd.
- Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
- Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd. (Taken over by BHEL)
- Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.
- Instrumentation Ltd. Kota
- Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co.Ltd. (company transferred to Ministry of Railways on 13.08.2008)

Financial condition of perpetually loss-making PSEs

337. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the perpetually loss-making Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the country and what are its financial condition at present; and

(b) what is Government's plan as to the future of these enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, which was laid in Parliament on 25.2.2009, there were 39 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), incurring continuous losses for the last three years, that is, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The details of financial condition of these CPSEs during the last three years are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The Government constituted the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004, *inter alia*, for examination of the cases for revival/restructuring of CPSEs and to make appropriate recommendations to the Government. The administrative Ministries/Departments first identify the sick enterprises and subsequently submit comprehensive revival proposal to the BRPSE for consideration and for making suitable recommendations.

Performance improvement of CPSEs is a continuous process; enterprise specific measures for their turn around are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. This, *inter alia*, includes (a) financial restructuring such as conversion of loan into equity, waiver of loan and interest including penal interest, Government guarantee for raising loans, grant of moratorium on payment of interest/loan, (b) business restructuring, such as, formation of joint ventures, merger with another PSE, modernization and improved marketing strategies, etc.

Statement

Financial position of the CPSEs incurring continuous Losses for the last 3 years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE		Networth	Net Loss
1	2		3	4
1	Airline Allied Services Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-43150	-5916
	2006-07	:	-36908	-8536
	2005-06	:	-28342	-5654
2	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-5271	-3193
	2006-07	:	-3603	-1340
	2005-06	:	-2262	-1215
3	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	3866	-1069
	2006-07	:	972	-469
	2005-06	:	-1014	-845
4	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-54741	-2673
	2006-07	:	-52672	-3470
	2005-06	:	-49819	-7138
5	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	1144	-1362
	2006-07	:	-14305	-2414
	2005-06	:	-12371	-2488
6	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	4415	-10584
	2006-07	:	14998	-6237
	2005-06	:	18110	-9978
7	British India Corporation Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-15720	-1396
	2006-07	:	-16156	-1340
	2005-06	:	-14389	-2087

1	2		3	4
8	Brushware Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-158	-7
	2006-07	:	-157	-6
	2005-06	:	-145	-3
9	Burn Standard Company Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-133715	-15129
	2006-07	:	-118839	-15186
	2005-06	:	-104213	-44274
10	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-1492707	-150483
	2006-07	:	-1342224	-143259
	2005-06	:	-1198965	-129400
11	Hindustan Cables Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-226754	-43500
	2006-07	:	-183335	-31068
	2005-06	:	-152433	-29532
12	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-1186532	-110198
	2006-07	:	-1077500	-106514
	2005-06	:	-969820	-96461
13	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-493094	-78948
	2006-07	:	-414443	-65306
	2005-06	:	-349139	-56090
14	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-13250	-1375
	2006-07	:	-11874	-1463
	2005-06	:	-10409	-1383
15	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-124884	-2672
	2006-07	:	-122685	-8350
	2005-06	:	-116447	-8597

1	2		3	4
16	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-10204	-2109
	2006-07	:	-8449	-2291
	2005-06	:	-13587	-3433
17	HMT Chinara Watches Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-22228	-4904
	2006-07	:	-17719	-3991
	2005-06	:	-14583	-3088
18	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	5773	-4050
	2006-07	:	8055	-14978
	2005-06	:	-59009	-656
19	HMT Watches Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-96064	-14695
	2006-07	:	-81595	-19581
	2005-06	:	-71557	-7631
20	Hooghly Dock And Port Engineers Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-45014	-5189
	2006-07	:	-39821	-7297
	2005-06	:	-32726	-3803
21	Hotel Corpn. of India Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	7077	-2497
	2006-07	:	9191	-1271
	2005-06	:	10845	-304
22	ITI Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	68622	-36682
	2006-07	:	107790	-40526
	2005-06	:	164361	-42876
23	IDPL (Tamilnadu) Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-1106	-276
	2006-07	:	-1413	-120
	2005-06	:	-1331	-42

1	2		3	4
24	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-481665	-29824
	2006-07	:	-412168	-35116
	2005-06	:	-412168	-35391
25	Instrumentation Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-25977	-3337
	2006-07	:	-22035	-2780
	2005-06	:	-19556	-2451
26	J & K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-478	-20
	2006-07	:	-459	-18
	2005-06	:	-440	-342
27	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-5104	-1380
	2006-07	:	-3724	-4404
	2005-06	:	680	-1777
28	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-245900	-14499
	2006-07	:	-231360	-23328
	2005-06	:	-208031	-23561
29	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-47708	-13485
	2006-07	:	-34504	-11478
	2005-06	:	-23362	-13174
30	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-625462	-48713
	2006-07	:	-574945	-79449
	2005-06	:	-495495	-42431
31	National Textile Corpn. (Holding Co.) Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-725555	-151467
	2006-07	:	-673726	-53580
	2005-06	:	292398	-700

1	2		3	4
32	Nepa Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-31972	-3767
	2006-07	:	-28306	-4447
	2005-06	:	-24169	-5193
33	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-2315	-246
	2006-07	:	-2042	-247
	2005-06	:	-1792	-263
34	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-1393	-61
	2006-07	:	-1384	-71
	2005-06	:	-1080	-134
35	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-26331	-5960
	2006-07	:	-20587	-3762
	2005-06	:	-17244	-4259
36	Triveni Structurals Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-45663	-5080
	2006-07	:	-40584	-4685
	2005-06	:	-35923	-4891
37	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-24073	-2045
	2006-07	:	-22028	-3750
	2005-06	:	-18277	-3008
38	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-68812	-4888
	2006-07	:	-63896	-4793
	2005-06	:	-59138	-4769
39	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.			
	2007-08	:	-1031	-121
	2006-07	:	-911	-119
	2005-06	:	-792	-116

Takeover of wagon manufacturing units M/s. Burn Standard and Braithwaite

338. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the status of the takeover of wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Burn Standard and Braithwaite by Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Following the announcement by Hon'ble Minister of Railways in the Railway Budget Speech on 13.02.2009 in this regard, the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Railways for the takeover of the wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Burn Standard and to expedite the modalities for their transfer to Ministry of Railways.

Further, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, proposed to examine the transfer of wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. also to Ministry of Railways in consultation and with the consent of that Ministry.

Also, the Hon'ble Railway Minister has recently announced in her Railway Budget speech to make efforts to complete all action at the earliest for taking over units of Burn Standard and Braithwaite.

Identification of public sector industrial institutions for disinvestment

†339. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified the public sector industrial institutions whose shares Government plans to sell to collect capital in the year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the names of those institutions;

(c) the total amount of investment in each of these institutions by Government till March, 2009; and

(d) the total additional capital likely to be collected from selling of the shares of these institutions?

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

(d) It is not feasible to estimate the realization as the same would depend on various factors such as the percentage of equity to be disinvested, the prevalent market conditions, the time of actual disinvestment etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Reserve and Surplus of CPSUs

340. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the reserve and surplus of all Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) during last three years;
- (b) the amount of investment during the same period, year-wise;
- (c) the average debt equity ratio of the CPSUs as on date;
- (d) whether the CPSUs are approaching debt market instead of capital market for bringing down the equity component in line with the major private sector companies; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2009, the amount of investment in terms of paid up capital plus long terms loans, reserve and surplus & debt equity ratio (Loan Funds / Share holders' Funds) of all the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) during the last three years are mentioned below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	As on 31st March 2008	As on 31st March 2007	As on 31st March 2006
1.	No. of CPSEs	242	245	240
2.	Reserve and Surplus	4,85,577	4,16,601	3,59,181
3.	Investment	4,55,409	4,20,476	3,24,614
4.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.73	0.75	0.78

(d) and (e) The decision regarding approaching the capital market is taken by the Government on case to case basis in respect of proposals relating to CPSEs. As regards approaching the debt market, the decision is taken by the Board of Directors of concerned CPSEs as per their corporate strategy.

Proposal to finance BHEL in Andhra Pradesh

341. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to finance the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) to spread its activities, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when finance will be given; and

(d) the present activities of BHEL in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) BHEL is a Navratna Company which finances expansion programme out of its own internal resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The major activities of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in the State of Andhra Pradesh at present include the following:-

- Manufacturing Unit at Ramchandrapuram, Hyderabad;
- Corporate Research and Development Division at Vikas Nagar, Hyderabad;
- Office in Secunderabad
- Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) project in association with APGENCO;
- Various project works spread across the State;
- Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited (BHPV) as subsidiary of BHEL at Vishakhapatnam; and
- BHEL-GE Gas Turbine Service Pvt. Ltd. (BGGTS), Hyderabad.

Pending cases of deemed universities

342. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has some pending cases of sanctioning deemed universities from each State especially from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh with 28 such cases;

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

(c) by when Government will give sanction to pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As of now, only the following twelve cases out of the proposals recommended by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for conferment of status of 'Deemed-to-be-University' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, are with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for a decision:

- (i) St. Joseph's Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (ii) Park Academy of Global Higher Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- (iii) Parul University, comprising the institutions run by Parui Trust, P.O. Limda, District Vadodara, Gujarat

- (iv) V.S.P.M. Academy of Higher Education, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- (v) Chhatrapati Shahu Institute of Education and Research, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- (vi) National Insurance Academy, Pune, Maharashtra.
- (vii) International Institute of Information Technology, Hinjawadi, Pune, Maharashtra
- (viii) Babu Banarasi Das Northern India Institute of Technology, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- (ix) Sri Manakula Vinayagar Academy of Higher Education and Technology, Puducherry.
- (x) Ansal Institute Technology, Gurgaon, Haryana
- (xi) National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- (xii) Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

It has been reported by the UGC that there are presently 232 proposals pending with it and out of these pending proposals 26 are from the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State-wise details of these pending proposals are available on UGC's website at www.ugc.ac.in.

(c) All the proposals under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 are presently put on hold to facilitate the UGC and the Central Government to conduct and complete the process of 'review' of existing Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'.

Allocation of funds for education

343. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fulfilled the promise to allocate 6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for education;
- (b) the present percentage of GDP allocated for education; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to fulfil the commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The public expenditure on education as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 3.67 (provisional) during 2007-08. During XI Five Year Plan, Ministry of Human Resource Development have been allocated of Rs.2,69,873 crore (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs.84,943 crore for the Department of Higher Education). This constitutes 19.4% of the total XI Five Year Plan allocation as compared to 7.7% in the X Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government for raising public spending on education towards the goal of spending 6% of GDP for education. Overall progress towards this goal, would however, also depend on the efforts made by the States.

Setting up of review committee for deemed Universities

344. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up any screening committee for conferring Deemed University status to existing private and other category of colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the composition of the committee;
- (c) whether review committees were also set up one after another to confer Deemed University status;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during last three years, year-wise;
- (e) the number and names of colleges conferred such status during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (f) the reasons for dissolution of review committee and the total number and names of Deemed Universities as of now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) According to the University Grants Commission, the Commission had constituted on 29/10/2004, a Screening Committee to screen the applications and the presentations from applicant institutions seeking declaration as 'deemed-to-be-universities'. The Committee consisted of the following:

1.	Prof. S.K. Joshi	Convenor
2.	Prof. M. Anandakrishnan	Member
3.	Prof. B.S. Sonde	Member
4.	Prof. H.C. Pandey	Member
5.	Prof. M.S. Ananth	Member
6.	Prof. R.S. Sirohi	Member
7.	Dr. Naseem Shah	Member
8.	Prof. P.N. Tandon	Member
9.	Prof. T.N. Kapoor	Member
10.	Dr. P.N. Razdan	Member
11.	President of MCI or his nominee	Member
12.	President of DCI or his nominee	Member
13.	Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, JS, UGC	Member Secretary

Separate Review Committees were constituted by the University Grants Commission in each of the following cases to verify the compliance submitted by these institutions in respect of the deficiencies pointed out by the earlier Expert Committees. The details of the said Review Committees are given below:

- i) Santosh World Medical Academy, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- Review Committee consisted of:
- Prof. K. Rammurthy Naidu (Member UGC)
 - Dr. Ravi Saxena (Professor & Head, Department of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care, AIIMS)
 - Dr. A. D. Bhagat Singh (Professor & Head Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Sharad Pawar, Dental College, Wardha)
 - Dr. Anil Agarwal (Professor, Department of GI Surgery, G B Pant Hospital & Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi)
 - Prof.(Ms.) S. P. Jaiswal (Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Queen Mary Hospital, King George Medical College, Lucknow)
 - Dr. Ranjitsingh R. Sulhyan, (Professor & Head, Department of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Miraj, Maharashtra)
 - Dr. R.K. Sharma, Dean, Academic Council of Occupation Therapy (ACOT Nominee)
 - Dr. R.C. Deka, Dean, AIIMS (MCI Nominee)
 - Dr. Vikas Dhupar, Professor & Head, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Goa Dental College and Hospital (DCI Nominee)
 - Dr. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary, UGC - Member Secretary
- ii) Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science & Technology Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- Review Committee consisted of:
- Prof. D.S. Chauhan, Vice Chancellor, Lovely Professional University, Punjab & Member, UGC
 - Prof. Ranjit Singh, Director, Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology, New Delhi
 - Shri S.C. Chadha, Deputy Secretary, UGC - Coordinator
- iii) Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- Review Committee consisted of:
- Prof. P. C. Upadhyay (Former Professor of Mechanical of Engineering, Benaras Hindu University)

- Prof. Karmeshu (School of Computer Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)
- Dr. C.K Kapahi, Deputy Secretary, UGC - Coordinator

Each Review Committee was wound up after the work of review was completed.

During the last three years, 47 institutions were declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Act, 1956, as institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'. Details of these are given in the Statement.

Statement

List showing number of Institutions Declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 during the last three years and till 30.06.2009

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Institutions Declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'				Total
		2006	2007	2008	2009 (till 30.06.2009)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	2	1	4
2.	Bihar	1	-	-	-	1
3.	Gujarat	-	1	-	-	1
4.	Haryana	-	1	1	1	3
5.	Karnataka	1	1	7	-	9
6.	Kerala	1	-	1	-	2
7.	Maharashtra	1	-	1	-	2
8.	Orissa	-	1	-	-	1
9.	Puducherry	-	-	1	-	1
10.	Punjab	-	1	-	-	1
11.	Rajasthan	1	-	-	1	2
12.	Tamil Nadu	2	2	10	-	14
13.	Uttarakhand	-	1	1	-	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	-	3
15.	New Delhi	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL :		09	10	25	3	47

Changes in National Council for Higher Education

345. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make changes in the National Council for Higher Education to suit the present conditions;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the suggestions received from each State;
- (d) the views of Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard; and
- (e) if not, by when such changes will take place in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Yash Pal Committee) has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) with constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC). The Committee has also recommended that universities be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses and regulatory bodies in professional education should be divested of their academic functions.

(c) and (d) During its deliberations the Committee had held wide ranging consultations including with State Government representatives in various parts of the country. The interim report of the Committee was published on the internet for inviting views. No formal views were received by the Committee from States.

(e) The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Linguistic heritage

346. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the UNESCO Atlas of World's Languages in Danger, released in February this year, more than 2.5 crore Indians stand to lose their linguistic heritage unless immediate measures are undertaken at a social and policy level; and
- (b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The UNESCO Atlas of World's Languages in Danger lists 196 languages for India, whose degree of endangerment varies from 'Vulnerable' to 'Extinct' as follows:

Vulnerable Languages	:	84
Definitely Endangered Languages	:	62
Severely Endangered Languages	:	06
Critically Endangered Languages	:	35
Extinct Languages (since the 1950s)	:	09
TOTAL :	:	196

The list of Indian languages along with the degree of endangerment; estimated number of speakers; accuracy of estimate; and sources of data are available in the UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (2009), an online database of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO (available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/endangeredlanguages/atlas>). The said data base is a 'living' database being corrected constantly, due to user feedback, and after the screening of specialists of UNESCO.

While the total of the estimated number of speakers of the 196 languages listed in the Atlas amounts to approximately 2.7 crore, it would be perhaps premature to assert at this stage that '*more than 2.5 crore of Indians stand to lose their linguistic heritage...*' as not all the 196 languages have reached the stage of 'severely endangered' or 'critically endangered'.

(b) This Ministry is reviewing the progress made in the Preservation and Development of Minor Indian Languages which are not covered under the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India with States/UTs. It was noticed that States/UTs have taken concrete action to develop these minor languages.

Establishment of IT in Kerala

347. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any criteria for selecting States for establishing Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not establishing IIT in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Government decided to establish three new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South. The Government subsequently decided to establish five more IITs in Gujarat, Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the regional imbalance.

(c) At present there is no proposal to establish an IIT in Kerala, which already has an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and a National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Kozhikode and an Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) at Thiruvananthapuram.

Academic standards in Deemed Universities

348. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy of Government to monitor the academic standards in Deemed Universities after getting the recognition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any statistical data with regard to the number of Deemed Universities in each State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, the Commission has a mandate for promotion and co-ordination of university education and for determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities, including in Institutions declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' under Section 3 of the said Act. The Commission has, with the approval of the Government, laid down the "Guidelines for Considering Proposals for Declaring an institution as 'Deemed-to-be-University' Under Section 3 of the UGC Act". Accordingly, the Commission reviews the functioning of the Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting committees of experts. Such reviews include academic and financial aspects of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'.

(c) and (d) As on 30th June 2009, One hundred twenty-eight institutions have been declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, as Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. A State-wise list is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Number of institutions, state-wise, declared as deemed-to-be-universities
under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of institutions declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 (As on 30.06.2009)
1	2	3
1)	Andhra Pradesh	07
2)	Arunachal Pradesh	01
3)	Bihar	02
4)	Gujarat	02
5)	Haryana	05
6)	Jharkhand	02
7)	Karnataka	15
8)	Kerala	02

1	2	3
9)	Madhya Pradesh	02
10)	Maharashtra	21
11)	Orissa	02
12)	Puducherry	01
13)	Punjab	03
14)	Rajasthan	08
15)	Tamil Nadu	29
16)	Uttarakhand	04
17)	Uttar Pradesh	10
18)	West Bengal	01
19)	New Delhi	11
TOTAL :		128

Activities of management institutes

349. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of a number of leading management institutions in the country that are allegedly misleading potential students by claiming on overstating alliances with international universities and mis-stating placement records;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to regulate such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), out of 69 institutions running with Foreign Collaboration without AICTE Approval, 30 institutions are running management programmes. The list of such unapproved institutions is available on AICTE's website www.aicte.ernet.in. The Public Notices are issued in leading newspapers cautioning students against these unapproved institutions. AICTE have also issued show cause notices to such institutions for running unapproved programmes. AICTE has intimated that they do not have any specific complaint / information about some leading management institutions in the country allegedly misleading potential students by claiming or overstating alliances with international universities and mis-stating placement records.

Recognition of Aalim and Fazil Degrees

350. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received recommendations from Standing Committee of National Minorities Committee that National Institute of Open Schooling and Madarsas should issue a joint pass certificate to students clearing middle level of schooling from Muslim religious schools;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has recommended that Aalim and Fazil degrees by Madarsas be recognized by the Indian universities; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir Madrasa Modernisation Programme was recast factoring in the recommendations of sub-committee set up by the National Monitoring Committee on Minorities' Education (NMCME) and a new scheme, Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) has been launched. The scheme provides for academic collaboration of volunteering Madarsas with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), for the purpose of certification and imparting of vocational training. NIOS also runs academic programmes in collaboration with NGOs including Madrasas under which joint Middle level certification is provided. The 'Aalim' qualification awarded by the State Madarsas Boards of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Fazil' qualification awarded by the State Madrasa Board of West Bengal have been granted equivalence with that of Class XII certification of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for the purposes of admission to undergraduate programmes in the Universities.

Promotion of common syllabus

351. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of measures being taken by Government or proposed to be taken to have a common syllabus, course structure and certification system among the Commonwealth countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): No, Sir. At present there is no proposal of Government of India to have a common syllabus, course structure and certification system among the Commonwealth countries. However, India currently has bilateral relations on cooperation in the field of education signing Educational Exchange Programme (EEP)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 6 Commonwealth Countries, namely Guyana, Tanzania, New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Public Private Partnership in Education

352. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked out a new Education Policy on Public Private Partnership pattern;

(b) if so, the details of the policy and the goals set out thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capitation fee in professional colleges

353. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of charging of huge capitation fee by several professional colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prohibit capitation fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 2 cases of charging of capitation fee by People Education Society, Bangalore (PESIT) and Babaria Institute of Technology, Vadodara were reported to them. The two institutes accepted that they had received voluntary contributions/donations and had since returned the amounts to the complainants.

(c) AICTE has informed that the above two institutions would not be granted any increase in intake or additional courses for two academic years. AICTE has also intimated that as and when complaints regarding charging of capitation fee are received, an Enquiry Committee conducts enquiry into the complaint and appropriate action is taken based on the report of the Enquiry Committee.

A legislative proposal, to provide the legal mandate to prohibit unfair practices including charging of capitation fee in any form in technical and medical educational institutions & universities, is under consideration and inter-ministrial consultations have been taken up for firming up the legislative proposal.

Popularity of Sanskrit and Urdu

354. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sanskrit and Urdu is gaining popularity among students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made for the research and development of Sanskrit and Urdu in each State and to each university in the country especially in minority populated areas in Hyderabad and other Telangana areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While no information is centrally maintained in regard to enrollment in language courses in higher education, the number of students opting for Sanskrit and Urdu at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) shows an upward trend.

(c) No State-wise allocations are made for research in Sanskrit and Urdu. In the XIth Plan, University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated Rs. 966.5 lakhs and Rs. 1162.5 lakhs respectively to Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi, for the promotion of Sanskrit and Rs. 13,022 lakhs to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad for the promotion of Urdu. Additionally, Rs.400 lakhs each was allocated through UGC to Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University and Jamia Milia Islamia University for establishing Academies of Professional Development of Urdu language. The Central Government has also allocated Rs. 17500 lakhs to Rastriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), New Delhi for the XI Plan period for promotion of Sanskrit. RSkS also extends financial assistance for Sanskrit teachers for secondary/higher secondary schools belonging to State Governments on the basis of their request as per decisions taken by Grants in Aid Committee.

Autonomy to colleges

355. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the colleges affiliated to State universities are reluctant to get autonomy and that both the teachers and managements are opposed to autonomy; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the number of autonomous colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There are reports of apprehensions in the minds of teachers, managements and the State Governments about the fall-out of conferment of autonomous status on the colleges. These apprehensions are mainly with regard to service conditions and job security of teachers and other employees of the autonomous colleges and the relation of the colleges with the university and the State Government. With a view to accelerate the growth of autonomous colleges in the country, the University Grants Commission has revised the Guidelines on "Autonomous Colleges". The Colleges which are desirous of autonomous status can directly apply to UGC, instead of through the parent universities. Further, the Commission has taken a decision to scrap the existing procedure of Screening Committee to screen the proposals received. Instead, Expert Committees are constituted on the receipt of the proposals from the colleges and based upon the Expert Committee's recommendations, the colleges are given autonomous status.

Objectives of mid-day meal scheme

‡356.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as stated in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), many States have failed to achieve targets of mid-day meal programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the said report sub-standard and non-nutritious meat was being provided to children in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount released and spent during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The CAG in its Report No.PA 13 of 2008 for the year ended March 2007 has observed that in the test checked schools of 17 States/Union Territories disruption in providing cooked meals to the children was noticed. The details given by the C&AG are mentioned in the Statement-I (*See below*). The C&AG has also observed that all the schools/Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres were not covered in 8 States. As a consequence, 8.90 lakh children in these States/Union Territories were deprived of mid-day meal. The details given by the CA&G are mentioned in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Though C&AG in its Report has not specifically stated that sub-standard and non-nutritious meal was being provided to children under MDM, however, it has pointed out that in seven States (Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu) shortfall in supply of foodgrains in the meals served to children ranged from a low of 5 grams to a high of 83 grams against the prescribed quantity of 100 grams of foodgrains in the selected schools/districts indicating that the prescribed nutrition was not provided to the children of these areas. The C&AG has also pointed out that during the surprise visits to the schools of four States (Orissa, Punjab, Haryana and Tripura) by audit, the samples of rice was found adulterated and not fit for human consumption in three States as per details given below:

Name of State	No. of schools visited/samples collected	Conformed to specification	Adulterated and not fit for human consumption
Haryana	18	14	04
Punjab	09	01	08
Orissa	12	05	07

(e) The details of funds released and spent during the last two years are given in the Statement-III.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Details regarding objective of Mid day Meal Scheme as given by CAG

Sl.No.	State	Remarks
1.	Uttarakhand	In 232 test checked schools cooked meal was not provided for 18.2 per cent to 22.5 per cent days
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	Cooked meal was not provided in Leh district during 2005-07
3.	Rajasthan	In 70 test checked schools cooked meal was not provided to 541754 children for 6036 school days during 2002-07.
4.	Assam	In 40 of the 53 schools test checked interruption in serving of cooked meal was noticed for a period ranging from 4 months to 23 months
5.	Chhattisgarh	In 157 schools 16879 children were not provided cooked meals for a period ranging from 2 to 12 months during 2004-06
6.	Himachal Pradesh	In 32 schools cooked meal was not served for a period ranging from 20 to 232 days during 2004-07
7.	Haryana	In 123 of 140 test checked schools, meal was not served for periods ranging up to 209 days during 2004-07
8.	Kerala	In 72 schools disruption ranged up to 102 days
9.	Orissa	Shortfall in providing cooked meal ranged from 5 to 20 per cent during 2002-07 against the prescribed feeding days of 210 days
10.	Tripura	Cooked meal was not served in 45 to 52 test checked schools for a period ranging up to 165 days during 2003-07
11.	Bihar	Interruption ranged between 47 per cent to 73 per cent of total days
12.	Manipur	During 2005-07, in 60 test checked schools, meal was not provided for 51 days in 2005-06 and for 100 days in 2006-07 against the prescribed 200 days.
13.	Andhra Pradesh	In 140 test checked schools disruption for 2647 days during 2003-07.
14.	Meghalaya	Disruption ranged from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of school days during 2002-07.
15.	Maharashtra	In 43 test checked schools, disruption affected 1088401 children for 6102 school days during 2003-07
16.	West Bengal	In test checked schools cooked meal was not served for 37 per cent of targeted 78114 schools days.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	As per the report of State inspection task force, MDM was not served in 2086 schools during October 2006 to March 2007.

Statement-II

Details of States deprived of Mid-day Meal Scheme as given by CAG

Sl.No.	State	Schools/EGS/AIE centres not covered
1.	Tamil Nadu	Out of 48287 children of AIE/EGS centers 41478 children were not provided MDM. In 19 test-checked centers MDM was not provided in fourteen centres. Thirteen newly opened schools were also not provided MDM during 2002-07.
2.	Haryana	In seven test checked districts 96 per cent of AIE centers were not covered.
3.	Rajasthan	In Tonk district 7980 schools involving 4.99 lakh children remained uncovered.
4.	Bihar	67 per cent EGS centres in 10 districts not covered depriving 0.88 lakh children.
5.	Manipur	2019 EGS/AIE centres not covered till 2006-07 involving 55110 children.
6.	Uttarakhand	In three test checked districts 87 EGS centers involving 5387 students were not covered.
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	As of 31 March 2007 43 primary schools and 85 EGS centers involving 4853 children remained uncovered.
8.	Punjab	1628 schools and 182 EGS centers involving 196821 children remained uncovered during 2002-04.

Statement-III

Central Assistance Released and Expenditure under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2007-08 & 2008-09 [PRY + U PRY]

(Rs. in Lakhs)

		2007-08		2008-09	
Sl. No.	States /UTs	Release including Opening Balance as on 1.04.07	Expenditure incurred by State/UT during 2007-08	Release including Opening Balance as on 1.04.08	Expenditure incurred by State/UT during as 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	43992.15	27999.36	22983.45	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1246.05	1040.81	820.79	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	17395.38	14085.02	27156.47	
4	Bihar	46325.50	25476.72	62168.38	
5	Chhattisgarh	16506.93	14759.69	30402.54	
6	Goa	261.67	254.00	554.38	
7	Gujarat	12384.20	11048.38	21711.35	
8	Haryana	6303.54	5089.47	7299.26	
9	Himachal Pradesh	2336.86	1726.33	11073.47	
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4141.44	3187.17	4868.05	
11	Jharkhand	21246.05	14107.33	18033.59	
12	Karnataka	28977.65	27505.54	23339.47	
13	Kerala	6931.58	5640.16	12492.21	
14	Madhya Pradesh	64012.15	55901.72	57669.4	
15	Maharashtra	30182.54	27609.20	65013.4	
16	Manipur	1143.56	749.46	1463.58	
17	Meghalaya	2975.14	2137.66	2593.86	
18	Mizoram	465.93	381.33	1401.91	
19	Nagaland	887.54	811.50	940.08	Being Collected
20	Orissa	36143.06	32331.91	28851.33	
21	Punjab	6779.48	5572.62	16874.65	
22	Rajasthan	43321.01	22283.19	55153.39	
23	Sikkim	447.85	404.54	418.84	
24	Tamil Nadu	14373.30	14354.89	24235.39	
25	Tripura	2236.76	2128.05	2968.42	
26	Uttarakhand	3647.21	3175.29	5136	
27	Uttar Pradesh	90258.82	64364.74	82307.17	
28	West Bengal	36742.46	26032.19	58953.55	
29	A & N Islands	105.03	105.03	322.35	
30	Chandigarh	396.59	366.78	364.88	

1	2	3	4	5	6
31	D & N Haveli	153.92	153.92	151.42	
32	Daman & Diu	46.17	46.17	71.57	
33	Delhi	3427.16	3355.81	5772.06	
34	Lakshadweep	24.28	24.28	19.59	
35	Puducherry	178.68	176.65	423.6	
TOTAL :		545997.64	414386.91	654009.85	
Or Say, Rs. in Crore		5459.98	4143.87	6540.10	

Free education for SC/ST

357. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial assistance for free school education for the pupil especially for SC and ST;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken so far; and
- (d) by when funds will be released and spent in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh where SC/ST pupil have no proper classrooms and even boards and school buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the State is providing free school education to all the children in the age group of 6-15 years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Establishment of girls college.

358. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of girls colleges in the country;
- (b) whether Government is planning to open Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing and Home Science Colleges and Institutions exclusively for girls; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there were 2260 girls colleges during 2007-08.

- (b) There are no such proposals at present.
- (c) Does not arise.

Implementation of reservation in universities

359. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of universities, colleges and other institutions running on Government's grant are not implementing Government's reservation policy in admission of students and appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to ensure implementing Government's reservation policy by all the educational institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The provisions of Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 are not applicable to Central educational institutions established in the tribal areas referred in the sixth schedule to the Constitution, institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national and strategic importance specified in the Schedule to the Act and a Minority Educational Institution as defined in the Act. The Act enables staggering of reservation in admission over three years.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) which is the apex body for coordination and maintenance of standards of higher education in the country have issued necessary guidelines to all Universities, including Central Universities and UGC maintained deemed universities other minority institutions to strictly adhere to the norms laid down for implementation of the policy of reservation in regard to recruitment as well as in filling up backlog thereto.

The Government and the UGC have been reminding Central Universities to fill vacant position in respect of the backlog. This issue has also been taken up in the meeting with Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of these Universities. In addition, UGC has written to Central Universities and UGC maintained Deemed Universities about linking Non-Plan grants to the institutions with implementation of reservation and that Institutions which are deficient in the prescribed percentage of reservation should fill the backlog of reservation in teaching and non-teaching posts within six months.

Performance of private professional colleges

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the Supreme Court has charged the regulators for disregarding the criteria laid down for the recognition, saying that it was hurting the higher education system while asking the policy makers to take note of the commercialization of education;

(b) if so, whether Government will review the performance of private professional colleges in the country and derecognize those colleges which have been granted recognition defying the norms; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the matter of Islamic Academy of Education and another Vs the State of Karnataka and others, had directed that the State Governments should set up in each State a Committee to approve/ fix the fee which can be charged by an institute. In the absence of appropriate laws for the purpose, the Apex Court upheld these Committees while revisiting the 'Islamic Academy' in the matter of P.A. Inamdar Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors. The Supreme Court has also held that capitation fee cannot be permitted to be charged and no seat can be permitted to be appropriated by payment of capitation fee.

The All India Council for Technical Education has formulated regulations stipulating that no professional colleges shall be entitled to receive from the student any other payment or amount, under whatever name it may be called, in addition to the fee fixed by the Committee for a free seat or payment seat and also that the State Committee shall take all necessary steps while working out the fee structure to ensure prevention of commercialization of technical education.

Quality of higher education

361. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by Times QS World on the performance of universities released recently in London does not list any Indian University within the first 200 of the ranking list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for none of the Indian Institutes of Technology in the country not being included among the 200 top universities in the World, whereas more than ten Chinese Universities are included in the list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of higher education and to compete with International institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While certain institutions or agencies occasionally publish list of universities or educational institutions ranked according to their own criteria, there is no authentic official international agency for the global ranking of universities. While IIT at Delhi and Mumbai have scored highly on all other attributes in comparison to the globally reputed institutions,

two factors attributed to the lower ranking of IITs in the said survey are reputedly low scores on international staff and international students in IITs.

(c) and (d) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are Institutions of National Importance having a brand value acknowledged and acclaimed the World over.

Regulations regarding Deemed University status

362. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the regulation for granting status of Deemed University were relaxed or eased during the last five years as a result thereof a large number of colleges were given the status of Deemed University;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recommendations of High-powered Committee in this regard were overruled and there were remarks of Secretary of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in this regard;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the number of Deemed University status provided in last five years and what was the total number before that; and

(d) whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is empowered by Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to declare an institution of higher education, other than a University, as 'Deemed-to-be-University', on the advice of the UGC. The Commission has laid down guidelines for consideration of proposals from institutions seeking declaration as an institution 'Deemed-to-be-University'. Such proposals are examined by the UGC as per the provisions of these guidelines. The Commission then deposes a Committee of Experts comprising nominees of the relevant Statutory Regulatory Bodies such as the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), etc., depending upon the courses being offered by the applicant-institution. The Committee makes an assessment of the applicant institution and the facilities available, including infrastructure and faculty, and submits a report to the UGC. This report is considered by the full Commission before making appropriate recommendations to the Central Government. On the basis of the recommendation of the UGC and the recommendation as contained in the report of the UGC's Expert Committee, the Central Government declares the applicant-institution as an Institution 'Deemed-to-be-University'.

(c) and (d) While eighty-three institutions were declared as deemed-to-be-universities till December 2003, between January 2004 and June 2009, sixty-two Institutions have been so declared. Seventeen National Institutes of Technologies (NITs) which were declared as institutions

'Deemed-to-be-Universities' were deleted from the list of Institutions 'Deemed to be Universities' consequent to their declaration as Institutions of National Importance on 9th August, 2007.

Raising the standard of universities

363. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is keen to raise the status and standard of a few reputed universities in the country at par with world universities; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen their infrastructural facilities and to enhance their academic excellence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special grants of Rs.100 crores each have been sanctioned for the Universities of Delhi, Mysore, Kolkata, Madras and Mumbai to upgrade infrastructural facilities during the Eleventh Plan. A proposal in respect of Panjab University is also under consideration. Provision has been made in the Eleventh Plan for incentivizing State Governments to allocate resources for strengthening infrastructure and academic excellence in State Universities.

Establishment of Guru Granth Institute

364. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of establishment of Guru Granth Institute at Amritsar which was announced by Prime Minister in 2005;

(b) the findings of the second committee appointed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to access the proposal submitted by Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University;

(c) how long it will take for his Ministry to issue sanction for the Institute; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the land is being provided free by the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A proposal to set up the "National Institute of Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib (NISSGGS)" as a centrally funded autonomous body is under consideration. Guru Nanak Dev University has agreed to provide land free of cost for the Institute.

Establishment of Central Universities

365. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Universities established to provide opportunities to common citizens;
- (b) the number of Central Universities to be established in future;
- (c) whether there is any plan to establish more Central Universities for the purpose of developing HRD in the country;
- (d) the steps taken by his Ministry for improvement of modern education system;
- (e) whether there is any planning to establish modern educational system like technical, management, engineering colleges etc., in North East which will provide direct job opportunities to students;
- (f) whether due to absence of schools there are lots of people who are still illiterate; and
- (g) if so, the reasons for not establishing enough schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under the purview of this Ministry, as on date, there are 39 Central Universities established in all States, except Goa. During the remaining period of the XIth Plan, there is no proposal to establish any new Central University. The Central Government, however, proposes to establish 14 National Universities, aiming to achieve world-class standards, in identified cities so as to augment qualified human resource in the country.

(d) With a view to improving the education system, the Government has initiated academic reforms which enjoin upon the academic institutions to undertake, *inter-alia*, periodic revision of curriculum, admission procedures, examination reforms (including internal assessment), semester system, choice-based credit system.

(e) to (g) To increase the employability of students of the North-East region, the Government proposes to establish two Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Dimapur and Shillong, besides establishment of new polytechnics in the sixty-six districts of N.E. Region. Further, there is a proposal to set-up National Institutes of Technology (NIT) in such States of the region as do not have any NIT. An Indian Institute of Management has been established in Shillong recently. Each Central University (other than that in Sikkim) has been assisted to start faculties of engineering and management. School level education is also being strengthened, where required, to ensure adequate catchment for Central Universities.

Performance of SC and ST students in IITs

366. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the parameter set by the higher authorities of the Education Department for taking action against a teacher stopping his/her promotion or increment if their students don't perform well

in the annual examinations, can't be adopted in the institutes of higher learning particularly the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) whether as per the present trend in IITs most of the SC and ST students are suffering a lot on the ground that their performance are not up to the mark;

(c) if so, whether any IIT has taken any action so far against their teachers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no parameter set up In Higher Education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), for taking action against teachers if their students do not perform well in annual examinations.

(b) to (d) It is not correct to say that most of the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) students are suffering on the ground that their performance is not upto the mark. For SC / ST students, who perform poorly, special efforts are made to help them through guidance and counseling. Separate cells to assist the students from weaker sections are available to solve their day to day problems.

Introduction of new course on renewable energy

367. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would introduce new courses on renewable energy in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and in Central varsities since our country's solar industries needs a large number of trained and skilled human resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Central Universities, being autonomous institutions, are empowered to introduce various branches of learning in their curricula from time to time. Some Central Universities and IITs have been conducting various courses / programmes on conventional and non-conventional energy, including renewable energy.

Second report of Knowledge Commission

†368. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Knowledge Commission has stated the need to make comprehensive change in structure of higher education institutes in their second report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Commission has given special emphasis on recommendations for community participation at local level and decentralization of educational institutes;

(c) the role and significance of bodies like UGC, AICTE, NCTE, MCI, NAAC etc. for higher education; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government regarding these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended the establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) which would be responsible for setting criteria and deciding entry and also accord degree granting powers to higher education institutions and that the role of UGC would be limited to disbursement of grants and maintenance of institutions in higher education. According to the NKC the entry regulatory function of regulation in professional education would be performed by the proposed IRAHE.

(d) The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Optimum utilization of education infrastructure

369. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run education institutes, colleges and schools in multiple shifts for optimum utilization of the education infrastructure available and increasing the literacy ratio; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Keeping in view, the regional imbalance of the number of seats in various States of the country, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed second shift of engineering colleges in existing colleges only in those States where the number of seats available in engineering colleges per lakh of population are less than the all India average. Further, in order to reduce imbalance between engineering education and polytechnic education. AICTE has permitted second shift of Polytechnic in existing Polytechnic Institutions and also a second shift of Polytechnic in existing Engineering Institution. 41 Kendriya Vidyalayas are also functioning in double shifts.

Admission in private schools

370. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any complaints about discrimination against Indian students *vis-a-vis* admissions in private schools in Bangalore or an other city in the country; and

(b) the recourse available to students faced with such incidents of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No case of discrimination against Indian students for admission in private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in Bangalore or any other city in the country has come to the notice of CBSE. Affiliation Bye-Laws of the CBSE provide that "admission in the schools affiliated to CBSE shall be made without any distinction of religion, race, caste, creed, place of birth or any of them".

All the schools affiliated to CBSE are expected to follow the provisions of its Affiliation and Examination Bye-Laws. In the event of violation CBSE has the power to initiate action against schools which may lead to disaffiliation for affiliation depending on the gravity of violations.

Doctorate degrees conferred by Deemed Universities

371. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some Deemed Universities are conferring Doctorate for the meritorious services of some personalities; and

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the Deemed Universities to provide prior intimation to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Universities, including institutions declared by the Central Government under Section 3 of the University Grants Act, 1956 as 'deemed-to-be-universities', have the requisite autonomy in academic matters, including conferment of Honorary doctorate degrees on personalities of high merit and respect. No such list is maintained centrally by the Government.

Syllabus of missionary schools

†372. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the patriots have been depicted as terrorists in the syllabus books of missionary schools of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated; and

(c) whether there is any control over the syllabus prescribed by such private institutions?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Neither the Central Government nor the State Government of Jharkhand is aware of any such case.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) follow the syllabus prescribed by CBSE, which is based on the syllabus framed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as per National Curriculum Framework, 2005 and also generally follow NCERT textbooks. Schools affiliated to State Boards follow the relevant syllabus prescribed in the State.

Compensation for ragging victims

373. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has convened any meeting to discuss how to check ragging;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived at;
- (c) the number of victims of ragging during the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the compensation given to Praneeta and other students in Andhra Pradesh, so far;
- (e) whether the expenses of treatment is being borne by Government;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has been convening meetings from time to time with regulatory bodies to take stock of status of implementation of measures for the prevention and prohibition of ragging and asked to prepare strict regulation on curbing the menace of ragging. This issue has also been discussed with State Governments at the conferences of State Ministers' of Higher and Technical Education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have notified Anti Ragging regulations on 17-06-2009 and 1-7-2009 respectively. The Government of India has been launching a Campaign against ragging through newspapers and the audiovisual media at the commencement of each academic session. As a result, considerable progress has been achieved in raising the awareness of all stakeholders like educational institutions, students, parents, teachers, civil authorities and the police regarding the adverse effects of ragging and the need to stop the practice.

(c) Although information on cases pertaining to ragging in higher educational institution has not been maintained centrally so far, provision has been made for maintaining such information by the

'National Anti-Ragging Helpline' established on 20th June, 2009 under the UGC Regulations in respect of ragging which have come into force from 17th June, 2009.

(d) to (g) The information is being collected from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Hike of tuition fee in private colleges

374. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is fully aware that the professional colleges and institutions hike the tuition fees indiscriminately;

(b) the mechanism with Government to judge the rationale behind the hike;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The fees charged for professional courses by the unaided and self-financing institutions are known to be relatively higher than those in the publicly funded institutions. The Supreme Court in its judgement in the matter of Islamic Academy of Education and another Vs the State of Karnataka and others, had directed that the State Governments should set up in each State a Committee to approve/ fix the fee which can be charged by an institute. In the absence of appropriate laws for the purpose, the Apex Court upheld these Committees while revisiting the 'Islamic Academy' in the matter of P. A. Inamdar Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors. publicly funded institutions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a Committee in August, 2007 to formulate, *inter alia*, regulations with regard to admission and fee for self financing private professional institutions including deemed to be universities. The recommendations of the Committee have been approved by the UGC in its meeting on 22nd June, 2009 and are under examination by the Government.

Teaching of minority language

375. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of helping teaching of minority languages in the States;

(b) the progress made in this scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any grant has been given for Punjabi teachers in Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and J and K; and

(d) whether any of these State Governments have sent any proposal for getting aid for recruitment of Punjabi teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Financial

Assistance for Appointment of Language Teachers", assistance is provided to the States/UTs for appointing Urdu teachers in schools and also for other language teachers in Hindi speaking States. The State-wise details of assistance provided for appointment of Urdu teachers in the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Financial Assistance for Appointment of Language Teachers", the State Government of Himachal Pradesh was sanctioned financial assistance in October, 2007 for appointment of 100 Punjabi language teachers. No proposal for appointment of Punjabi language teachers has been received from UT Administration of Delhi and States of Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir since 01.04.2006.

Statement

Sanction of financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Financial Assistance for Appointment of Language Teachers" to different States/UTs for appointment of Urdu teachers.

State / UT	Number of teachers sanctioned		
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Andhra Pradesh	78	1400	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	100	-
Chhattisgarh	-	426	-
TOTAL :	78	1926	-

Higher education reform

376. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any plan reforming higher education in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) An Action Plan for Academic and Administrative Reforms prepared by the University Grants Commission (UGC) is under implementation. These reforms measures which include; introduction of semester system, introduction of choice-based credit system, curriculum development, reform in admission procedures and examination reforms, are provided in the Act pertaining to the new Central Universities and shall be extended to other Universities. Recommendations of the Committee to advice on renovation and rejuvenation of Higher Education (Yash Pal Committee) for establishing of a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) and other implementable recommendations of that Committee and the National Knowledge Commission form the basis of further references in Higher Education.

Education of Dalit Muslims

377. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of steps taken by his Ministry to implement Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Dalit Muslims; and

(b) the number of schools established and the number of Dalit Muslim students enrolled under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for targeted interventions and focused provisioning for education of Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years, which, *inter-alia*, includes support to Madarsas/Maktabs recognized by the State Madarsa Boards for transacting regular curriculum. This support includes appointment of teachers, school grant, teacher grant, free textbooks, teacher training. In addition support is also provided to set up Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Centres for out-of-school children in Madarsas/ Maktabs not recognized by the State Madarsa Boards. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) prioritise admission of Muslim girls. Instruction in Urdu medium is provided in KGBVs set up in minority blocks.

(b) The number of primary schools opened under SSA in the minority concentrated districts in the last four years is 12,618 . The number of upper primary schools opened in the same period is 14,877.

The enrolment of Muslim children at primary level has increased from 1,23,81,057 in 2006-07 to 1,40,70,466 in 2007-08. Likewise, the enrolment of Muslim children at the upper primary level has increased from 35,71,186 in 2006-07 to 43,47,809 in 2007-08.

Education Guarantee Scheme in Himachal Pradesh

‡378.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 233 centres for Education Guarantee Scheme have been closed in Himachal Pradesh in 2008 because the children studying in these centres have been admitted in Government schools and now these children no longer require these Education Guarantee Scheme centres;

(b) whether according to Government the purpose of these centres has been served in Himachal Pradesh and other children in Himachal Pradesh are not in need of these centres;

(c) if so, the facts on the basis of which Government has reached at this conclusion; and

(d) if not, the other reasons for closing down these centres?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has closed these centres after ensuring that these are not required in the concerned areas and the children from these centres have been mainstreamed in regular schools.

Inspection of universities

379. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission(UGC) cannot conduct surprise inspection of the universities;

(b) if so, whether such a limitation doesn't hamper the UGC's mandate to maintain and monitor the academic standards of the institutions of higher education;

(c) whether such a limitation is applicable for both Central as well as State Universities; and

(d) whether Government is considering any step to make universities more accountable to the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission is bound to communicate to any University whether Central or State, the date on which an inspection is to be made under section 13(2) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, and the University is entitled to be associated with the inspection in the manner prescribed in the Rules. Consistent with the autonomy of universities, need for an effective and overarching mechanism is one of the priorities of the Government.

Regulation for checking ragging

380. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to check ragging menace, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has broadened the definition of ragging apart from bringing several other new regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the heads of various Central Universities have been directed to handle the menace of ragging effectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the administration of the Universities have succeeded in checking menace of ragging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 provide that "Ragging" constitutes any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student, or indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student or asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely effect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student, with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student, in all higher education institutions in the country, and thereby, to provide for the healthy development, physically and psychologically of all students.

(c) to (e) All Universities coming under the purview of the UGC have been directed to comply with the regulations of the University Grants Commission and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard. Pursuant to the order issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, all the Central Universities have established Anti-Ragging Committees and have taken adequate steps to generate awareness among all stakeholders regarding the penal laws applicable to incidents of ragging. The UGC regulations have come into force recently on 17th June, 2009 and the impact of the same would be known during the forthcoming academic session.

Diversion of funds of mid-day meal scheme

†381. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the funds and items for the mid-day meal programme have been diverted to a great extent in several States during the year ending March, 2007;

(b) the status of utilization of funds and items for the mid-day meal scheme in the years ending March, 2008 and March, 2009; and

(c) the arrangements made to control this diversion and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The CAG in its Report No.PA 13 of 2008 for the year ended March 2007 has pointed out diversion of funds and foodgrains in 11 States under the MDM Scheme during the period 2004-07. The details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A Statement-II giving status of utilisation of funds and items for, the mid-day meal scheme in the years ending March, 2008 and March, 2009 is annexed (*See below*). A Statement-III giving details of Central assistance released and expenditure under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is annexed. [Refer to the Statement-III appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 356 Part (e).]

(c) Central Govt. consistently reiterates through the release orders to States/UTs that the fund released under MDM Scheme should not be diverted to any purpose other than for which it is sanctioned. In case of any report of diversion coming to notice, the matter is taken up with States/UTs for immediate remedial action.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Extent of diversion
1	Kerala	Diversion of 40 per cent foodgrains worth Rs. 42.51 crore for upper primary classes during 2002-07.
2.	Jharkhand	Foodgrains worth Rs. 2.24 crore diverted towards BPL under TPDS during 2004-07.
3.	Uttar Pradesh	440 MT foodgrains lifted from FCI Bulundshahr seized in Delhi.
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Cooking cost worth Rs. 3.26 crore diverted towards construction of kitchen sheds.
5.	Nagaland	Foodgrains worth Rs. 6.86 crore lifted from FCI was sold and proceeds deposited with Directorate of School Education during 2002-04.
6.	Assam	Cooking cost was diverted for purchase of utensils and LPG.
7.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rs. 2.03 crore worth foodgrains diverted to other Centrally sponsored schemes.
8.	Meghalaya	In one district the cooking cost of Rs. 5.06 lakh was diverted for payment of salaries to teachers of non-government primary schools.
9.	Bihar	782.21 quintals of rice diverted for relief work at Buxar and not recouped.
10.	West Bengal	Rs. 92.69 crore worth cooking cost diverted for kitchen sheds, cooking devices and MME.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 17.78 lakh diverted for printing of cards, stationery, audit fee etc.

Statement-II

*Allocation and utilisation of foodgrains under Mid-Day Meal Scheme
during 2007-08 & 2008-09 [PRY + U PRY]*

(In MTs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2007-08		2008-09	
		Gross Allocation (2007-08)	Utilisation during 2007-08	Gross Allocation (2008-09)	Utilisation during 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	108521.68	103038.85	170665.46	Being collected
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5541.24	4089.65	4233.48	Being collected
3	Assam	89242.94	67513.69	106053.43	29802.27
4	Bihar	225026.64	102489.70	236037.9	Being collected
5	Chhattisgarh	77029.30	71199.23	79354.28	89208.53
6	Goa	1640.45	862.80	3474.03	1601.04
7	Gujarat	75513.53	62537.27	97568.91	90956.36
8	Haryana	35021.82	8805.24	45917.54	37262.48
9	Himachal Pradesh	13679.62	12035.63	23833.21	Being collected
10	Jammu & Kashmir	22909.00	15931.83	28810.02	17190.79
11	Jharkhand	95495.43	65646.72	93101.11	67278.15
12	Karnataka	111166.13	83854.22	143270.36	112425.4
13	Kerala	38285.22	28659.08	78020.67	Being collected
14	Madhya Pradesh	221670.18	180188.59	242428.35	228930.77
15	Maharashtra	188138.89	164164.82	309755.58	230197.979
16	Manipur	6009.97	3687.05	7003.62	Being collected
17	Meghalaya	13804.82	10646.62	12064.66	11652.98
18	Mizoram	2071.23	2045.53	4497.02	3079.81
19	Nagaland	4261.38	3823.68	4857.68	Being collected
20	Orissa	120389.08	77305.12	104866.36	99668.32
21	Punjab	33239.44	18047.93	57278.14	Being collected
22	Rajasthan	194173.58	113867.95	169510	140268.85

1	2	3	4	5	6
23	Sikkim	2026.88	1789.85	2013.53	1940.119
24	Tamil Nadu	82554.65	67725.39	131933.2	95599.091
25	Tripura	9930.74	2768.38	17340.04	Being collected
26	Uttarakhand	17630.93	14028.47	26821.8	19768.18
27	Uttar Pradesh	404919.38	271603.08	417992.34	314481.16
28	West Bengal	218464.79	129519.14	268213.82	149631.6586
29	A & N Islands	669.17	478.90	977.85	1042.465
30	Chandigarh	1222.04	800.58	2124.42	905.79
31	D & N Haveli	993.61	530.09	957.22	563.483
32	Daman & Diu	294.38	119.39	439.88	243.52
33	Delhi	21900.26	16065.51	35798.19	15242.82
34	Lakshadweep	157.92	183.58	347.08	Being collected
35	Puducherry	1092.90	976.63	2305.44	2260.92
TOTAL :		2444689.22	1706663.03	2929866.62	1761202.94

Recommendations of Yashpal Committee

382. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI N.K.SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Yashpal Committee report on restructuring higher education which was to be submitted by June, 2009, has now been submitted;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the review Committee under Prof. Yashpal has recommended for college clusters as a part of restructuring higher education in the country; and

(d) if so, the action so far taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009

(b) The recommendations of the Committee *inter-alia* are:

- (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the UGC, AICTE, NCTE and DEC and the academic functions of professional councils;
- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses;
- (iii) Curricular reform should be of priority of the NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;
- (iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty. While appointing teachers to the universities their affiliation to a particular college should also be specified to emphasize the need for their exposure to undergraduate students;
- (v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;
- (vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and a lienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on. Additionally the barriers to entry into universities for students going through vocational training should be lowered to enable them to upgrade their knowledge base at any stage of their careers;
- (vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;
- (viii) New governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;
- (ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in this report within a period of three years failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period of time enriched higher education by their innovations be given recognition and supported appropriately;

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report is under consideration of the Government.

Derecognition of Deemed Universities

†383. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Deemed Universities to which recognition has been conferred by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether present Government is going to derecognize these Deemed Universities;

(c) if so, the basis of derecognition and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has given direction for examining the availability of qualified teachers, adequate resource and transparency in admission-procedure of students in all existing Deemed Universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Forty seven institutions have been declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, as 'Deemed to be Universities', during the last three years. A State-wise list is given below:

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Institutions Declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'				Total
		2006	2007	2008	2009 (till today)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	2	1	4
2.	Bihar	1	-	-	-	1
3.	Gujarat	-	1	-	-	1
4.	Haryana	-	1	1	1	3
5.	Karnataka	1	1	7	-	9
6.	Kerala	1	-	1	-	2
7.	Maharashtra	1	-	1	-	2
8.	Orissa	-	1	-	-	1
9.	Puducherry	-	-	1	-	1

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Punjab	-	1	-	-	1
11.	Rajasthan	1	-	-	1	2
12.	Tamil Nadu	2	2	10	-	14
13.	Uttarakhand	-	1	1	-	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	-	3
15.	New Delhi	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL :		09	10	25	3	47

(b) to (e) Pursuant to receipt of information regarding dilution in academic standards in some institutions which were declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities', and allegations of some of them demanding capitation fees from students for admission, the Government has ordered a review of the functioning of such institutions, both by the University Grants Commission as well as by an independent team of experts.

Running of private colleges

384. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many such private universities in several parts of the country, the colleges affiliated to them are being run in other States instead of the States concerned;

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

(c) the action taken or being taken by Government against these universities and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In view of the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prof. Yash Pal & Anr. *Versus* State of Chhattisgarh & Ors., the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked Vice Chancellors of all the Private Universities to close down their off-campus centres which have been established beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the respective State Legislatures. The UGC has also written to the Secretaries of Education of all the States to take suitable steps for amending the existing Acts made so as to bring the same in conformity with the directions of the Apex Court. State Governments were also requested to stop all Public Universities and Private Universities established by the State Legislature from operating beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the relevant State as off-campus/study centres/affiliated colleges etc.

UGC regulations, namely, the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 for the establishment and maintenance of standards of teaching,

research, examination and extension services in the private universities are presently in force. It has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.P.Thyagarajan, former Vice Chancellor, University of Madras, to revise these Regulations.

Appointment of primary teachers

†385.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT AL/AS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country requires around three lakh and five thousand teachers to provide education to all;
- (b) if so, the details of the vacant posts of teachers State-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the shortage of teachers is a hurdle in making Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan successful;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the target set for appointment of teachers for primary education during the last two years and the number of appointments made State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Information regarding vacancy of teachers in schools of the country is maintained by the respective State Governments. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), State Governments make an assessment of additional requirement of elementary school teachers based on SSA norms namely (i) one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary; (ii) at least two teachers in a primary school; (iii) one teacher for every class in the upper primary, of the three teachers sanctioned under SSA for every new upper primary school, one each will need to be a teacher with mathematics and science specific educational background. The number of additional teachers required to meet the SSA norms is assessed annually and approved under the State Annual Works Plan & Budget.

Teachers are required by the respective State Governments as per their own specific rules and regulations, and norms and remuneration. From 2003-04 to 2008-09, 12.27 lakh teachers have been provided to State/ Union Territories under the SSA programme. The cumulative achievement against these sanctions is 80.39%.

For the year 2007-08, 122849 teachers were sanctioned, and 69905 teachers were appointed (56.90%). For the year 2008-09, 107444 teachers were sanctioned, and 76617 teachers were appointed (71.30%). The State-wise details of teachers sanctioned and the number of teachers appointed for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Targets and achievement of teachers appointment during
2007-08, 2008-09 under SSA*

S.No.	Name of State	Target during 2007-08	Achievement during 2007-08	Target during 2008-09	Achievement during 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	1633	1633	153	153
2	Arunachal Pradesh	790	1242	827	827
3	Assam	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	35965	2271	31756	3011
5	Chhattisgarh	2605	2188	1594	6790
6	Goa	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
8	Haryana	1986	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	420	609	684	39
10	Jammu & Kashmir	10583	0	8145	4453
11	Jharkhand	4448	10635	5724	3505
12	Karnataka	6009	6005	1266	0
13	Kerala	256	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	2238	0	3145	0
15	Maharashtra	0	0	10068	10068
16	Manipur	365	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	534	534	1888	1888
18	Mizoram	287	281	222	222
19	Nagaland	0	0	22	0
20	Orissa	3990	3066	4894	18877
21	Punjab	21	0	464	1083
22	Rajasthan	24616	9000	3000	10128
23	Sikkim	0	0	25	0
24	Tamil Nadu	1676	5098	1577	5098
25	Tripura	114	114	1106	1106

1	2	3	4	5	6
26	Uttar Pradesh	18162	23486	19260	4277
27	Uttarakhand	1319	1319	1196	1196
28	West Bengal	4800	2314	10392	3498
29	A & N Islands	4	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	72	0	398
31	D & N Haveli	0	0	5	0
32	Daman Diu	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	8	20	8	0
34	Lakshadweep	8	0	13	0
35	Puducherry	12	18	10	0
TOTAL :		122849	69905	107444	76617

Quality of education in Deemed Universities

386. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently drawn up regulation for standardization of Deemed Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the varsities are not maintaining standards and there is no monitoring mechanism to check the quality of education in such varsities; and

(d) if so, to what extent the steps taken by UGC are going to ensure that the accredited institutes are considered for deemed status and quality education is imparted by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The draft regulations on institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities', prepared by the University Grants Commission, are presently under consideration in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Institutions 'deemed to be universities' are expected to maintain the minimum norms and standards prescribed by the Commission and the respective Statutory Councils. The Commission reviews the functioning of the Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting committees of experts. Such reviews include academic and financial aspects of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. According to the University Grants Commission, only National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) (at

least 'B' grade) accredited institutions or institutions with at least 75% of the eligible courses accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), are eligible to be considered for declaring them as institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Review of Deemed University status

387. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to initiate reforms in higher education and has decided to review the status awarded to Deemed Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has awarded Deemed University status to a large number of private institutions without checking their accountability; and

(d) if so, the present position of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is in the process of reviewing the functioning of institutions declared as 'deemed-to-be-institutions' through a Committee of Experts.

(c) and (d) Institutions are declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' by the Central Government on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission. The Commission follows the procedure of assessment by Committees of Experts and its guidelines in regard to eligibility of institutions.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

388. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to go ahead with Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme aimed at universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage;

(b) if so, whether Government has also allotted Rs. 20120 crores for the scheme in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, whether in addition Union Government will bear 75 per cent of project expenditure while States will bear balance of 25% and the pattern will be 50:50 in Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether mandate of scheme is to provide universalisation of education by 2020; and

(e) whether in addition objective of scheme are removal of gender, socio economic and disability barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, for north-eastern States, the central share would be 90%.

(d) and (e) The scheme envisages enhancing the enrollment ratio to 75% for classes IX-X within 5 years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, universal access to secondary level education by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

Change in nomenclature of Deemed Universities

†389. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed Deemed Universities to remove the word 'deemed' from the name;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Yashpal Committee constituted by Government on education had recommended that there is no need of deemed universities;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the degrees awarded by deemed universities are not recognized as university degrees; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the removal of the word 'deemed' from 'deemed universities' will enable these universities to deceive and exploit the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the then Secretary Higher Education, the University Grants Commission conveyed its approval to the use of the word "University" by institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' with a condition that such institutions were required to state the notification number of the Government of India and that they were declared under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

(c) The Yash Pal Committee constituted by the Central Government has expressed concern about the increase in the number of institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' over the years and has recommended that granting of the status of deemed-to-be-universities be put on hold till unambiguous and rational guidelines are evolved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir, Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 empowers universities, including institutions declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' under Section 3 of the said Act, to confer or grant degrees.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Changes in Madarsa Education Scheme

†390.SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to bring about changes in the Madarsa education system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any new plan under which the Muslim youth studying in Madarasas will also be imparted vocational training alongwith religious education; and
- (d) if so, the details of the scheme State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Area Intensive and Madrassa Modernization Programme has been reformulated in November 2008 into the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM) to encourage traditional institutions like Madarasas and Maktabas to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Language and English in their curriculum alongwith religious, education so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency. The details of the various components of revised scheme of SPQEM are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) The revised Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM) was circulated to all State/UT Governments in October 2008 seeking proposals. Proposals have not been received from any State so far.

Statement

Change in Madarasas Education Scheme

The details of the various components of revised scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM) are as follows:

- i) For appointment of teachers teaching Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Languages, computer Application and Science subject to availability of a minimum of ten students in each subject, each full time Graduate teacher will be paid salary for 12 months @ Rs.6000/- p.m., and post Graduate/B.Ed. Rs.12000/- p.m. State Governments/Madarasas Boards would ensure that larger Madarasas with higher student enrolment recruit better qualified teachers.
- ii) For strengthening libraries/book banks and providing teaching learning materials at primary/middle/secondary and senior secondary levels, one time assistance upto Rs 50,000/- followed by an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- will be provided to each Madarasas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- iii) For purchase of Science Kits, Maths Kits, and other essential pedagogical equipment for teaching modern subjects a grant upto a maximum amount of Rs. 15000/- will be provided.
- iv) For establishment of Science/Computer Labs/work shops in Madarsas at the Secodnary/Senior Secondary levels upto the maximum of Rs. 100000 for each of the labs followed by an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- for maintenance/ purchase of consumables.
- v) For conducting in service teacher training programmes for the teachers appointed under the scheme in madarsas to upgrade their pedagogical skills. Training will be arranged in groups by SCERTs/DIETs/VRCs etc. and the funds for this purpose will be provided to the training institution through the State Government. Rs. 100/- per day per teacher trainee for a maximum of 15 days training, will be paid to the training institution to cover training expenses and TA/DA of the trainee teacher.
- vi) For registration fees, examination fees and cost of study materials supplied by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) upto 100% for each student opting for studying through NIOS at secondary and senior secondary level.
- vii) Madarsas can also opt for vocational courses offered by NIOS after fulfilling norms and standards set by NIOS. The registration fees would be met from the scheme as in (vi) above. There will be linkages of madarsas with industry, I.T.Is set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment etc. which are in the vicinity, for use of workshops and for promoting employment opportunities.
- viii) For State Madarsas Boards opting for assistance, to strengthen their capacity to monitor the SPQEM, by providing recurring financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per year for each Madarsas Board. The assistance will be for appointment of qualified & competent staff, computerization of office; office equipments; research & evaluation; and awareness generation amongst the muslim community for participation in education.

Establishment of IIMs

†391. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) set up or to be set up in various States during last one year till date, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up new IIMs in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken any Policy decision regarding not to set up IIT and IIM simultaneously to the same State during a single Five Year Plan; and
- (f) if so, whether there is also any exception of it and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) An Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has been set up in the year 2007-08 in Shillong (Meghalaya). The other IIMs will be set up in the States of Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan during the XIth Five Year Plan. However, in the first phase, IIMs at Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Rohtak (Haryana), Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) are to be set up. Historically, IIMs have been established in different parts of the country on the demand of academia, industry and public in general.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. A few States have both IIMs & IITs. The location of these institutions is determined in a manner which balances the desire for achieving a greater geographical spread with the potential synergies arising from co-location.

Status of vocational training

392. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the findings and recommendations of National Sample Survey Organization's report on the status of education and vocational training in India (2004-05);
- (b) whether survey's revelation is alarming that over 50 per cent rural households and 20 per cent urban households do not have even single literate women in their families above the age of 15; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and follow up action thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The key findings of the report "Status of Education and Vocational Training in India 2004-05" prepared by National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO) in December, 2006 based on NSS 61st Round (July-2004 to June-2005) include the following:

- (i) In about 26 % of the households in rural areas and about 8% of those in urban areas, there was not a single member of the family above age 15 who could read and write a simple message with understanding.
- (ii) About 50% of the rural households and about 20% of the urban had no literate among the female members of age 15 years and above.

- (iii) The literacy rate in India was 64% in 2004-05.
 - (iv) Among persons of age 15 and above, only 2% had technical degree or diploma or certificate.
 - (v) Among persons of age 15 - 29, about 2% were reported to have received formal vocational training and another 8% had received non-formal vocational training.
- (b) The survey revealed that about 50% of rural households and about 20% of urban households had no literate female member of age group 15 and above.
- (c) The Government have several programmes and schemes in the field of adult education, vocational education and vocational training to improve the literacy rate and for skill development.

Denial of Deemed University status

393. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the method of appraisal of any request for Deemed University status;
- (b) the criterion on which a Deemed University status is granted;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a few institutions were denied Deemed University status initially;
- (d) if so, the details of denying such status; and
- (e) the grounds on which the decision was reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Government is empowered by Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to declare an institution of higher education as 'Deemed-to-be-University', on the advice of the UGC. The UGC has laid down detailed guidelines for consideration of proposals for declaring an institution as 'Deemed-to-be-University'. The proposals received for conferment of 'Deemed-to-be-University' status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 are examined by the UGC as per the provisions of these guidelines. A committee of eminent experts visits the applicant institution and gives its report, which is considered by the Commission. The UGC then makes appropriate recommendations to the Government. The report of the UGC is examined by the Government and if the applicant institution is found fit to be awarded the 'Deemed-to-be-University' status, it is so notified by the Government.

- (b) As per the said guidelines of the UGC, for the purpose of recognition as an Institution 'Deemed-to-be-University', an institution should generally be:
- (i) Engaged in teaching programmes and research in chosen fields of specialization, which are innovative and of very high academic standards at the Master's (or equivalent) and / or research levels. It should also have a greater interface with society through extra mural, extension and field action related programmes.

- (ii) Making, in its areas of specialisation, distinct contribution to the objectives of the University education system through innovative programmes and on being recognised as a Deemed to be University should be capable of further enriching the University system as well as strengthening teaching and research in the institution, particularly in its area of specialisation.
- (iii) Competent to undertake application-oriented programmes in emerging areas, which are relevant and useful to various development sectors and to the society in general.
- (iv) In existence for 10 years with infrastructure as prescribed by relevant statutory bodies monitoring education in their field and a management capable of contributing to the University ideals and traditions.
- (v) Financially sound and establish a corpus fund of the prescribed amount [Rs.5,00 crore for institutions in the fields of Engineering and Medicine and Rs.3 crore for the institutions conducting programmes in Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities].

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The proposals relating to grant of status of 'Deemed to be University' to Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu and Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu were initially rejected on the ground of certain deficiencies. These institutions were later declared as Institutions 'Deemed to be Universities' after the deficiencies noted were rectified by them.

Independent Regulator for Higher Education

394. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI O.T. LEPPA:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to establish an independent regulator for Higher Education in the country by abolishing bodies like All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE), University Grants Commission(UGC) etc.;

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

(c) by when the new regulation for higher education will be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Yash Pal Committee has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), with constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission(UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education(NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and that all the other regulatory bodies in professional education such as the Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI),

Bar Council of India be divested of their academic functions. The National Knowledge Commission had earlier recommended the creation of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) to function independently of Government, and be responsible for setting the criteria and deciding on entry of institutions with degree granting power to higher education institutions. The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by the Government as one of its priorities for action.

Executive body of Deemed Universities

395. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) prescribe structure, composition and selection of executive and academic bodies for Deemed University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State and Central Governments are represented on such bodies through their nominees;

(d) whether the UGC has also prescribed norms for the selection of Vice Chancellors and faculties of these Universities;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government prescribes such norms for the Deemed Universities at par with other Central Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from the University Grants Commission, the Commission has prescribed structure, composition and selection of executive and academic bodies for institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' in its model Constitution of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) / Rules that are to be adopted by the Institutions declared by the Central Government as 'Deemed to be Universities' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The model MoA is available in the Guidelines for Considering Proposals for Declaring an Institution as 'Deemed-to-be-University' Under Section 3 of the UGC Act, at www.ugc.ac.in/financial_support/guidelines.html.

(c) While the Board of Management, which is the principal Executive Body of the Institution 'Deemed-to-be-University', has one nominee each of the Chairman, UGC and the Government of India, there is a provision for representative of the Central Government / State Government on the Finance Committee of the Institution.

(d) to (f) The procedure for selection of Vice-Chancellors and faculties of the Institution 'Deemed to be Universities' has been prescribed in the said UGC's Model MoA/Rules. The Central Government does not prescribe any norms for selection of Vice Chancellors, etc. of Institutions 'Deemed to be Universities' that are privately sponsored.

Monitoring activities of Panchayats

†396. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up or is planning to set up any system for monitoring the activities of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government to make Panchayats achieve their objective and to make them responsible?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj reviews the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the States/UTs covered under Part-IX of the Constitution through review meetings and reports. Moreover, the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) intends to incentivize States for empowerment of Panchayats and enhancing accountability through a detailed review. Local Self Government Institutions (Panchayats) is a State subject. Accordingly, monitoring of activities of Panchayats is in the domain of the respective State.

(c) Does not arise.

Recognition of Girijana Tandas

397. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to recognise the girijana tandas where more than 500 people live in the agency areas of gram panchayats in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, by when such proposal would be implemented; and

(d) the funds released for the present tandas in each State especially in East and West Godavari districts in agency areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Union Government has not received any such proposal. It is purely a State subject relating to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that it has received such proposal and the State Government is examining it.

(d) No funds have been released by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to Tandas separately now.

National level consultation with Panchayats

398. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete measures were adopted towards operationalisation of National Policy for Farmers after March, 2008 session of national level consultation with Panchayats;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what has been the result towards developing greater technical support for each Gram Panchayat and attaching Agriculture University students with the Panchayati Raj institutions; and

(c) whether structured programmes were formulated for achieving the objectives stipulated during March, 2008 session?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) During the National Consultation of Panchayats for operationalisation of National Policy for Farmers 2007 held on 16-17 March, 2008, it was unanimously agreed that Panchayats have an important role to play in order to give an impetus to agricultural production, productivity and sustainability to farming. Accordingly, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Agriculture have written to all concerned Ministries and Departments, Agriculture Universities and State Governments to operationalize the National Policy for Farmers in accordance with the decision taken/recommendations made during the National Consultation. Indian Council of Agriculture Research has also been requested to organize a conference of Vice Chancellors of all the universities and other related organizations and PRLs in order to achieve greater technical support to farmers by involving Agriculture Universities' students to strengthen the extension services at the grass root level.

Categorization of BPL beneficiaries

399. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cases for categorization of Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries;

(b) whether there have been variations in the poverty estimates of Union and State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any committee under Shri N.C. Saxena has been set up to look into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof including terms of references;

(f) whether any order has been passed by any court in respect of estimates of poverty and the base year for reckoning such estimates;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether a new survey for poverty estimates is proposed; and

(i) if so, the details thereof along with the likely time therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty at the national and State level which categorises the people as Below Poverty Line (BPL). The State-wise poverty is estimated from the State-specific poverty lines and State Specific Consumer Expenditure Distribution obtained from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) after an interval of 5 years approximately following the Expert Group method.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census in association with States and UTs to identify the households in the rural areas living below the poverty line who could be

targeted under its programmes. An Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena has been constituted by the Ministry in August, 2008 to recommend suitable methodology for conducting the next BPL Census to identify the BPL households in the rural areas with the following Terms of Reference:-

- (i) To recommend more suitable methodology to conduct the next BPL Census with simple, transparent and objectively measurable indicators for identification of BPL for providing assistance under the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ii) To recommend institutional system for conducting survey, processing of data validation and approval of BPL List at various levels.
- (iii) To recommend institutional mechanism to address grievances of public on exclusion/inclusion in the BPL List.
- (iv) To briefly look at the relationship between estimation and identification of poor and the issue of putting a limit on the total number of BPL families to be identified.
- (v) Any other recommendation to make the exercise of BPL Census simple and acceptable.

(f) and (g) The Government is not aware of any Court order in respect of estimates of poverty, however, while hearing a Civil Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL Vs Union of India, the Supreme Court had passed an Order on 5.5.2003 directing that the Government of India will not insist the State Governments to remove any person from the existing BPL list. The above Stay Order was vacated on 14th February, 2006.

(h) and (i) The estimation of poverty in the country is carried out by the Planning Commission on the basis of large sample survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately 5 years. The latest poverty estimates based on the Household Consumer Expenditure of 61st Round of the NSS are available for the year 2004-05.

Amendment in NREGA

400. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to make the same more effective and also to provide employment for more days to the rural poor; and

(b) the details of various State Governments which have failed to utilize the grant allotted for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration regarding increasing the number of days of guaranteed employment under the Act.

(b) NREGA is demand driven. Funds are released to the districts by the Central Government based on labour demand. State-wise details of funds released by the Central Government, total available funds and funds utilized during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (up to May, 2009) are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of funds released and utilized State-wise and also funds available with them

Sl. No.	States	Central Release				Total funds available				Funds utilised / expenditure			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto May 09)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto May 09)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto May 09)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	102541.43	137105.40	321910.19	91437.7161	114224.39	229320.82	370669.63	16503.65	68020.32	208374.75	296390.38	60928.13
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1450.85	1265.38	2948.84	0	1211.25	372.49	4145.65	27.17	221.34	303.9	2355.15	10.65
3	Assam	26550.85	52175.01	95872.16	13789.35	70769.1	80609.74	136557.02	5427.87	59252.93	54914.93	95379.66	23448.48
4	Bihar	54831.38	46707.83	138819.05	19979.65	119117.81	152388.63	218785.9	10274.29	71276.16	105222.66	131647.97	24521.22
5	Chhattisgarh	71850.74	114415.71	166449.34	20417.91	84088.78	151755.67	200591.38	7950.69	66882.16	140183.2	143447.52	17962.94
6	Gujarat	7433.94	5915.71	16419.2	13830.76	12374.74	12680.45	28126.75	2296.05	8585.03	8184.24	19615.34	4406.83
7	Haryana	3589.39	4840.97	13656.65	1313.47	4652.85	5802.46	16415.91	1190.13	3594.67	5235.01	10988.22	567.3
8	Himachal Pradesh	4667.64	12754.06	40974.63	6537.9	5719.2	16150.34	50124.84	2341.16	3940.12	12564.88	33227.64	4522.03
9	Jammu and Kashmir	4136.37	7071.37	10472.53	3968.9	5012.4	8994.66	15290.14	811.80	3454.44	4200.26	8772.02	482.1
10.	Jharkhand	55854.59	65069.07	180580.14	21441.09	98220.95	125468.19	236337.36	12457.89	71155.13	106253.85	134171.7	13084.78
11	Karnataka	24850.69	25298.49	39851.14	11574.44	34131.33	43671.67	66157.34	1237.17	24829.67	23650.54	35787.46	4032.38
12	Kerala	3739.51	6900.55	19887.32	13734.04	4835.18	9973.95	29771.74	2143.61	2789.73	8336.83	22454.65	2110.06
13	Madhya Pradesh	190944.20	260279.82	406111.54	108398.63	213368.36	328848.4	507481.96	24327.48	186268.63	289172.6	355166.67	74955.43
14	Maharashtra	21815.64	2923.75	18756.08	7804.7	48693.66	49783.33	61535.79	3959.00	17461.18	18907.21	35664.62	9110.16
15	Manipur	1692.89	6184.13	36540.97	8025.71	2037.59	6415.05	39735.08	737.53	2025.5	6276.15	32089.61	1169.89
16	Meghalaya	3224.68	5918.73	7802.6	3132.94	2583.63	6389.93	10975.76	621.22	2111.85	5091.18	8948.73	823.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	Mizoram	2023.90	3343.49	15194.15	6858.96	2598.21	4595.38	17426.3	751.88	1643.11	4200.7	16455.7	352.12
18	Nagaland	910.11	4399.59	26805.72	10899.24	1595.96	2572.41	28921.18	875.37	1457.62	2397.57	27231.15	1814.5
19	Orissa	78380.49	53695.69	87843.67	9304.63	89018.66	81098.83	112233.49	3119.23	73346.62	57956.9	59933.82	1835.49
20	Punjab	3445.75	2972.32	6775.32	1705.35	3839.21	5027.36	11492.7	570.75	2500.21	3004.29	7204.95	538.89
21	Rajasthan	78041.00	105600.20	652157.16	208053.81	85617.3	144069.79	724534.48	31497.96	69306.14	147733.72	616439.73	119680.47
22	Sikkim	691.50	629.75	4097.14	1972.92	456.5	1432.37	6212.62	240.66	261.89	1185.76	4148.68	635.16
23	Tamil Nadu	18409.21	51609.09	140126.58	17699.5	25210.92	70113.96	179459.04	9914.47	15163.63	51642.38	100406.47	26324.03
24	Tripura	2754.66	17016.45	46036.6	14411.22	4977.63	21850.38	51943.39	1724.68	4507.68	20860.34	49077.13	1731.64
25	Uttar Pradesh	56914.69	166589.89	393390.127	126081.57	102871.22	222726.19	470692.847	23782.01	77967.46	189825.13	358282.2	38874.11
26	Uttaranchal	4470.60	11003.65	10116.44	6477.42	7105.31	15319.6	15566.09	1166.24	4849.7	9575.01	13579.33	1562.77
27	West Bengal	38868.84	88262.88	92275.09	37359.92	63023.42	133148.55	133474.77	7965.71	39462.63	100434.62	94038.47	21602.3
28	Andaman and Nicobar		*135	702.75	0			1557.83	102.19			327.54	64.27
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		*45	45.1	0			46.2	11.21			1.03	52.1
30	Daman & Diu		*90	21.86	0			21.86	0.00			0	0
31	Goa		*114	618.21	0			684.07	29.42			239.22	9.93
32	Lakshadweep		*45	262.26	0			435.2	25.83			178.68	34.1
33	Pondicherry		*45	419.44	0			969.44	0.00			136.1	0
34	Chandigarh		*45	20	0			20	0.00			0	0
TOTAL :		864085.53	1259948.98	2993960.00	786212	1207355.57	1930580.6	3748393.76	174084.28	882335.548	1585688.6	2713787.54	457247.56

*Union Territories were covered under NREGA with effect from 1.4.2008. Funds were released to them during the Financial Year 2007-08 for preparatory activities.

Rural water supply in Rajasthan

401. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount allocated to Rajasthan, under various rural water supply schemes, during last three years, till date;
- (b) the details of the amount utilized by the State during this period and achievements thereof;
- (c) the present status of rural water supply in Rajasthan;
- (d) the total number of villages having assured potable water supply; and
- (e) the time-frame for covering the remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) The central funds allocated and utilized by Rajasthan during the last three years, alongwith the achievements during the period is as follows:

Year	Allocation (Rupees in Lakh)	Utilization (Rupees in Lakh)	Achievement (Number of Habitations)
2006-07	41489.68	51477.91	7990
2007-08	60672.00	61966.80	20969
2008-09	97013.00	97182.66	28465

The allocation for 2009-10 has not been finalized pending passing of the Union Budget. However, an adhoc release of Rs. 33273.18 lakh has been made to the State for the year.

(c) to (e) As per the Habitation Survey conducted in 2003, Rajasthan had 107768 habitations, of which 55934 were Not Covered (NC), 17168 Partially Covered (PC) and 34666 Fully Covered (FC). The status of habitations, as on 1st April 2009 is that the State has 121133 habitations, of which 44044 are NC, 21092 are PC and 56001 are FC. The Government of Rajasthan has reported that about 82501 habitations have a potable source of drinking water. The State has reported that of the 66 major projects sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 8999.51 crore, 40 projects are at various stages of execution. These are long gestation projects.

Status of PMGSY in Assam

402. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the allocation made for construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Assam since 2005, year-wise;
- (b) the specific provision made for regular maintenance, repair and Flood Damage Repair (FDR) of such roads constructed;
- (c) whether any new guidelines have formulated regarding Sampoorn Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) programme implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The allocation (diesel cess) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Assam was Rs.176 crore each for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 and Rs.181 crore each for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09.

(b) As per PMGSY Programme guidelines, PMGSY projects are required to be covered by 5 year maintenance contracts, to be entered into along with the construction contract, with the same contractor, in accordance with Standard Bidding Document, for regular routine maintenance. Funds to service these contracts are to be budgeted and to be provided by the State Government. Special repairs necessitated on account of flood damages (FDR) are, however, required to be carried out by the State Governments with their own funds including assistance that may be available under calamity relief and reconstruction.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Diversion of funds of CAPART

403. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects relating to rural development are being run in Himachal Pradesh with the financial help of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) whether Government has ever conducted any inquiry to find out that the amount released for these projects is being diverted to other activities;

(c) if so, how many cases of misuse of funds have come to the light; and

(d) the details of action taken against the organisations involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Works under NREGA in Kerala

404. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has given any suggestion for modifying the list of works permissible under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) considering the peculiar condition in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Government of Kerala has given suggestions to modify the list of works permissible under NREGA. These are under examination of the Government.

Performance of NREGA

405. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study "Evaluating performance of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)" conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Public Interest foundation (PIF) revealing that the programme has achieved only 50 per cent success and several cases of data manipulated with fudging of muster rolls reported;

(b) whether it is a fact that the new minimum wages, which have been notified were being paid at the earlier dates; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to above mentioned stinging critique from a respectable institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN):

(a) and (c) Yes. Sir. As NREGA is not a target based programme, it is not correct to say that only 50% success has been achieved. NCAER-PIF report does not reflect any original estimate of survey done by the organization. Hence, the findings mentioned in the report is not based on its own survey. It refers to selective portions of studies conducted by various other institutions *e.g.* Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) and organizations that may differ in time frame and survey methodology. The findings of CEFS report has been got verified by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. In most of the cases the findings were not found true. The study conducted by NCAER-PIF mainly highlights the findings of the CAG report on the performance audit conducted by CAG which was for the period 2006-07, the first year of the NREGA implementation. The CAG report has been examined in this Ministry. This report does not highlight any cases of data manipulation. However, the report has mainly focused on the procedural gaps and record maintenance by the implementing agencies because of inadequate staff. Specific instances of anomalies pointed out in CAG report have been shared with the State Governments for corrective action.

(b) Central Government has notified Wage rate under Section 6(1) of NREGA with effect from 1.1.2009. It takes into account the minimum wages for agricultural labourers as notified by the respective States under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 prior to that date.

Utilisation of funds in Orissa

406. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released by his Ministry to Orissa during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the percentage of utilisation of Central Government fund by Orissa during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implemented the major schemes namely, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Scheme-wise Central Share of funds released by this Ministry to Government of Orissa and percentage utilisation of funds by the Government of Orissa is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Central Share of funds released to Govt. of Orissa and
percentage of utilization of funds*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Central Release	% Utilisation	Central Release	% Utilisation	Central Release	% Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)	78380.49	82.39	53695.69	71.46	87843.67	53.40
2	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)	6724.76	99.59	10036.40	87.83	12132.09	86.29
3	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar* Yojana (SGRY)	11931.45	85.09	4492.37	89.64	*	*
4	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	15042.66	92.62	20280.02	113.97	46082.19**	38.87
5	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	64178.00	\$90.81	54683.00	\$123.87	125138.00	\$92.94
6	Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP)	2062.00	\$ \$	1794.00	\$ \$	3354.00	46.24\$ \$
7	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	1481.00	\$ \$	2393.00	\$ \$	2513.00	56.11\$ \$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	9722.58	61.75	17194.55	100.00	29868.00	56.29
10	Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)	5465.48	64.04	5858.40	94.02	7204.33	55.05

* SGRY subsumed into NREGA *w.e.f.* 1.4.2008. Percentage utilisation is out of the available funds which include opening balance + central and State releases + miscellaneous receipts.

** Including amount of Rs. 3706.00 lakh, allotted to 5 Naxal affected district of Orissa for a target of construction of 28236 houses.

\$ The percentage utilisation in PMGSY is on the basis of central releases.

\$\$ Percentage utilisation in IWDP and DPAP is on the basis of the cumulative expenditure of last three years.

Implementation of NREGA in Assam

407. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of job cards, issued under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Assam since its implementation till January, 2008 and number of man-days and wages granted to each of the card holders in the backward districts year-wise during the period;

(b) the total allocation made under NREGA for Assam and amount actually utilized during the period; and

(c) proposed target and allocation made for 2008-09 and 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand driven. Employment is provided to a registered household having a job card on demand. Up to January, 2008, 9.25 lakh households were provided employment. District-wise expenditure incurred on payment of wages is given the Statement. Details of wages paid to each household are available at the official website of NREGA *i.e.* www.nrega.nic.in. Up to the Financial Year 2007-08, 13 districts of Assam had been covered under the Act. Details of job cards issued, number of households to whom employment was given, total persondays of employment generated and expenditure incurred on wages to such households are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) NREGA is demand based. The Central Government releases funds to the districts based on labour demand. Central funds released, total available funds and funds utilized by Assam during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to Jan., 2008) are as under:

Funds released (Rs.in lakh)		Total Available funds (Rs. in lakh)		Funds Utilised (Rs. in lakh)	
2006-07	2007-08 (Up to Jan., 08)	2006-07	2007-08 (Up to Jan., 08)	2006-07	2007-08 (Up to Jan., 08)
26550.85	49817.01	70769.1	72435.85	59252.93	34223.44

(c) A sum of Rs. 95872.16 lakh were released during 2008-09 and Rs. 16177.71 lakh have so far been released during 2009-10.

Statement

Implementation of NREGA in 13 districts of Assam

Districts	Job card issued (in Nos.) (Upto Jan. 08) (FY:2007-08)	Job card holders to whom Employment was given (in Nos.)		Total personal generated (in lakhs)		Expenditure on Unskilled wage (in lakhs)	
		2006-07	2007-08 (Upto Jan. 2008)	2006-07	2007-08 (Upto Jan. 2008)	2006-07	2007-08 (Upto Jan. 2008)
Bongaigaon	155935	95184	147983	67.19	54.47	4368.14	3964.61
Dhemaji	92365	92165	68739	69.34	29.72	4719.48	1807.31
Goalpara	145639	103719	98031	63.47	20.31	4140.71	1356.14
Karbi Anglong	184884	172997	184884	104.04	54.02	7829.45	3901.22
Kokrajhar	207940	204090	165092	103.29	83.92	6581.50	5711.78
Lakhimpur	123834	91777	63620	99.85	37.46	6390.71	2472.85
North Cachar Hills	36551	32338	26678	65.74	17.77	4339.20	1173.37
Barpeta	100155		54564		8.71		657.15
Cachar	34500		1554		0.1		6.96
Darrang	64642		36106		5.78		444.89
Hailakandi	31429		18012		0.62		47.59
Morigaon	108401		58914		10.36		648.54
Nalbari	15000		1007		0.23		18.02
Average	1301275	792270	925184	572.92	323.47	38369.19	22210.43

It may be noted that employment under NREGA is demand based.

As per Schedule 2 para (5) of NREGA, All registered persons belonging to a household shall be entitled to employment in accordance with the Scheme made under the provisions of this Act, for as many days as each applicant may request, subject to a maximum of one hundred days per household in a given financial year.

For the total JobCard holding household to whom employment was given, total Persondays generated and wage expenditure for 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Jan., 08) district-wise data is reported above. The above status have been reported by the districts and State on the Monthly Progress Report on the NREGA Website.

Scope of NREGS works in coastal areas

408. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the scope of undertaking National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) works is limited in the case of coastal areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to change the list of permissible works to suit the peculiar conditions in the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The issue of inclusion of more works in the list of permissible works under NREGA is under examination.

Indira Awas Yojana

409. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to increase the target of Rural Housing under 'Indira Awas Yojana'; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) During the 'Bharat Nirman' period from 2005-06 to 2008-09, 60 lakh houses were envisaged to be constructed under IAY. It has now been proposed to double this figure and to construct 120 lakh houses during next five year's period starting from the current year 2009-10. The physical target for the current year is for construction of 40.52 lakh houses.

Study report on NREGA

410. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to study by think tanks National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Public Interest Foundation (PIF) has found many flaws plaguing UPA Government's flagship National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) including funds not reaching its intended beneficiaries;

(b) if so, whether the cases of corruption, fudging in muster rolls, discrepancies in work days and payments have been reported in almost all studies of NCAER-PIF; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove difficulties pointed out in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The study report of NCAER-PIF has been examined in the Ministry and it is

noticed that the report does not reflect any original estimate of survey done by the organization. It refers to selective portions of studies conducted by various other institutions *e.g.* Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) and organizations that may differ in time frame and survey methodology. The findings of CEFS report has been got verified by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. In most of the cases the findings were not found true. The study conducted by NCAER-PIF mainly highlights the findings of the CAG report on the performance audit conducted by CAG which was for the period 2006-07, the first year of the NREGA implementation. The CAG report has been examined in this Ministry. This report does not highlight any cases of data manipulation. However, the report has mainly focused on the procedural gaps and record maintenance by the implementing agencies because of inadequate staff. Specific instances of anomalies pointed out in CAG report have been shared with the State Governments for corrective action.

(c) The Ministry has taken the following measures for strengthening the implementation of the NREGA:

- (i) States have been requested to appoint dedicated staff and provide them adequate training for NREGA implementation at all levels. To meet the salaries of such dedicated staff, the administrative expenditure under NREGA which was earlier limited to 2% of the total cost was enhanced to 4% with effect from 1.4.2007 and has now been further enhanced to 6% in the current year.
- (ii) Training to all other functionaries involved in the implementation of the Act (PRIs and officials) has been emphasized from time to time. Expenditure towards the training programmes is borne by the Central Government.
- (iii) A web enabled Management Information System (MIS) has been developed in the Ministry to regularly monitor the reliability and authenticity of the figures reported by the States. State Governments are advised to make corrections whenever defects are noticed.
- (iv) Modifications have been made in Schedule I & II of the Act to strengthen the provisions of transparency and accountability, social audit and grievance redressal.
- (v) National toll-free telephone Helpline under NREGA established which receives complaints and queries relating to NREGA. States have also been requested to set up similar helplines.

Convergence of Rural Development Scheme in NREGS

411. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) by converging other rural development schemes in it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the employment avenues in the scheme are likely to grow after convergence of other rural development schemes in NREGS; and
- (d) if so, the estimated growth of employment avenues as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The issues are under examination of the Government.

Redefining poverty line

412. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to redefine poverty line and take count of Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries;
- (b) whether his Ministry has decided to start a survey to identify BPL beneficiaries this year;
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry had used income as its criteria for defining poverty in Eighth Plan and consumption in Ninth Plan;
- (d) if so, whether the current poverty line is based on consumption basket of 1973-74 and it needs to be completely redefined; and
- (e) if so, by when Government is likely to complete survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The Planning Commission as the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty in the country defines the poverty line. No decision has been taken by the Planning Commission to redefine the poverty line at the moment.

(b) An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development in August 2008 to advise the Ministry on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The tenure of the Expert Group has been extended up to 15th July, 2009.

(c) to (e) Poverty is estimated by the Planning Commission using the poverty line, which is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure. The poverty line used by the Planning Commission at present is derived from the consumption basket of 1973-74 (NSS 28th Round of consumer expenditure). Identification of BPL families, which is conducted from the census of rural households by the Ministry of Rural Development in association with the State Governments, is distinct from the measurement of poverty made by the Planning Commission.

Expansion of NREGP

413. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to expand and strengthen the scope of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) NREGA has been extended to cover entire rural areas of the country with effect from 1.4.2008. As regards strengthening the scope of NREGA, the issue is under examination of the Ministry.

Scrap lying at ports

414. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of scrap are lying at some ports in the country;

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

(c) whether it has been posing a great hindrance in loading and unloading of ships; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) Some scrap is lying at some ports in the country. Port-wise details of such scrap; hindrance, if any, posed by such scrap in loading and unloading of ships etc., are as under:-

Sl.No.	Port	Details of scrap	Hindrance, if any, posed by such scrap and action, if any, taken thereon
1	2	3	4
1.	Chennai Port	About 13,959 MT of Iron scrap are lying at the licensed plots in the port as on 25.6.09	As the scrap is being moved to the licensed plots directly from the hook point for storage and subsequent delivery from the plot, the lying of scrap does not pose any hindrance to the loading/unloading of the ships in the port.
2.	Mumbai Port	About 588 tonne of metallic scrap is lying in one of the CFSS away from the docks.	Since the scrap is lying away from the docks it causes no hindrance in loading/unloading of ships in the port.
3.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Navi Mumbai	Around 5,250 TEUS destined for Ludhiana are lying at JNPT as on 29.6.09. Most of these containers contain scrap material.	No hindrance, whatsoever, is being caused by this scrap in the loading/unloading of ships in the port.

1	2	3	4
4.	Kolkata Port	Approximately 730 MT of Iron scrap in loading/unloading of ships. At undelivered at Haldia Dock Complex of Kolkata Port Trust. Of the 28 containers, 6 were detained by Customs on 18.8.06; 19 have been included in Port Auction and 3 containers have landed recently and are awaiting delivery.	Since the scrap is lying inside containers, no hindrance, is caused 28 containers is lying in Kolkata Dock System, some scrap which is old port material is lying in some parts of the docks which are not used for cargo handling operations. Action has already been initiated for disposal of this scrap.
5.	Paradip Port	About 600 MT of scrap is lying at this port.	The said scrap does not pose any hindrance in loading/ unloading operations. Tenders have been issued for disposal of this scrap.
6.	Kandla Port	Approximately 30602 MT of HM scrap, 56473 MT of SS scrap and 120 MT of scrap containing war materials are lying at various storage areas inside Kandla Port as on 30.6.09.	The scrap does not pose any hindrance in loading/unloading of ships in the port.

12.00 Noon

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I. **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi and related papers**
- II. **Memorandum of Understanding (2009-10) between Government of India and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I lay on the Table-

- I. (1) 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) Annual Report and Accounts of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (2) 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. 95/15/09]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Civil Aviation) and the Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 93/15/09]

**Report and Accounts (2007-08) of Jharkhand Education
Project Council, Ranchi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- I. (a) Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 189/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification G.S.R. 279 (E), dated the 23rd April, 2009, publishing the Coinage of the One Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of Birth Centenary of Perarignar Anna Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 28/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I lay on the Table

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:
- (1) G.S.R. 132 (E), dated the 27th February, 2009, seeking to impose provisional Anti-dumping duty on Plain Medium Density Fibre Board originating in or exported

from Peoples Republic of China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand and Sri Lanka at specified rates.

- (2) G.S.R. 186 (E), dated the 23rd March, 2009, seeking to impose provisional safeguard duty at the rate of 28% ad-valorem on imports of Dimethoate Technical imported into India.
- (3) G.S.R. 187 (E), dated the 23rd March, 2009, seeking to impose safeguard duty rate of 21% ad valorem and 35% ad-valorem on all Aluminium Flat Rolled Products and Aluminium Foil respectively imported into India from the Peoples Republic of China.
- (4) G.S.R. 201 (E), dated the 26th March, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of All Fully Drawn or Fully Oriented Yarn/Spin Draw Yarn /Flat Yarn of Polyester (non-textured and non-POY), originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam and imported into India.
- (5) G.S.R. 202 (E), dated the 26th March, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Flax fabric, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and Hong Kong and imported into India.
- (6) G.S.R. 215 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Cathode Ray Colour Television Picture Tubes, originating in or exported from Indonesia.
- (7) G.S.R. 216 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Hexamine, originating in, or exported from Iran and imported into India.
- (8) G.S.R. 217 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Vitamin E originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
- (9) G.S.R. 223 (E), dated the 31st March, 2009, seeking to amend Notification No. 45/2006-Customs, dated the 24th May 2006, so as to amend name of the said producer as M/s Yibin Hiast Fibre Limited Corporation.
- (10) G.S.R. 248 (E), dated the 13th April, 2009, seeking to impose anti-dumping duty, based on the recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Sodium hydrosulphite, originating in, or exported from Germany and the Peoples Republic of Korea and imported into India.
- (11) G.S.R. 264 (E), dated the 20th April, 2009, seeking to impose provisional safeguard duty at the rate of 20% ad-valorem on imports of Soda Ash from the Peoples Republic of China into India.

- (12) G.S.R. 276 (E), dated the 22nd April, 2009, seeking to impose provisional Anti-dumping duty on all imports of Cold Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China, Japan, Korea, European Union, South Africa, Taiwan (Chinese Taipei), Thailand and USA at specified rates.
- (13) G.S.R. 289 (E), dated the 29th April, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric, originating in, or exported from, Belarus and imported into India.
- (14) G.S.R. 290 (E), dated the 29th April, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Thionyl Chloride, originating in, or exported from, the European Union and imported into India.
- (15) G.S.R. 291 (E), dated the 29th April, 2009, seeking to impose anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Nylon Tyre Cord Fabrics, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
- (16) G.S.R. 292 (E), dated the 29th April, 2009, seeking to impose anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Nylon Tyre Cord Fabrics, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
- (17) G.S.R. 293 (E), dated the 29th April, 2009, seeking to impose anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Nylon Tyre Cord Fabrics, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
- (18) G.S.R. 296 (E), dated the 30th April, 2009, seeking to impose final Anti-dumping duty on imports of Cable Ties, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan and imported into India.
- (19) G.S.R. 313 (E), dated the 11th May, 2009, seeking to rescind notification No. 55/2004-Customs dated the 19th April, 2004, imposing anti-dumping duty, on plastic ophthalmic lenses, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).
- (20) G.S.R. 316 (E), dated the 12th May, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty, on all kind of plastic processing or injection moulding machines, also known as injection presses, having clamping force not less than 40 tonnes, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China.

- (21) G.S.R. 320 (E), dated the 13th May, 2009, seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty, based on recommendation of designated authority in the sunset review findings, on imports of Caustic Soda originating in, or exported from Indonesia and European Union (excluding France) and imported into India.
- (22) G.S.R. 336 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, seeking to continue anti-dumping duty on Measuring Tapes, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China.
- (23) G.S.R. 337 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on cathode ray colour television picture tubes, originating in, or exported from Malaysia, Thailand, Peoples Republic of China and Peoples Republic of Korea.
- (24) G.S.R. 352 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, seeking to amend the Notification No. 4/2009-Customs, dated the 6th January, 2009, so as to exempt reflective glass from anti-dumping duty imposed on specified varieties of float glass, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and Indonesia, and imported into India.
- (25) G.S.R. 353 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, providing that no anti-dumping duty shall be imposed on import of vitrified and porcelain tiles from specified producers and exporters of certain countries into India.
- (26) G.S.R. 354 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, seeking to rescind Notification No. 38/2007, dated the 9th March, 2009 which prescribes provisional assessment of import of said tiles into India when exported by specified producers and exporters.
- (27) G.S.R. 360 (E), dated the 26th May, 2009, seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on import of Compact Fluorescent Lamps, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- (28) G.S.R. 370 (E), dated the 30th May, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. 276 (E), dated the 22nd April, 2009, so as to incorporate the changes made by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- (29) G.S.R. 391 (E), dated the 5th June, 2009, seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on import of Compact Discs-Recordable (CD-Rs) originating in, or exported from Iran, Malaysia, Peoples Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.
- (30) G.S.R. 393 (E), dated the 9th June, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. 590 (E), dated the 13th August 2008, so as to include 'Republic of Senegal' in the list of Least Developed Countries eligible to avail of the benefit of Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme.

- (31) G.S.R. 398 (E), dated the 10th June, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. 174 (E), dated the 11th March, 2008, so as to amend name of the said producer as Taiwan Prosperity Chemical Corporations.
 - (32) G.S.R. 399 (E), dated the 10th June, 2009, seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Potassium Carbonate, originating in, or exported from, the European Union, the Peoples Republic of China, People's Republic of Korea and Taiwan and imported into India, based on recommendations of the designated authority in the sunset review findings.
 - (33) G.S.R. 418 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, regarding initiation of anti-dumping investigation by the designated authority in the matter of import of specified varieties of ceramic glazed tiles, other than vitrified tiles, originating in or exported from the Peoples Republic of China.
 - (34) G.S.R. 419 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, amending notification No.82/2008- Customs, dated the 27th June, 2008, inserting certain entries in the original Notification.
 - (35) G.S.R. 420 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, rescinding Notification G.S.R. 869 (E), dated the 22nd December, 2008, except as respect things done or omitted to be done before such rescission.
 - (36) G.S.R. 421 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, seeking to impose provisional Anti-dumping duty on Front Axle Beam and Steering Knuckles meant for heavy and, medium commercial vehicles, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China, at specified rates.
 - (37) G.S.R. 424 (E), dated the 16th June, 2009, seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty levied *vide* Notification No. G.S.R. 751 (E), dated the 17th November, 2004, on imports of 6-Hexanelactam, originating in, or exported from Japan, European Union, Nigeria and Thailand, upto and inclusive of 20th April, 2010.
 - (38) G.S.R. 425 (E), dated the 16th June, 2009, seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of Vitamin C, originating in, or exported from the Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
 - (39) G.S.R. 426 (E), dated the 16th June, 2009, rescinding Notification No. G.S.R. 840 (E), dated the 24th October, 2003, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such rescission. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 22/15/09]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 together with the Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 396 (E), dated the 10th June, 2009, publishing the Central Excise (Removal of Goods at concessional Rate of Duty for Manufacture of Excisable Goods) Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 18/15/09]
- (2) G.S.R. 397 (E), dated the 10th June, 2009, publishing Notification No. 15/2009-Central Excise(NT) to amend the principal notification No. 32/2006-Central Excise(NT), dated the 30th December 2006 by inserting certain, entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 19/15/09]
- (3) G.S.R. 392 (E), dated the 5th June, 2009, publishing Notification No. 13/2009-CE (NT), to grant exemption under Section 11C of the Central Excise Act, 1944 to agricultural grade zinc sulphate for the period from 1st January, 2007 to 8th October, 2007.
- (4) G.S.R. 119 (E), dated the 24th February, 2009, seeking to give effect to the reduction of basic excise duty from 10% to 8% and to reduce the rate-of central excise duty on bulk cement from '10% or Rs. 290 PMT which ever is higher to 8% or Rs. 230 PMT which ever is higher'.
- (5) G.S.R. 287 (E), dated the 27th April, 2009, amending G.S.R. 362 (E) dated the 13th May, 2002, so as to amend the name of "Bongaigaon Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited", to "Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bongaigaon Refinery" on account of its merger with the said Corporation.
- (6) G.S.R. 351 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, seeking to amend the Notification No. G.S.R. 256 (E), dated the 16th March, 1995, so as to provide the exemption from Central Excise duties to the machinery equipment, instruments, components, spares, jigs, fixtures, dies, tools, accessories, computer software, raw materials and consumables required for programme AD of Ministry of Defence.
- (7) G.S.R. 155 (E), dated the 5th March, 2009, publishing the Pan Masala Packing Machines (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 18/15/09]
- (8) G.S.R. 221 (E), dated the 30th March, 2009, amending G.S.R. 182 (E), dated the 8th March, 2002, to substitute certain entries therein.
- (9) G.S.R. 256 (E), dated the 17th April, 2009, amending G.S.R. 182 (E), dated the 8th March, 2002, to effect changes in jurisdiction pursuant to shifting of Pune II to Kolhapur and re-naming Pune II Commissionerate as Kolhapur Commissionerate.
- (10) G.S.R. 312 (E), dated the 11th May, 2009, amending G.S.R. 182 (E), dated the 8th March, 2002, to re-define the jurisdiction of Coimbatore and Salem Commissionerates pursuant to further splitting of Coimbatore and Erode districts by the Government of Tamil Nadu into three districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur districts. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 20/15/09]

- (11) G.S.R. 110 (E), dated the 23rd February, 2009, amending G.S.R. 265 (E), dated the 31st March, 2003, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 18/15/09]
- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:
- (1) S.O. 655 (E), dated the 12th March, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (2) S.O. 740 (E), dated the 16th March, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) S.O. 857 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (4) S.O. 858 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (5) S.O. 866 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (6) S.O. 960 (E), dated the 13th April, 2009, publishing Corrigendum to Notification S.O. No. 866(E) dated the 27th March, 2009.
- (7) S.O. 961 (E), dated the 13th April, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (8) S.O. 989 (E), dated the 21st April, 2009, publishing the Income-tax (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 23/15/09]
- (9) S.O. 1327 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, notifying MCX Stock Exchange Ltd. as a Recognised Stock Exchange for the purpose of Section 43(5)(d)(ii) of Income-tax Act, 1961, read with Rule 6 DDB of Income-tax Rules, 1962. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 24/15/09]
- IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:
- (1) G.S.R. 102 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, amending Notification No. 92/2004-Customs, Notification No. 41/2005-Customs, Notification No. 73/2006-Customs, Notification No. 90/2006-Customs and Notification No. 91/2006-Customs, thereby permitting utilization of duty credit scrips issued under such schemes for import of restricted items also, along with delay statement.

- (2) G.S.R. 103 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, permitting the import of certain specified goods against the duty credit scrips issued under the Hi-tech Product Export Promotion Scheme, along with delay statement.
- (3) G.S.R. 104 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, amending Notification No. 94/2004-Customs, issued under Advance Authorization Scheme to permit the import of duty free goods against the authorizations issued on the basis of self declarations where Standard Input Output Norms do not exist, along with delay statement.
- (4) G.S.R. 105 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. No. 260 (E) dated the 1st May, 2006, substituting certain entries in the original Notification, along with delay statement.
- (5) G.S.R. 109 (E), dated the 23rd February, 2009, amending Notification No. 52/2003-Customs, dated the 31st March, 2003 to substitute certain entries in the Original Notification, along with delay statement.
- (6) G.S.R. 111 (E), dated the 24th February, 2009, amending previous Notification issued under various export promotion schemes so as to include Krishnapatnam Port in the existing list of Ports for undertaking imports and exports for the purpose of Export Promotion Schemes.
- (7) G.S.R. 141 (E), dated the 2nd March, 2009, amending Notification Nos. 93/2004-Customs and 94/2004-Customs both dated the 10th September, 2004, inserting certain entries in the Original Notification.
- (8) G.S.R. 147 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2009, amending Notification No. 208/1977-Customs (N.T.), dated the 1st October, 1977, inserting certain entries in the Original Notification.
- (9) G.S.R. 275 (E), dated the 22nd April, 2009, regarding, checking of illegal export and facilitating the detection of Ephedrine and Pseudo 'Ephedrine' which are likely to be illegally exported in the area as specified in India's land border with Myanmar falling within the territories of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.
- (10) G.S.R. 175 (E), dated the 17th March, 2009, publishing Corrigendum to G.S.R. 147 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2009.
- (11) G.S.R. 371 (E), dated the 30th May, 2009, seeking to give effect to customs duty concessions on items agreed to by India under the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) which was signed on the 25th January, 2004.
- (12) G.S.R. 355 (E), dated the 22nd May, 2009, seeking to amend the Notification No. G.S.R. 291 (E), dated the 23rd July 1996.

- (13) G.S.R. 307 (E), dated the 4th May, 2009, seeking to amend the Notification No. G.S.R. 590 (E), dated the 13th August, 2008, to include the Republic of the Sudan in the list of Least Developed Countries eligible to avail of the benefit of Duty free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme.
 - (14) G.S.R. 258 (E), dated the 17th April, 2009, seeking to amend Notification No. G.S.R. 118 (E), dated the 1st March, 2002, inserting certain entries in the original Notification.
 - (15) G.S.R. 200 (E), dated the 26th March, 2009, seeking to amend Notification No. G.S.R. 118 (E), dated the 1st March, 2002, seeking to extend the full exemption of basic customs duty on import of pulses upto the 31st March, 2010.
 - (16) G.S.R. 197 (E), dated the 24th March, 2009, seeking to amend G.S.R. 118 (E) dated the 1st March, 2002, to reduce the basic customs duty on imports of crude soybean oil.
 - (17) G.S.R. 184 (E), dated the 20th March, 2009, seeking to amend Notification G.S.R. 590 (E), dated the 13th August, 2008, to include two more countries viz, Burkina Faso and Republic of Gambia in the list of Least Developed Countries eligible to avail of the benefit of Duty free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme.
 - (18) G.S.R. 145 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2009, seeking to amend Serial No. 14 of Notification G.S.R. 291 (E), dated the 23rd July 1996, so as to extend the validity period from the 31st December, 2008 to the 31st December, 2009 for exemption from Customs duty and additional duty of Customs of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, the NAG of the Ministry of Defence.
 - (19) G.S.R. 121 (E), dated the 24th February, 2009, amending Notification G.S.R. 118 (E), dated the 1st March, 2002, so as to reflect the excise rate reduction from 10% to 8% for purposes of levy of CVD and extend the basic customs duty exemption to naphtha used for generation of power beyond the 31st March, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 21/15/09]
- V. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:
- (1) G.S.R. 120 (E), dated the 24th February, 2009, seeking to reduce the rate of service tax on taxable services from 12% to 10%.
 - (2) G.S.R. 146 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2009, providing exemption from payment of service tax for services provided for the authorized operations of a Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

- (3) G.S.R. 347 (E), dated the 20th May, 2009, amending G.S.R. 146 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2009, substituting certain entries therein. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 27/15/09]
- VI. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 74 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:
- (1) G.S.R. 374 (E), dated the 1st June, 2009, publishing the Prevention of the Money-Laundering (Appointment and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Adjudicating Authority) Amendment Rules, 2009.
- (2) G.S.R. 375 (E), dated the 1st June, 2009, publishing the Prevention of the Money-Laundering (Appointment and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Rules, 2009. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 25/15/09]
- (3) G.S.R. 308 (E), dated the 5th May, 2009, publishing corrigendum to Notification No G.S.R. 62 (E), dated the 31st January, 2008, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 28/15/09]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

SHRI R.K. DHAWAN (Bihar): Sir, I present the Fifty-fourth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Privileges on following matters of breach of privilege:

- (i) allegedly preventing/interrupting a Member during his speech in the House; and
- (ii) inability to raise questions by some Members due to the disturbance caused by some other Members.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that the following letter has been received from Dr. Prabhakar Kore, stating that he is unable to attend the House as he has been invited by the National Institute of Health, USA to deliver a guest lecture and to attend their Confernece. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 2nd July to 15th July, 2009 of the current Session of Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising due to depletion and extinction of population of Tigers in protected areas

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests to the situation arising out of the depletion of the population of tigers and in some cases their extinction in many protected areas in the country and the action taken by the Government in regard thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, should I lay the statement on the Table of the House?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you read it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Do you want me to respond right now? Sir, a detailed statement has been prepared.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the statement be distributed. You have to read it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Should I read it? Why do I have to read it? Let me lay it on the Table of the House and then we can have a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it a long statement?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it is a fairly detailed statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The usual practice is, the hon. Member calls the attention of the Minister and the Minister makes a statement and later on the Members seek clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*... The procedure is, once the Minister makes a statement, on that statement the hon. Members seek clarifications.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I will make a brief statement. I have a detailed statement, if the hon. Members want...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That can be distributed. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can mention the salient features of the statement.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, a detailed statement has been prepared. It is being circulated to all the Members. I don't want to go through the formality of reading this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I will not read the statement. I will make a brief comment and then the hon. Members can make their points.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever points you want to highlight, you highlight those points. After that the hon. Members would seek clarifications.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Member for calling the attention of the Government to a very important subject. Although it deals with tigers, its importance

goes beyond tigers. It is called Project Tiger, but it really goes at the heart of the protection of our eco system. We have 37 Project Tiger Reserves in the country. They account for something like four to five per cent of the area under forest in our country. And, when we include the Buffer Zone that we are trying to build around the Project Tiger areas, the total area under Project Tiger would be anywhere between 8 and 10 per cent of the tiger population. One of the fathers of Project Tiger is sitting here. It was inaugurated on 1st April, 1973, and Dr. Karan Singh was present at the inauguration function at the Corbett National Park. Now, although it is called 'Project Tiger', it goes beyond tiger. It deals with the areas under forests, and almost 300 to 350 rivers of our country emanate from within the Project Tiger areas. So, it is linked with the water security issue as well. Therefore, I am grateful to the hon. Member for calling our attention to this issue, in the last couple of months, it is true that the loss of the tiger population in two important Project Tiger Reserve areas, that is, Sariska in Rajasthan and Panna in Madhya Pradesh, has caused grave concern amongst the larger community in our country. Out of the 37 Project Tiger Reserve areas in our country, we have conducted an exercise categorising these Project Tiger areas, and I am pleased to say that 12 out of these 37 are in good condition, where there is good tiger population, where the tiger density can be considered to be very, very good. There are six or seven Project Tiger areas where the condition is satisfactory, but we need to improve the situation. Further, what is alarming is that out of the 37 Project Tiger areas, there are 16 Project Tiger areas which are in the danger zone, where tigers have either vanished, or, are on the brink of vanishing. The causes are different, in some areas, you have ecological problems. In some areas like Simlipal in Orissa, you have problems of Extreme Left Wing Naxalite activity impinging on the forest areas and Project Tiger areas. Sir, I would be glad to share with the House the analysis that we have done for each of these 37 areas. The hon. Member is right; out of these 37 areas, there are 16 Project Tiger areas where the situation is truly alarming, where we are going to lose the tiger population, if we do not take appropriate interventions quickly. Now, in the last month-and-a-half, the Government has moved quite decisively to intervene, to ensure that Project Tiger is implemented in a more forceful manner than it has been in the past. The hon. Member will be glad to know that this year, that is, 2009-10, the allocations for Project Tiger is Rs.240 crores. It is not a small sum; it is quite a substantial sum of money. And, over the entire Eleventh Plan period, we are going to be spending like Rs.650 crores on Project Tiger as compared to Rs.150 crores in the Tenth Plan period.

The second major intervention that we have made is that we are now going to have a Tripartite MoU involving the Central Government, the State Governments and each of the 37 Project Tiger areas. This MoU will spell out what the Central Government's responsibilities are, what the State Government's responsibilities are and what the Project Directors' responsibilities are. I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Member that the only Project Tiger area, which does not have a

Director, till today, is the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in his own State of Bihar. I have brought this to the attention of the hon. Chief Minister, and I would request the hon. Member to use his good offices to ensure that very soon there is a full-time Project Director for the Valmiki Tiger Reserve. This is an important Tiger Reserve in Bihar, which is in the danger zone, where tigers are on the brink of vanishing. So, this is the second thing that we have done, where we are going to have this Tripartite MoU. I am having a meeting with all the 37 Project Directors on the 25th of this month, and we are going to sign the first of the MoUs initially.

And the money that we are going to give to the State Governments would be through the mechanism of the MoUs. Sir, the third thing that we are doing is, we are creating a core inviolate area within the Project Tiger Area where there will be no human interaction, and there will be a buffer zone around the core where there will be human settlements. Now, this involves the relocation of almost 80,000 to 1,00,000 families from within the core to the buffer zone. Now, this is very time-consuming and it is a political, social process and I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that the Government of India has taken a decision, it is already being implemented, that every family that is to be relocated from the core area will get compensation of ten lakhs of rupees. It used to be one lakh of rupees, now it is ten lakhs of rupees. This has already been implemented in many parts. I myself have seen very recently what is India's most successful model of relocation. This is at the Bhadra Tiger Reserve in Karnataka where almost 730 families have been relocated from the core of the Project Tiger Area to a village outside, and Bhadra, today, is one of the good Project Tiger Reserves. A similar experiment has started at Nagarhole in Karnataka. Sir, recently, I have been to Corbett, where we are trying to initiate a similar experiment.

Sir, the fourth intervention that we have done is to raise a Special Tiger Protection Force in order to police the Project Tiger Areas. Sir, here I must share with the hon. Members I have certain reservations on the way the Special Tiger Protection Force has been conceived in the past. The Special Tiger Protection Force has been conceived of as a bunch of policemen policing the Project Tiger Areas. I am not entirely in agreement and sympathy with this. I feel local communities are the best protectors of the forests and the Project Tiger Areas. Recently, when I was in Corbett, I met almost 200 families of one Gujar who have been associated with Corbett for centuries, and I took a decision that at Corbett, the Tiger Protection Force will not be of policemen coming from outside but would be of local communities, the local-one Gujjars would be recruited as para-protection forces, and they would be given the responsibility for protecting the local reserve. I believe, in many Project Tiger Areas, we do not need policemen. We need to create incentives for local communities to protect the eco-system, and, I think, given Government support, Centre and the State, we will be able to achieve our objective.

Sir, I don't want to get into a lot of detail, it is there in my statement. I would be glad to answer any question that Members may have. But, I want to associate myself with the concern of the hon.

Member. This is truly an alarming situation. It is not just a tiger issue, as I said, it is a eco-system issue. In fact, I would like to call the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the National Tiger and Wildlife Conservation Authority, it goes beyond tigers, it goes beyond animal-human interaction, as I said. It goes into the very heart of the protection of our forests and it goes into the very heart of water security. The situation is alarming. I appeal to hon. Members to extend the cooperation through the mechanism of the State Governments because ultimately, Sir, the money is that of the Centre, the action is that of the States. The Project Tiger Areas are owned by the State Governments. The Project Directors are appointed by the State Governments. The poachers are caught by the State Governments. In Panna, I want to bring to the hon. Members attention, we have a 200-page report of a special investigating team, which I have sent to the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. The people who poached, people who killed have been identified, but action has to be taken by the State Government. I request the hon. Member to use his good offices with the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh so that action is taken. Sir, I believe, that if we take action against poachers in one case, the message will go across the country. Unfortunately, we have not taken action in any instance so far. Panna is a test case. I appeal to the hon. Member that we will support you, we will provide all the financial assistance, we will provide all the technical assistance. But the State Government has to take the action against the poachers who have been identified. Once this action has been taken, I believe, Sir, we would be on a stronger footing as far as Project Tiger is concerned. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has given a detailed reply. Mr. Rudy, you may seek pointed clarifications.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Mr. Minister made a very candid reply.

इन्होंने सब विषयों को बड़े ढंग से रखा। राज्य सरकारों की भी जिम्मेदारी है और प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जिम्मेदारी वहां होनी भी चाहिए क्योंकि जितना बड़ा एरिया और टाइगर रिज़र्व हैं, ये प्रमुखतया राज्यों की परिधि में हैं। महोदय, जिस प्रकार से हमारा अभियान है या केन्द्र सरकार उसे करना चाहती है, सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय है कि आखिर इसे कार्यान्वित करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार का समन्वय कैसे स्थापित होता है? We have to get down to the reality. It is not the question of the States or the Centre. If you remember, Sir, Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, the most read book on animals, the inspiration was the Corbett's National Park. It is absolutely shocking. 2000 में ही सरिस्का में, there were not tigers. Absolutely no tigers. Everyone in the country knew it, the world knows it. क्योंकि यह चीज़ ऐसी है कि पूरी दुनिया के संरक्षण करने वाले लोग इसमें चितित रहते हैं। महोदय, यह मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार, बिहार की सरकार या किसी और की सरकार का विषय नहीं है। अब से चार महीने पहले एक अंतिम सबसे बड़ा जो मेल टाइगर था, पन्ना में उसका मृत शरीर मिला। उसके बाद हम लोगों ने, पता नहीं सरकारें भी इस बात को दबाने की कोशिश करती हैं, हो सकता है कुछ प्रयास हुआ हो दो female tigress को उठाकर वहां rehabilitate करने के लिए लाया गया। लेकिन वहां तो कोई मेल टाइगर था ही नहीं। उस समय तक तो सब समाप्त हो चुका था। जब केन्द्र सरकार से अनुमति मांगी जाती है कि हमें एक वन से उठाकर जानवरों को दूसरे वन में पहुंचाना है, उस समय तो आपकी नींद खुल जानी चाहिए।

उस समय तो आपको जाग जाना चाहिए और पूछना चाहिए कि आखिर यह परिस्थिति क्यों है? आपके पास भी अपने साधन हैं। जब ऐसी परिस्थिति आ गयी थी कि जानवर वहां नहीं थे, If the tigers were not there, then it is a matter of concern for the nation. Project Tiger was an ambitious project and it was started in 1973 by Mrs. Gandhi; of course, it was an admirable action at that point of time. Dr. Karan Singh was associated with it. At that time, the tiger population was fallen to 1800. From 1800, the tiger population in 1988 went up to around 4500. Now, this year, the census says, it has come down to around 1300 or 1400. Just imagine what has been happening. ये जानवर कहां जा रहे हैं, ये टाइगर्स कहां जा रहे हैं? भारत से नेपाल जा रहे हैं और नेपाल से चीन जा रहे हैं, महोदय, अगर narcotics के बाद सबसे बड़ी स्मगलिंग इस देश में किसी चीज की है तो वह बाघों की तस्करी है। केन्या, जहां उस समय विधि व्यवस्था बिल्कुल खराब थी, और massive poaching हो रही थी, Today, 70% of the national revenue generation in Kenya is jungle tourism! This is a resource. Yes, there is a conflict between tourism and animal population, but we have to devise modalities. Today, it is a catastrophe. It has hit the nation extremely and it is just not killing; it is poaching, killing and also poisoning! Our civilisation, our heredity everything is linked with something in the wildlife, जानवरों को सिर्फ मारा ही नहीं जाता है, trap ही नहीं किया जाता है, फंदे ही नहीं लगाए जाते, इन्हें ज़हर दिया जाता है। This is an unacceptable human action. Sir, even if we have to go to the States, I am sorry to say that the Minister pointed out three States, I think, he should have kept the States out of it. Because, if you see in Andhra Pradesh, the tiger population which was 192 has come down to 95. In Maharashtra, it was 238 and now has come down to 103. Even in a State like Orissa, it was 173, it has come down to 45. If I have to read out the list of animals or tigers killed every year, it is in the range of 40-50. The list is a shocking one. It is a Government published list. In 1994 it is 95, in 1995, 125 tigers were killed, so on and so forth; in 2001, 72 were killed. In 2004, 34 killed. It has been going on rampantly. It is a matter of national concern. जिस तरह से जू में जाकर जानवरों को दिखाते हैं, भविष्य में हमें अपने बच्चों को बताने के लिए नहीं रहेगा कि ऐसा भी कोई प्रकृति में जानवर रहता था। यह स्थिति आ रही है, हमारे और आपके सामने आ रही है। महोदय, पूरी व्यवस्था है। मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि there are critical landscapes. जिसमें जानवर रहते हैं, इसमें व्यवस्था सरकार करती है, राज्य सरकार करती है, केन्द्र सरकार करती है, लेकिन इनकी व्यवस्था में जो हैं, उनकी सेंसेविटी क्या है, उनका प्यार क्या है, उनका प्रेम क्या है, उनका पर्यावरण से लेना-देना क्या है, वैसे लोग कौन हैं? इंडियन फॉरेस्ट सर्विस। Sir, the Indian Forest Service was supposed to be on a par with the IAS and IPS. Unfortunately, everything in this country moves under IAS. तो आई.एफ.एस. का कोई अस्तित्व नहीं है। आई.एफ.एस. का जो ऑफिसर होगा, वह सेंट्रल सर्विसेज में यूपीएससी से बहाल होगा और जिला कलेक्टर को रिपोर्ट करेगा। इस देश में जब तक अस्तित्व बहाल नहीं किया जायेगा, तब तक यह कार्य ठीक प्रकार से नहीं होगा। आज भी ये पदाधिकारी राज्य के चीफ सेक्रेटरी को रिपोर्ट करते हैं, जो इनके पीसीसीएफ हैं, वे भारत सरकार में सेक्रेटरी, एनवायरमेंट को रिपोर्ट करते हैं। इसलिए उनको स्वायत्तता मिलनी चाहिए। मान लीजिए, it is an All India Service, the Indian Forest Service is an All India Service, but it does not work like that, it does not have a status, it does not have a representation. मैं तो समझता हूं कि जानवरों के मामले में देश में राजनैतिक पार्टियों से आगे बढ़कर यह तय करना चाहिए। हमारे जैसे लोग और मेरे जैसे इस बीच में बहुत सारे

पत्रकार होंगे, नेता होंगे, कलाकार होंगे, यहां पर जया जी हैं और डा. कर्ण सिंह जी हैं और बहुत सारे लोग हैं, इन सब लोगों को यह जिम्मेदारी दे दी जाए। अवैतनिक रूप से इस देश में लाखों लोग हैं, जो अवैतनिक रूप से इन जानवरों की रक्षा के लिए अपना समय निकाल कर के दे सकते हैं, everybody is committed but we do not have a mechanism, we do not have an inspiration. We are still completely dependent on the political set-up or the administrative set-up, जैसे केन्द्र में आपकी आई.बी. है, सीबीआई है, सेंट्रल पैरामिलेट्री फोर्सिंग हैं, आखिर में इतनी सारी केन्द्रीय संस्थाएं हैं। जब देश के ऊपर संकट आता है, तो आप किसी चीज़ का निर्माण करते हैं। आज अगर आवश्यकता है, as he mentioned about the Tiger Protection Force. Do not make it a policing force, make it a motivational force: create a motivational force of people from all walks of life, and recruit them. They could be people coming from the Armed Forces who would give their lives to protect the tigers, they could be people from the Naval Service, they could be people from the aviation sector, they could be journalists, etc. Anyone from any sector who can just walk in and say, "I want to be a part of this force." There has to be a consensus built up in this country. This is a matter of grave concern; it is a matter, which needs an intervention across party lines. There cannot be State politics. I do not know the mechanism. We have the State Subjects and the Central Subjects. But this alone cannot be left to the States. There has to be intervention at our level. In this climate change, the tiger needs shelter, it needs water, and it needs a place. These days you find animals loitering in the cities, they go and sit in the drawing rooms of individuals. Two years ago, a leopard went into a house at Mohali, Chandigarh, and was watching television. These animals do not have space. We have almost encroached on their habitat. Now, we have to be sensitive. After all, we are a sensitive civilisation; we are a sensitive country. This animal also needs a space.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we need volunteers for this action. Money will not sort it out; policing will not sort it out. There has to be a mass campaign, the students, the children, the unorganised labour, everyone has to be incorporated, the journalists, the media men, the photographers, the activists, the politicians, the police, there has to be a great action plan because this is a catastrophe, this animal is going to be extinct. If we do not do it now, if this House cannot do it, if the Parliament cannot do it, if the Government at this point of time does not realise the importance, I can say the way it has happening since 1973, the tiger population goes up and then it comes down. It goes up and comes down, it is poaching, it is killing, merciless killing, it is the cruel treatment meted out to the animals. Sir, my only humble submission to the House and the Minister is this. I am very happy with his reply. He has said everything candidly; he has said that the States have not performed; even the Centre has not performed. We have lost on it. We have to motivate the entire action programme and I would request the hon. Minister that this concern, which he has addressed, the House, I am sure, would associate itself with this cause and find a long-term action plan to protect this animal. Thank you.

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is very heartening, after a long time, to hear two emotional, intellectual and committed speeches, one by my good friend and colleague, Jairam Ramesh and the other by Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy. I would just like to inform the House that for the first 22 years after Independence, our National Animal was the lion, because of the Ashoka Lions. When I entered Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet in 1967, she asked me also to become the Chairman of the Indian Board for Wildlife and in my first meeting I discovered to my surprise that our National animal was the lion. Now, the lion as you know, Mr. Deputy Chairman, is only found in one part of Western India, whereas the tiger is found all the way from Uttarakhand down to Kerala and all the way from the Sunderbans to Rajasthan. So, in that Board for Wildlife, we had a Resolution passed requesting the Government to change the National Animal from the lion to the tiger and that was the decision taken by the Cabinet and that is how the tiger became the National Animal, I just thought I would inform the House about this because many people may not know about this.

Then, after it had become the National Animal I worked out 'Project Tiger'. Indiraji was fully supporting it because she was a committed conservationist. That 'Project Tiger', as has been pointed out, was launched by me in the Corbett National Park in 1973 with K. S. Shankhala, an excellent officer from Rajasthan as the first Director of 'Project Tiger'. We chose nine projects and it had become in the first eight to ten years one of the world's most successful conservation project. The WWF, the World Wildlife Fund in Geneva was also helping us in many ways and it had become a showpiece for conservation.

Then, the political will ebbed and the whole situation started deteriorating. Today, it is absolutely true, it is a tragic situation, is a catastrophic situation because we had at one time over 4000 tigers and they have now been reduced to one-quarter of them. It is sheer criminal activity and the shame is, Mr. Deputy Chairman, not a single person to the best of my knowledge has been put in jail. There are strong, stiff punishments. How is it that there is collusion everywhere? Three thousand tigers have been killed, crores and crores have been made by the sale of those skins and tiger parts and tiger bones through Tibet into China and into Nepal and not one person has been caught. There is a massive fraud, there is massive connivance between the smugglers, who are very rich, who buy off the forest officers and buy off the policemen and are continuing in this trade.

So, I would just simply on this occasion do not want to go into too many details because I have not been in touch with the detailed situation, but I would like to say, unless there is a political will on behalf of the Government of India and the State Governments you will never save any tigers. I am very glad that we have a dynamic young Minister in charge who is going around actually visiting tiger reserves and if that cooperation is there, the State Governments have to cooperate mainly because it is their land, it is their officers. They are the ones who run this whole thing. The Centre is simply the catalytic agent to try and help. Also the Panchayati Raj institution, not only the State Governments at the Centre but the Zila Parishads, the situation at the *grameen* level have to be involved in this whole

process. I hope that in these 37 tiger resorts, 20 of them are almost in a tiger less condition, the situation will improve. The tiger, I would like to say, is a symbol of our ecological pyramid. The tiger by itself is a beautiful animal, there is no doubt about it. It is involved with Durga. Durga rides on the lion incidentally. The Vishnu Durga rides on a lion, while the Shiv Durga rides on a tiger. Many of you must have wondered why the difference. This is also something you might be interested in. *Ayyappan* is involved with the tiger. So, the tiger is part of our folklore, it is part of our culture, it is part of our tradition, it is part of our heritage and if we as citizens of a responsible country are unable to save the tiger, it is a shame and disgrace to this entire country. Thankyou.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, first, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for his candid and extraordinary statement he has made. I have only small 2-3 clarifications to seek from the hon. Minister.

The first one is regarding Section 5 mentioned in the Statement. It is about the ecological factor in the reduction of tiger count. Very recently, there is an unprecedented Cyclone Aila hit my State of West Bengal and Sundarbans is also very badly affected. Not only the Royal Bengal Tiger but also the other wildlife living in Sundarbans is endangered. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action his Ministry will take in this regard.

My second point is this. We have seen regularly in the newspapers, especially those who are living in West Bengal and around Bengal, tigers come out of forest into the near villages. In such circumstances, the wildlife will be in danger. I firmly believe and share the same opinion that public protection is the main protection for wildlife, particularly tiger. But, it is a fact that, as far as public protection is concerned, we should build up national consensus to protect our national wealth — Tiger. What is the opinion of his Ministry? Is there any review, to take any appropriate action? If yes, I request the hon. Minister to give us the details.

My third point is: Very recently, I have seen a news item in a newspaper that an electronic microchip is inserted into the body of tiger and leave it in jungle or forest. I would like to know whether it is necessary. If it is necessary, why it has been done?

Sir, my last point is this. Some people and NGOs are advocating protection of tiger. They are doing in a different form. I have no objection. But, these people resist the implementation of Protection of Tribal Rights Act that we have passed in this very House. I don't know whether the hon. Minister aware of this. I wish to know what would be the remedy for this from the hon. Minister.

These are the three observations I wanted to make and hope the hon. Minister would reply to them. Thank you.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, this is a very important subject and, if I may say so, it is because of our — State Government — inefficiency we could not protect tigers in our country.

But, fortunately, we have a very efficient Minister and we do expect, as per his statement, honourable Minister will take appropriate steps to protect tigers in our country.

Sir, somebody has rightly said that conservation of tiger, in some places, is relating to the whole economy of the country. Conservation and protection of tiger is the protection and conservation of forest and conservation of forest has an impact on environment, ecology and climate and in the large-scale generation of employment. So, sustainable forest development is also helpful, as it is accepted internationally, for the sustainable growth of employment. And, rightly, it has got its impact on the economy.

Sir, what I want to mention here first is about the tiger census. What is the methodology that we are adopting to count the number of tiger? How are we arriving at the figure? Is it on the basis of poaching or whether we are arriving at the figure on the basis of existence of tiger or counting footprints? I would like to know whether it is foolproof and what is the methodology we are applying for census of tiger or to arrive at a conclusion about the death of tiger. Sir, tigers are not seen in Simlipal, Sunabeda and Satkosia in my State and Arunachal, Himalayan line and Corbett Park. Only census is given on the basis of the sight of foot or something. I do not know. It is not fully correct. So, my question is: Whether the hon. Minister will apply a methodology to determine the exact census of tiger which will be helpful to protect them.

Sir, second point I wish to make is this. We should not have a 'police approach' that just something occurred and we reached there. The hon. Minister has rightly said to utilize the services of the local people and also NGOs. Who are also showing interest in the protection of the wild animals. Can that also be used?

Thirdly, for the protection of tiger, we not only require the Tiger Project, but also the landscape of the Tiger Project because if the nearby forests are also not protected, the Tiger Project alone would not be able to give protection to tigers. So, I believe that the landscape of the forests, near the Tiger Project, also needs protection. Also, the legal status should be given to the Tiger Project and the landscape.

Fourthly, I would like to mention here that with the increase in population after the Independence, the domestic animals have also increased and, thus, encroached the tiger-habitant areas. It also encroached the water, which was used by the tigers. It encroached the area that was used by the tigers. So, sometimes there is a conflict between the tigers and other animals also. As the hon. Member from West Bengal has said, what should be our approach to this. As per the policy of the Government, giving lands to the tribals in the forest areas is also a correct and right decision. We should approve this. We should support this. But, simultaneously, it should also not affect the tiger habitats in the forests. Sir, I want to mention here one thing. We had an Action Plan for wild life protection in the year 2002. But, is it a fact that we could not achieve the target and we could not

implement the Action Plan? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what steps would be taken by the Government to implement that Action Plan.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, the Minister accepted that out of all the reservations, 37 are in acceptable conditions, 60 are in precarious condition. Hon. Member, Shri Rudy, read out the figures, State by State, how the population of the tigers has declined. Dr. Karan Singh ji also laid down the philosophy of the protection of tiger. I remember that this question had once come up for discussion.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to request the hon. Member to yield for a minute. Out of 37 Project Tiger areas, 12 are in good condition, 9 are in satisfactory condition, and 16, not 60, are in dangerous condition.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, I stand corrected. I heard wrongly. But the general conclusion is, whatever the method of census, the tiger population is in a precarious situation. When this question came up for discussion, I think, we were discussing the same issue at that time, I had pointed out that this approach of taking anti-poaching measures is bound to fail. There are other threatened species also in the world. And, I had pointed out, at that time, that crocodile was saved in Australia, not by anti-poaching legislation, but by actively encouraging markets in crocodile parts. Similarly, in China, efforts are being made to develop a market in the tiger parts, with the result even private citizens are, now, developing tiger farms and the results are excellent. I would like to point out here that recently, there was an item in the newspaper that a single citizen in Nagpur alone had developed a population of twelve tigers in a city like Nagpur.

The hon. Minister is, no doubt, energetic, but the approach is wrong. If he goes only by the police-and-criminal approach, by the time I die, I think, there will be no tiger left in this country. I would like to seek a clarification. Has the Minister acquainted himself about the experiments made in Australia and China for protection of crocodiles and tigers? If 'yes', what are his reactions to that? Can we implement that in India?

श्री कांजीभाई पटेल (गुजरात) : सर, 2006 में जब यहां पर Wild Life Protection Act डिस्कशन के लिए आया था, उसमें कुछ अमेंडमेंट्स थे, तब भी मैंने कुछ बातें कही थीं। मैंने यह कहा था कि इस काम में आदिवासियों को ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा इनवॉल्व किया जाए। मुझे आज खुशी है कि मंत्री जी ने यह बताया है कि वह उनको इनवॉल्व करने की सोच रहे हैं। लेकिन, Wild Life Protection Act में जो सुधार हुआ और इसके जो रूल्स बने, उनमें आदिवासियों को इनवॉल्व करने की इतनी गम्भीरता अभी भी नहीं है। आज भी आदिवासी भूखा है। उसके पास खाने को कुछ नहीं है। उसे कुछ भी मिल जाएगा तो वह पेड़ काट देगा। जंगल घटने से हमारे ब्याघ्र भी घटे हैं। हमारे शास्त्रों ने जो कहा, उस पर गौर से सोचना चाहिए, कि "बुभुक्षितो किम न करोति पापम्, क्षीणा नराः निष्करुणा भवन्ति।" आज आदिवासी भूखा है। उसके पास खाने को कुछ नहीं है तो वह क्या करेगा? इसलिए उसको विश्वास में लेने के लिए और उसका पेट पालने के लिए पहले सोचना चाहिए, तभी आगे जाकर कुछ हो सकता है, ऐसा मेरा मानना है। आपका धन्यवाद।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Minister, during his speech, suggested of involving the local people for protecting the tigers and the eco-system, instead of using the conventional police or the foresters.

Sir, it is a very good move; involving them will not only provide them the employment opportunities, but they may also adopt some traditional methods to protect the environment. I would like to know whether it is only in the concept level or it has already been implemented. If not, I would like to know when it will be implemented at the earliest.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, first, I must compliment Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy for bringing this Call Attention Motion and also compliment the Minister for giving a very detailed and excellent reply to an absolutely critical subject.

Of course, it is always humbling to speak after Dr. Karan Singh has spoken because his knowledge of the subject as well as of the philosophical connotations, I think, are absolutely unmatched in both Houses of Parliament.

Sir, I will just take two minutes to outline a few points arising from the Minister's response to the Call Attention Motion. Sir, the Minister said that if one poacher is caught and sentenced, a message will be sent across the board to the entire country. I entirely agree; but there have been major poachers who have been caught. I would like to remind the Minister, through you, Sir, of Sansar Chand who was one of the biggest poachers and who was responsible for the decimation of Sariska. When Sariska lost all tigers, he was arrested and, cases are going on against him. So, at least, you see, it is not that poachers have not been caught in the past; it is not that poachers are not going to be caught. But the fact is that no action is taken; courts take ages to resolve it, and, here, my suggestion is that since this matter is of critical importance, I would urge the Government to consider setting up of a separate court, fast-track court, for curbing poaching.

My second point, Sir, the Minister has talked about a core-reserve area. There was a plan for setting up Critical Tiger Habitats. I would like to know what is the progress that has been made in formulation of the Critical Tiger Habitats. The idea that he has spoken about, employing local people, is a very good idea. I am myself familiar with many of these tiger reserves and sanctuaries. I go there twice or thrice a year, and, in my visits, I have found that although the local people would be very happy to participate in a protection and conservation project, they are extremely ill-equipped; they don't have even mobile phones. Mobile phones don't operate in most park areas of Corbett Park, for instance. They don't have walkie-talkies and when poachers move around, there is no way in which even sincere Forest Service Officers can inform the nearest outpost about the activities of poachers. I think, providing equipment, especially, communication equipment, to those responsible for maintaining wild-life sanctuaries is very important.

Sir, one new point has come up recently. This experiment of re-locating tigers has been done in Sariska and is being attempted in Panna. Now, there are very strong views both ways about the *in situ* breeding of tigers and the question of what would happen to the prey base. Now, if tigers are strolling out of some of their natural habitats, it is on account of the declining prey base, as the Minister must be aware. We had this big incident in Uttar Pradesh where a tiger strolled out of Dudhwa, moved around in Faizabad and Barabanki and, unfortunately, it was finally eliminated because it was threatening the population. Now, I would like to know from the Minister if the Government has given serious thought to the question of *in situ* breeding because *in situ* breeding has its own problems, especially with regard to the prey base.

Sir, there are good examples and there are bad examples. The good example of a complete regeneration is a sanctuary called Katarniya Ghat in UP, which at one stage it had been devastated by Maoists from Nepal but today, it has been regenerated and the tiger population has returned. In Kanha, on the other hand, there was a story that during a VIP visit, trying to oblige the VIPs, the Director of the Park, took out his jeep for a night safari, and knocked down and killed a tiger cub. Now, has this matter been probed? Has the person been punished? If those who are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the tiger are going to indulge in this kind of activities, how can you expect the tiger to survive?

Finally, Sir, I would like to draw the hon. Minister's attention, particularly because the former Minister of Tourism is sitting right next to him, to the question of tourist *versus* tiger protection. I think, this is also a call that the Government has to take. Excess of tourism in certain National Parks, particularly, Kanha, has been a source of great concern and I would urge the hon. Minister to look into this aspect also.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan); Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. I am very happy that Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy took up this issue to which the Minister gave a very good reply, and he was very positive about it. I would like to congratulate him on this. Sir, I am basically a Zoologist and my concern about animals is not restricted only to the tiger but to other animals also, especially birds. We have so many bird sanctuaries, but there is lack of water, especially in Rajasthan. The lakes do not have water and most of the aquatic birds are not flying over there. Cranes used to come from Siberia to the Bharatpur Sanctuary. Now, because of the lack of water and because of the war in Afghanistan, their population has reduced to five or six. I would like to urge the hon. Minister that while he is taking up the project tiger so sincerely, he should also look into other sanctuaries and birds and animals that are facing the danger of extinction. What action you are going to take about them? You should also think about that while making the policy. I am very happy that you are taking such a great interest in this.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr, Deputy Chairman, for giving me this opportunity, I would like to add one more question, please. The hon. Minister has mentioned that NGOs' help would be taken in preserving the environment as well as for tiger preservation. I would like to know if there is any particular scheme for NGOs to be utilised. Has any budgetary provision been made for that?

श्री आर. सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि टाइगर्स की संख्या कितनी है? इनकी correct संख्या की जांच के लिए जो एजेंसीज हैं, उनका साइंटिफिक सिस्टम क्या है? महोदय, पश्चिम बंगाल में वर्ष 2008 में Wild Life Institute of India ने सर्वे करके बताया कि 8 टाइगर्स हैं और स्टेट फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट का कहना है कि वहां 12 टाइगर्स हैं। अब correct number क्या है और इसके scientific measures क्या होंगे? दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर टाइगर्स को बचाना है तो adequate finance और training की जरूरत है। इसके लिए सरकार के पास क्या व्यवस्था है? तीसरी बात मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हमारे जो रूल्स-रेगुलेशंस हैं, इनको implement करने के लिए जो हमारी एजेंसीज हैं, वे कितनी सक्षम हैं? उनको और ज्यादा strengthen करने की क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? मैं मिनिस्टर से एक बात जानना चाहूंगा कि 2005 में tigers and wilderness watch के लिए एक Parliamentary Forum बना था, जिसमें श्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया, श्री राहुल गांधी, श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी, श्री बी.जे. पंडा, श्री सुरेश प्रभु, श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति : कमेटी के मैम्बर्स के नाम की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : उन्होंने कहा था कि चार महीने के भीतर एक रिपोर्ट submit करेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या रिपोर्ट submit हुई है और उसका result क्या हुआ?

DR. SHRIMATI KAPILA VATSYAYAN (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to comment on this issue which has been raised here. There is a brief but fine reply and the statement by the Minister. And its history has been given by Dr. Karan Singh, who is affectionately called 'Tiger'. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, every other point has been raised but there is a point of view of the future of this country and our young generation. This takes one to the issue and I am sure that the hon. Minister will address this issue of the relationship of the Project Tiger and the entire environment and the debate on education for sustainable development. The entire focus of the next generation has to be that the human being is dependent on both the vegetation and the anima. It is the change in perspective that is required and this means a relationship at a policy level between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education. The hon. Minister of I&B is sitting here. Shri Chandan Mitra has rightly drawn your attention. Earlier she was a Minister of Tourism. In addition the media have to spread the idea that we as human species can only survive if the environment, tiger and all other animals and bird species survive. This is the basic thing. Thank you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, a large number of Members have made very many points, I will try to respond some points, which I can respond to very easily. Some of the issues that have been raised require some further information and clarification, which I will get and respond

to each Member individually. Let me start with hon. Member of Rajasthan, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla. The hon. Member will be pleased to know that yesterday in the Budget speech, she may recall, for the very first time a mention was made of the Zoological Survey of India and the hon. Finance Minister has given a special grant of Rs.15 crore for the renewal of Zoological Survey of India and another Rs.15 crore for the renewal of Botanical Survey of India. The Botanical Survey of India, which is in Kolkata, was set up in 1886. The Zoological Survey of India, which is also headquartered in Kolkata, was set up in 1916. These are major monuments to the ecological security of our country and for the first time, I am pleased to say, yesterday's Budget speech recognised the centrality of these institutions. I hope that with this additional funds that have been granted, we will be able to renew these institutions. You will be pleased to know, Madam, that I visited both these institutions last week in Kolkata and I was quite surprised to find that even though we have a hundred year history we have never had the International Geological Congress or the International Botanical Congress in India. So, I have bid now for the 2020 International Zoological Congress and the 2021 International Botanical Congress in Kolkata. I am sure that I am not going to be there in that year. But I hope that in 2020-21 these institutions will get the international prominence that they deserve. Sir, she also spoke about birds. We have a very important national wetland programme for preservation of our mangroves and the preservation of our wetlands. These are all manifestations of our policy that we consider ecological restoration not just from tiger point of view, but from entire species chain point of view, and I would be pleased to share with the House, on another occasion, all the work that we are doing on ecological restoration of wetlands. A couple of days ago, I was at the Dal Lake. I travelled all over the 25 sq. kilometres of Dal and I found, to my surprise, that there are large number of wetlands within the Dal Lake which attract a lot of birds during the winter season, but because of the condition Dal Lake is in today, these have become really atrophied. So, we are actually starting a very major programme on eco-restoration of the Dal Lake, as an example. So, I just want to re-assure the hon. Member that tigers are critical, but there are other species as well. We are running a programme on the preservation of snow leopards. Just as tigers represent forests; snow leopards represent mountains. We have started the programme for conservation of snow leopards. In Dr. Karan Singh's own State, I announced a new programme for the conservation of the Hangul, which is an endangered species. We are looking at various species in different parts of the country, and whichever species is in danger, we will try to restore its prominence. The Cheetah, just to give you an example, is the only mammal that has become extinct in India in one thousand years. We are now trying to bring the Cheetah back into India, We have to get Cheetah from abroad. We have to go through a lot of scientific protocol, and I hope in the next few months, we will be in a position to re-introduce the Cheetah in captivity and, sooner rather than later, into the wild as well.

Sir, on the issues that have been raised today, first of all, I am grateful to the hon. Member, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, for making a series of very important points which go not just to the tiger

1.00 P.M.

conservation effort but to the larger issue of forestry management. I want to re-assure him that the interests of the Indian Forest Service are paramount as far as I am concerned because forests are in the global debate on climate change; forests are absolutely critical. We have to protect our forests. We have to regenerate our forests. We have large areas of degraded forests on which we have to bring back the green cover and I entirely agree with him and I will be sharing with him the detailed information on what we are doing to bring back the importance that the forestry sector deserves. I agree with him that in the last couple of decades, somehow, the forestry has receded in importance. But, I am determined to change that, and I would like to just inform the hon. Member again, in yesterday's Budget speech, just before the mention of the Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India, the hon. Finance Minister gave a special grant of Rs.100 crores to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. It is for the first time in a Budget speech that forestry has been recognised as a separate sector. So, I think these are winds of change. We have a very concerned and sensitive Prime Minister on issues of conservation and because of the global environment and climate change, many of these issues are becoming important. I think the point that he made on forestry is absolutely critical. Sir, he has raised some issues on relocation. A point was made by hon. Nominated Member, Dr. Chandan Mitra, as well, that there is a protocol under which this relocation takes place, We have relocated two tigresses into Panna from Kanah and Bandhavgarh. We have relocated two tigresses and one tiger to Sariska from Ranthambore. It goes on a protocol. There is some controversy. Scientists themselves are divided on the efficacy of this relocation. In fact, I am getting the criticism, as hon. Member mentioned, that there is an inbreeding danger because the ones that have been relocated to Sariska have come from only Ranthambore. So, some scientists have told me that we should get a larger base population from which we relocate. I want to assure the hon. Member that these are scientific issues which I am looking at. I am consulting as large a scientific community as possible. We have some excellent wildlife scientists in India. Sir, we have a Wildlife Research Institute at Dehradun and it would be my endeavour to bring out the best which the modern science offers to this issue.

Sir, time and again, every Member has raised the question of numbers of tigers like we used to have 4,000 tigers and now we have only 1,400 tigers. Sir, I want to take the House into confidence, and with full responsibility as the Minister for Environment and Forests, I want to make a statement that may appear to be shocking to all the Members. The truth is that all the previous methods of estimation of tigers were faulty. We have had no scientific basis for statements like 'the Sunderbans has 200 tigers', or, 'the Simlipal has 250 tigers'. The method that we adopted was the pugmark method and the same pugmark used to be counted on more than one occasion. I have to admit this on the floor of the House. The old method of estimation was faulty. We now have a new method,

developed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute. It is not a Census. Moinul Saheb, it is not a Census. It is a sampling method. It is based on tiger destiny. It is based on camera trap, which is an internationally-accepted method. According to the old method of estimation, the estimated numbers of tigers in India is anywhere between 1,040 and 1,600. We don't have a precise number. We don't have to argue about a precise number. But I do want to say that the hon. Member should be careful in using all numbers prior to 2005-06 because those methods are not comparable to the methods that we are adopting today. We are going to be carrying out estimation once every four years. I would like this estimation to be done once in two years. I want to assure the hon. House that whatever we do, we will do openly. It will be done transparently and it would be done through a process of scientific peer review where the best scientists, both in India and abroad, will contribute to enabling our understanding of whether our methods are up to date or not.

Sir, I agree that Sansar Chand's case has dragged on for quite sometime, I will take up this matter with the Attorney General today and find out whether we can think of fast-track mechanism for poaching cases under the Wildlife (Protection) Act. This is a very good suggestion given by the hon. Member and I agree that if we can make an example out of the case that is already being heard, I am sure, it will have a large impact on the rest of the poaching cases. There are other cases in the pipeline and I will discuss them with the Attorney General as to how we can take this forward.

Sir, a number of questions have been raised on the involvement of local communities. I want to address this issue. The hon. Member from Tamil Nadu also raised his issue. It is my endeavour that we will begin with Corbett. I want to begin with Corbett because it is of historic importance where Dr. Karan Singh inaugurated the Project Tiger on 1st April, 1973. I have already spoken to the Van Gujjar community. There are about 200 families there. We are going to try and induct them as para-police professionals. We cannot induct them as police because they do not meet the minimum educational requirement of 8th or 9th standard. There are some bureaucratic problems but we will create a social protection force based on the local Van Gujjar community at Corbett. If it works at Corbett, I assure you that we will extend it to other communities as well. I would like to start with Corbett. I had been to Corbett myself. We will make this experiment there and after a few months, we will take it up to other areas where you have local communities. Ranthambore is a good example; Simlipal in Orissa is another good example, and, we will try to create protection forces based on local communities, pay them through Project Tiger. They will be paid; they will be given all facilities, mobility and connectivity. They will be the local protectors of the Project Tiger areas. So, please bear with me till the Corbett experiment is completed, which will be within five to six months from now.

Sir, a lot of technical issues have been raised, which I do not think I need to get into any great detail now. I want to respond to the point made by the hon. Member, Shri Sharad Joshi. We, hon.

Members, are talking of tigers in the wild. We are not talking of tigers in cages. There are 8,000 tigers in America. But they are tigers that have been bred in captivity. I am not interested in replicating the Australian or the Chinese experiment. China has no tigers in the wild. America has no tigers in the wild. Sixty per cent of the world's tigers are in India and they are all in the wild. They should remain in the wild, because by keeping tigers in the wild, we are protecting our ecosystem.

With great respect to Mr. Sharad Joshi, I respectfully disagree with his suggestion. India will not repeat the Australian experiment on crocodile. India will not repeat the American experiment on tigers. We will preserve tigers in the wild to the extent we can. The task is formidable, but I am sure with the cooperation of States, local communities, and the Centre, we will be able to succeed.

Sir, today, I want to place on record that there are three States in India which account for 50 per cent of India's tiger population and they are doing excellent work. They are, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Uttarakhand. These are the three States which account for 50 per cent of our tiger population.

It was not my intention to bring any politics into this debate. I just mentioned Bihar because Bihar is the only State which has not signed the MoU with the Centre. Bihar is the only State that has not posted a Project Director for the Valmiki Tiger Reserve. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not trying to bring politics into this.

I mentioned the Panna, because it is drawing headlines. I agree with you that even in States like Andhra Pradesh, we have problems with the tiger reserves, and we are looking into this. But I do want to say that there is some excellent work going on in the Project Tiger area in Madhya Pradesh. Excellent work is being done in Karnataka and in Uttarakhand, and our responsibility is to replicate this.

The hon. Member gave a specific example of the Kanha. I have tried to find facts of the case. I will get back to him with detail. But my information is that the errant Project Director has actually been transferred. He has been moved out of the Kanha and quite rightly so. I support the State Government in this initiative. I have written to the State Chief Minister offering all our assistance and I have given about 14 action points what the State can do to avoid the type of disaster that we had in the Panna.

I will be glad to share this communication with you, because I think we are together in this cooperative venture. This is not something which requires political posturing, But it requires the cooperative effort I think the hon. Member wants to say something. I yield.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It was first raised by Mr. Chandan. Do we have plans of getting into a Central legislation which could provide for a stricter punishment to the poachers and those who indulge in this. Laws are not good enough at this point in time to punish them. Do you have something like this in mind? That is very important. Recently, about two weeks ago, one tiger was killed in Goa. Do we have something like this? That is very important.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is a very large issue. But I want to take the House into confidence. Separately, I am seeking approval of the Cabinet. We have already floated a proposal for the approval of the Cabinet for setting up a National Green Tribunal. The National Green Tribunal is going to be an environmental court which is going to hear all cases relating to violation of laws dealing with environment and forests. I am glad to inform the hon. House that the Attorney-General has supported this proposal. This is a recommendation of the 186th Report of the Law Commission. We have adequate support of the judiciary. It is my hope that sooner rather than later I will be able get the approval of the Cabinet for this proposal.

Once we have the National Green Tribunal, we will address some of the issues that the hon. Members talked about. They are: the delays in prosecution, the delays in registering of cases and so on. If the Act requires to be redone, I am quite willing to have a look at the Act. If the hon. members have suggestions in this regard, I will look into it.

I might inform the hon. Members that we have already set up a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Senior officers have been posted in the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. But, I take the point that has been made and I will make sure that we strengthen it, give it some teeth administratively and if legal changes are required and if hon. Member point out specific suggestions to me, I would be only too glad to consider them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I congratulate you for your commitment. There are opinions of people as to why these tigers or rhinos were killed. It is because they have got special values. उसके पंजे का नाखून गले में पहनो, तो लकी होता है, उसकी चर्बी खाओ तो फायदा होता है। Now, these things are social misconceptions which have to be advertised on television. That is the reason why China is buying these tigers because they use them in medicines.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have exceeded the times ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute, Mr. Anil Lad also wants to speak.

SHRI ANIL H. LAD (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to say that I was from the wildlife department. I was the wildlife warden in Bellary, Karnataka. I would like to request the Minister that the nurseries in the forest departments today are only raising the non-fruitle trees. Because of the non-fruitle trees, there is no bird life in the forest. They are given a target to only raise green trees. They are only raising the Nigiris and the other fast-growing trees which do not give any fruits. Because of that, many elephants are entering into the farms. They are not having sufficient food in the forest. Because of that, deer population is not growing. Once the deer and barking deer population grows, the tiger population will also grow. That is my idea. Thank you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, to get back to the point that the hon. Member was making, it is true that there is a demand for tiger parts which is leading to poaching. We have an MoU with China on tiger conservation. We are part of the global tiger initiative and it is my intention to take this up as aggressively as possible in all international forums. There is a huge demand. If you go to Bangkok, you will see why there is this demand for tiger parts. It is because of the magical properties associated with certain tiger parts. So, I think, these are issues that we are dealing with on bilateral basis. I must admit that we have not had much success. But, we can certainly do much more to control poaching. This is the point which I was trying to make. With the help of local community, through a fast track judicial mechanism, through strict police action and through making some sample cases like Sansar Chand, I think, we will send a message to the rest, of the country that we are serious about conserving the tigers.

Sir, I have not been able to respond to each and every point that has been made. But, I shall do so. I have taken extensive notes. I will respond to each of the hon. Members individually. I want to thank the hon. Members for taking this opportunity. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Joshiji, we are exceeding the time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, I will make the point in one minute. Sir, the Minister has pooh - poohed the idea of preserving tigers in captivity. But, in agriculture, we have gene banks and when your stock of tigers in the forest is exhausted, you have to come back to us to get the genes. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 o'clock for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fourteen minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at one minute past two of the clock,

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 2009-10

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2009-10. The Leader of the Opposition, Shri Arun Jaitley.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, where is the Minister?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri E. Ahammed is there.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No. Shri Ahammed is there definitely. There is no problem about that. But when the Opposition is opening the debate, you always expect that the Cabinet Minister is there in the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): She is there in the Lok Sabha, My senior colleague will be here any time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. Kurien, kindly see to it.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I have already sent a message to her.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): No, no. That is why we are starting at 2 o'clock. Otherwise, we could have also started at 12 o'clock before taking up the Calling Attention. It is to facilitate the Minister to come here, we started at 2 o'clock. Time and again this is going on in this House.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: No doubt, she will be here any time.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Railway Budget. What surprised us most when the Railway Budget was presented that the hon. Minister in the course of the Budget punctured one great achievement which the UPA seems to be claiming that in the first five years of its rule, it had turned the Railways around and made it an organization from bankruptcy into an organization which was independent and which was a profitable organization. The hon. Minister said that she would be bringing out a White Paper on the performance of the Indian Railways, including its financial status in the last five years. Now, this indeed has made us extremely suspicious. I remember that the earlier Railway Minister during the first five years of the UPA Government had compared the Indian Railways to a jersey cow, and he had always said that it was a jersey cow which had not been milked enough, and his own achievement that he always mentioned was that he has now been able to milk it adequately. What appears to have happened is that with this change of alliance in the UPA, the vision with regard to the Railways has also changed. The hon. Minister has just come and I must concede that I am one of those who has a considerable amount of admiration for her ability to struggle and stick to her point of view. But there are some parts of her Budget which have indeed been a disappointment to us. I also recollect that her predecessor, Lalujji, considered one of his achievements that the turn around was a subject on which the Wharton and the Harvard expected him to lecture them. But what I have seen in this Budget, Sir, far from impressing Wharton or Harvard, just turns the basic principle of management of any institution — the principle being that 'strengthen your core areas, concentrate on your areas of core competence and ignore what is wholly extenuous and not relevant to the core areas', some can be ignored; some can be outsourced. And this is the basic principle that any management institution would have guided us. With the publication, Sir, of what they do not teach you at the Harvard Management School, and, I think, with this kind of a Budget which has been prepared by the hon. Minister, the next reprint of the edition of that can rewrite some of those basic principles where the hon. Minister, in the Budget, seems to have decided that as far as safety is concerned, as far as efficiency is concerned, as far as passenger comforts are concerned, these are secondary and the irrelevant frills in the functioning of the Railways become the primary concern as far as the Railways is concerned. So, the basic management principle, of any organisation, be it Government or non-Government or commercial, or even a social organisation, being 'concentrate on your core areas',

which is to provide a good service as far as freight and travel is concerned, and ignore the non-core areas, the Minister has raised a debate of economic viability vs. the social purpose of a social viability of the Railways. Yes, there is an important social purpose. But, then, one is not an alternative to the other. If you have no economic viability, if you are not in a position to even sustain yourself then where is the prospect of your being able to underwrite any social purpose? I think, there is an unstated third purpose which the Minister has not mentioned but which is evident from the Budget, and which is, the Railway Ministry wanting to become almost a parallel Government, a Government which undertakes functions which have, otherwise, no direct or indirect relationship with the Railways, but, then, expand your own empire and get into areas which have no concern with the Railways. I have, Sir, serious doubts as to whether "The Transaction of business rules" would even permit the Ministry of Railways or the Railway Board or the Indian Railways to undertake a large number of those activities.

Sir, I went through the hon. Minister's speech, and I started highlighting, the areas in the speech, with a special concentration which has taken place as far as this Budget is concerned. I can quote from the speech, but for the convenience of the House, to take time, I have just shortlisted some of them. These are all areas, which are non-core areas, non-essential areas, where the energy of the Railways should not be spent, and if the energy of the Railways is going to be spent in these areas, the resources of the Railways are going to be spent in these areas then the beneficiaries of the service, whether it is passengers or whether it is industries or farmers, in the case of freight, will be paying for something which they are not supposed to pay for. The Railways, in this Budget, has now proposed the following: construction of multifunctional complexes including shopping areas and restaurants. Now, when has construction of malls become a function of the Railways? Construction of budget hotels. The Government of India — and Governments traditionally and conventionally are bad providers of hospitality — had several hotels through its public sector undertaking, the ITDC. State Governments had them. And the experience showed that you had to really send those hotels back to the private sector. The Railways was operating hotels. The BN Railway had hotels at Ranchi and Puri. The Railways found that it was unable to run those hotels, and those hotels also have been given to the private sector for management. Now the proposal is that the Railways go back and start constructing hotels. Another is construction of indoor stadia for sports in various divisions including one at Indo-Bangladesh border. Then comes construction of seven nursing colleges. I don't know whether, under "The Transaction of Business Rules", this is the function of the Health Ministry or the Indian Railways. I saw, Sir, on page 11 of the hon. Minister's speech, the list of cities where the Railways have hospitals and like nursing colleges through a public-private partnership; 17 medical colleges to be established by the Railways through public-private partnership. Now establishment of medical colleges is for a very useful purpose. But is it the function of the Indian Railways to start concentrating on the establishment of 17 medical colleges? It does not stop at that. Then comes the laying down of optic fibre network throughout the country. Now the Railways have certainly got land

and they can give the right of way. They can earn money from the right of way. But, you have the Department of Telecom and you have various other agencies in the private and public sector doing this job. And, therefore, should optic fibre network be laid down on the railway land by the Railways? Then there is establishment and improvement of printing presses in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai. Again, it is a non-essential activity. Printing function is something which can be outsourced. Next is construction of commercial structures on surplus land of printing presses. Next one—I think, it should be a note of caution for my friends in the Left Front—is taking over the Basumati Sahitya Mandir, a PSU of the West Bengal Government. Now there is a PSU, an agency of the West Bengal Government, called "Basumati Sahitya Mandir", which runs a small newspaper. It is now proposed, and now an offer is made, that the Railways are willing to take it over so that the Railways can run the newspaper "Basumati". Then come Establishment of 1,000-megawatt power-plant in a Tribal area and establishment of a training institution for young artisans and supervisors.

Sir, as I said, the basic function of the Railways is to provide us safety, to provide us comfort, to provide us efficiency and to join the entire country through a network of railways. What now seems to be happening is that the Railways are allowed to become a parallel Government. The Prime Minister must seriously examine, and, if necessary, the Attorney General's opinion should be sought, whether the desire of the Railways to transgress into all these areas is permissible within the domain of the Indian Railways. Is it a business or function which is incidental to the work of the Railways? Or, is it a gross Constitutional violation of "The Transaction of Business Rules"? The External Affairs Minister is here. He can't say, "My Ministry will now set up a power-plant because we seriously consider that we must transact power with Bangladesh". These are functions for which we have allocated Ministries and, therefore, the Railways, not becoming a parallel Government, must stick to its area of core responsibility, whether it is the economic viability or the social viability of the areas where the Railways are supposed to really function. I think, this is the issue on which the Government and, particularly, the Prime Minister will have to take a larger view.

Sir, I have gone through the Railway Budget and the speech of the hon. Railway Minister, and, I must, at this stage, compliment her—I say this with all sincerity — where she tried to be very candid about the true state of the Railways themselves. But there were three passages, when I read between the lines, which made me, I must confess, a little suspicious. In the last five years, we were being told how now the jersey cow is being milked; how now a bankrupt organisation has turned around. There were questions being raised and, therefore, lecturers were being organised all over the world as to how the turn around has come. But the present hon. Minister was very candid. Though she tried on the principle of responsibility of a Minister to be a little restrained, but there was a giveaway as far as her speech was concerned. At page 28 of her speech — here she refers to the

Interim Budget which Laluj presented—the. Minister said, "I was surprised to find that there was a provision of Rs. 3,400 crores for resource mobilisation through PPP of which Rs. 3,300 crores would just not materialise." So the present Minister has inherited a legacy where there is an entry or a provision of Rs. 3,300 crores, but on the Minister's own admission, in the Interim Budget, the money does not exist.

Her next giveaway was at page 19, where she said, "Based on the review, it is very clear that the unrealistically high targets set in the Interim Budget are not sustainable and warrant a mid course correction." I compliment the hon. Minister for being more realistic.

Her third giveaway was obviously, as I have referred to, at page 37, where she said, "I would like to assure the House that the Railways will come out with a 'White Paper' indicating its present organisational, operational and financial status based on its performance in the last five years." Now I was curious. When there is a continuous Government which has got the second term, the UPA Government, why should the present Minister only concentrate on the financial status of the last five years? She did not concentrate on the phase when the NDA was in power. Why is it that the financial status of the last five years was under question? It is because we were told that there was a profit of Rs. 25,000 crores; we were told that the Railways had a cash surplus. But, Sir, truth has a very inconvenient and an uncanny habit that if you try and conceal it, the more you conceal it the more it leaks itself out.

After all, the speech of the hon. Minister is the final draft which is approved and which is delivered. There could be some last minute changes in the draft. Fortunately, for this country, the penultimate draft which was changed last minute was put on the website of the Railways. After being put on the website of the Railways, it was withdrawn because a wrong draft had been put. There was a curiosity raised as to what is the difference between the two speeches. I am sure this must be a *bona fide* lapse and not a conscious error. But the country became wiser because we realised that there was no cash surplus. The paragraph which was removed but which fortunately saw the light of the day, I would like to quote that. It says, "To fund our massive network expansion programmes, completion of capacity enhancement works, timely replacement of overage assets, planned expenditure has been sustained in the two years, 2008-09 and 2009-10 through draw down from our accumulated fund balances which may not be possible in future." Therefore, we are now told that in order to plan the expenditure there is no cash surplus that the Railways has from this Rs. 25,000 crores earning or from Rs. 9,000 crores, as we are now being told. You have to go back to your reserves and in order to plan the expansion you have to take away the money from the reserves. This is the real financial position as far as the Railways is concerned. Then we started analysing the accounts because the accounts of the Railways, as any other public expenditure, is approved by the other House.

So, the question, which legitimately arises, is; Why is the Minister saying that there must be a White Paper? Why is the Minister saying that Rs.3,300 crores is not traceable, that this money will never be realised? Why was this paragraph, that you have to eat into the reserves in order to plan the expansion, taken out? It is because the true picture of the reserves is that at the end of the year, you change the accounting system. There are several examples, which are now available, of how a jugglery of accounts of the Railways has been done in the last five years. One simple illustration is that there is a public sector organisation of the financial body, which they have called, the Indian Railways Finance Corporation. The Indian Railways Finance Corporation leases out the rolling assets of the Railways, say, the locomotives, the wagons, the coaches, etc., from the private sector, and pays them lease rental. Now this lease rental, which you pay for the use of the Railways, is always a legitimate expenditure of the Railways, and therefore, while drawing your accounts, it must go as a working expenditure of the Railways. For some curious reason, in the year, 2005, this ceased to be shown as the working expenditure of the Railways, and, it is put in the non-expenditure category, even though it is a lease rental being paid. So, Madam Minister, it is not merely that you will never be able to find out Rs.3,300 crores, the figures now are Rs.1,608 crores for the year 2007-08; Rs.1,810 crores for the year 2008-09 and Rs.2,209 crores for 2009-10. You add up these three figures and add-up your Rs.3,300 crores, you will straight away find that Rs.9,000-10,000 crores are missing. That is why the Railways had to then go back to their reserves to even fund their expansion, and this so-called existing profit was just not there. Now, this issue has been noticed by the CAG, and the CAG also, in its Report, comments on it. The CAG, in its Report, says: "According to the Railways, they are now considering charging capital component of IRFC's lease charges from the surplus after payment of dividend, However, for the year in question, the same has been booked as miscellaneous expenditure resulting in the net figure of the net miscellaneous expenditure." Now, it is taken out as far as the working expenditure is concerned. So, you have accounts being juggled in this manner. When we see the performance of the Railways, this is not the only area where a jugglery of this kind has taken place. For five years, this country has been misled not only on the question that the Railways have made a huge profit, but each one of us, every Indian, had an impression that for five years, the railway tariffs have not been increased as far as passenger fares are concerned. For five years, we are told, "किराए के अन्दर पांच साल हमने एक रुपया नहीं बढ़ने दिया।" And Parliament approves this expenditure. Parliament approves the Accounts. Then, we go and start analysing what it is that has happened. You announce it in the Budget. You announce it in your Budget speech that tariffs are not being increased. You go back and what do you do in the course of the year? I would just give you some illustrations. I would say that the Minister has, only partly, in a small manner, tried to correct one of those factors. There is a difference in tariff as far as passenger trains and super fast trains are concerned. If the train runs at a speed of 55 KMs or more, then, it is a super fast train.

Today you have 374 trains which runs at less than 55 KMs. Their speed is not increased, and they run at 40 or 45 KM or 50 KM speed.

So, they would be ordinary passenger trains. Their classification is changed as super-fast. As a result of which, every traveller there has to pay eight rupees more or fifty rupees more. The range is eight rupees to fifty rupees. The Parliament may have to seriously consider whether all these transgress into a breach of privilege of Parliament, when the Parliament is being told that we have not increased the tariffs, without increasing the speed of the train to beyond 55, you just re-designate the train into super-fast. That is not all. You start an inbuilt charge on reservations. How is the charge increased? You book your ticket from Chennai to Delhi and back. Every passenger has a return journey. He has to come back home. So, Chennai to Delhi, from your booking station, where you book the ticket, but when you re-board the train, from Delhi, way back to Chennai, you have re-boarded it back from a station other than where you booked the ticket. So, there is a surcharge on that. So, a return ticket would cost extra. But, this is not all. The Tatkal Scheme should be abolished immediately. This Tatkal Scheme is a living scandal. The Railways has a monopoly. There is no other agency which can provide you a train travel. In the Tatkal Scheme, the Government as a monopolist, first decided to create a scarcity of tickets. So, every time, a reservation has to be done, a certain part of the tickets are not available for sale. It would be 30 per cent, it could go up to even 50 per cent. So, when you hold back a number of tickets, an artificial scarcity is created. If an artificial scarcity is created, there will be various difficulties. Then, those tickets are released at the last minute, and how much you pay for that ticket? Especially, you pay for a sleeper Rs. 150 extra, for air-conditioned travel, you pay Rs.300 extra. Mamataji has now been kind enough to say that this Rs.150 will become Rs.100. And this continues. And, Parliament for five years has been misled and being told that not a single rupee fare has been increased in five years, 'Look how I turned Railways around; how we turned the Railways around without increasing the fare. The CAG went into this question, and the CAG now says, "In the Budget Speech the Railway Minister announced that there would be no increase in the passenger fare during year 2005-06. However, various components of passenger fare, other than basic fares, such as reservation charges, super-fast charges, cancellation charges, clerkage charges were all revised." And, therefore, you saw a massive increase in the burden on the traveller. But, the country was being misled that 'no, we have not changed it, we have not charged more'. This, Sir, has now really become a matter where, as I said, the debate that the hon. Minister has launched in this Budget is, economic viability *versus* social viability. But, then, there is a second issue also. Does Indian Railways require to be saved from the politics of the Railway Minister? This is the experience of the Indian society. Your accounts do not reflect the true position, you want to transgress into areas which do not belong to the Railways. You tell the whole country that tariffs are not being increased and passenger fares are not being

increased, and the Railway Budget is an occasion of great festivity, it is an occasion to announce various kinds of schemes. Let us see what seems to have happened. The present Railway Minister, this is her second innings as the hon. Minister of the Railways. She has presented two Budgets earlier. We know that. What does the present Budget say? 'How do we exploit the railway land, how do we modernise stations, how do we create an optic fibre network, how do we create budget hotels?' I just glanced through what Ministers have been saying for the last six-seven years in each Budget. This goes on irrespective of the Government in power. 2000-01 was the present Railway Minister's Budget. 'Railways shall set to participate in the IT revolution, the nationwide broadband telecom, multimedia network by laying optic fibre, 'In 2001-02, it is said, 'Rs. 750 crores earmarked for optic fibre network' I could understand that when we still were on the initial stages of the IT revolution. Between 2000-01 and 2009-10, there are private agencies, Department of Telecommunications, Defence and various other agencies. There is a huge optic fibre network which has been established in the country.

Now, let us come to the 2004 Budget. Laluji presented his first Budget. He says, 'These are the facilities which I am going to provide at every railway station. Such works shall be in progress at 1100 stations.' So, in 2004-05, we are told by Laluji that we will have modernisation of 1100 stations. Sir, most of us have been travelling by train since our childhoods. Let us honestly ask ourselves a question: On the railway stations, have we seen any improvement since we first travelled? Are the waiting rooms better? Are the toilets better? Are the food facilities better? In 2004, we are told, 'Let us have modernisation as far as the railway stations are concerned.' In 2005-06, they said, 'Several public-private partnership initiatives are being taken to garner resources through non-traditional methods of our modernisation and development of railways and to provide enhanced facilities for users. Prominent amongst them are private sidings, commercial utilisation of surplus railway land for construction of modern railway stations, provision of passenger amenities, logistical parks, initiatives relating to parcel and optic fibre network,'

I think, these have now become templates as far as the railways is concerned Modernisation of stations, optic fibre network and construction of budget hotels, and we forget what is the core purpose as far as the railways is concerned! In 2006-07, it is said, To modernise passenger amenities, we have decided to make A & B category stations into modern stations. All these facilities will be available in the next two years, Not one station has been changed! In 2007-08, the Parliament is told, 'I am now setting up a deadline. Last year, I had announced that within two years we will observe perceptible improvement and give a facelift to the stations. According to this announcement, we have started the work on developing five railway stations as model stations in each division. This work is going to be completed on 225 stations by March, 2007,' March, 2007 is over two-and-a-half years ago. Forget 225 stations. We are yet to see even one modern world quality station which is coming up!

Sir, there has to be some look at the big picture as far as the railways is concerned. Is the Railway Budget only, as I said, an occasion for politicking and expansion of politics as far as the Railways Minister is concerned? Or, is the Railway Budget actually going into the details of how the railway structure in this country is to be improved? Sir, there can be no doubt that we criticise the British on various counts. We can legitimately criticise them that they ignored the roadways completely. But the Indian Railways was essentially constructed by the British during the British period. At times I wonder, even though we resent them for having ruled us, that if the British have ignored the railways like they have ignored the roadways, what would we have done in the last 62 years! The British left us behind a track lane of 55596 kms, in 62 years today we are 63,940 kms. In the last ten years we have added 250 kms. ...*(Interruptions)*... The number of locomotives, of course, today the capacity is much better — is 8330, while the British left us 8290. Passenger coaches have gone up from about 13,000 to about 40,000. But the wagons, — what Ram Gopalji was saying, is broadly the same, he is only partly incorrect, — from 205596 it has come down to 204034. So, the number of wagons is numerically less, the capacity of wagon may be more because of the size. Now, if we recollect from the period when the British left us, this is the core area, as far as railway is concerned. The Prime Minister has made a statement after the hon. Minister presented the budget that the Government's honest desire, he said, is to make a railway travel an enjoyable journey. World over this is the experience. You save time when you travel by railway, you see the beautiful countryside, the time efficiencies are there, cleanliness is there and that is what the hon. Prime Minister had in mind when he said that let us make railway an enjoyable journey. What did we do? From the time, the British left us, what we ignored completely was the safety as far as the Indian Railways is concerned. And it is not merely safety, Sir, it is also the economic efficiency and viability of the railway that we ignored. My friend, Rajeev Shukla, just now said, whether this period of 62 years include our five or six years. Yes, it does. But then there was one major change that came in that period. We must broadly understand how the economy of the railway functions. Whether a train has eight coaches, it has ten wagons, or it has twenty of twenty-five wagons, railway is one industry where the fixed cost broadly remains the same. The locomotive running expenditure will be the same, the track is the property of the railways, the stations are the property of railways, the staff broadly would be same, they are being paid salaries by the railways. Therefore, if you run a small train or a lighter train, the possibility of the railways having losses would be far higher. Therefore, underlying principle globally, as far as railway is concerned, is that if you have a goods train of 12 wagons, in all possibility the fixed cost will not be recovered. The fixed cost will remain the same but if you have a 24 wagons train, you are now having a longer train and in a longer train you will be able to carry more, and, therefore, you have a larger profitability. But will your track be able to take the weight of that longer train? The reasons why we were suffering losses were three. Our trains were shorter as far as their length was concerned, our trains were lighter, they could not be loaded to their

full capacity and therefore we had to even have slower trains with longer turnaround times. So, you have the asset of the railways but because we did not make any investment into strengthening the infrastructure that the British left us, the railways took to suffer because we were running 12 coaches or 12 wagon trains, smaller trains. And then came during the NDA Government, when Mr. Nitish Kumar was the Railway Minister, he made a public issue out of it that the railway would turn bankrupt, the trains would not be able to carry enough load, the trains smaller in size would never be able to commercially viable, therefore, from the planned expenditure in railways internal accruals, 'please, support the railway safety programme.' And, the then, Government headed by Shri Vajpayee sanctioned Rs. 17,000 crores as a special Railway Safety Fund. I must admit that Lalaji in one of his speeches has referred to it in a very correct manner saying how in all those Railway features this fund helped. This Rs. 17000 crore fund is used to strengthen the railway track and the result of this strengthening is that from 2003-2004 with better signalling and with better railway track, the Railways were supposed to have longer trains. So, you started having 24 coaches or boggies or wagon trains. When Lalaji became the Minister, it is because of that turning point he was also to have a large axle load and, therefore, the three buzz words were, longer trains, heavier trains and faster turn around and suddenly you started having a lot more earnings as far as freight is concerned. Sir, the Railways today — and, I am sure the hon. Minister has an earlier experience would bear with me — functions on two economic principles. The first being, unless your freight is commercially competitive you will lose out on the freight because the freight would move to the roadways. Now, we have the National Highways coming up. So, if you make it unreasonably priced people will start travelling by road. So, it must be market driven and the freight must be at a reasonable level. At the same time, the utilisation of the Railways' assets must be to the optimum. The track, the stations, the facilities came and this turn around came with the safety fund during the tenure of Shri Nitish Kumar when he campaigned across the country and wanted that fund and that fund finally showed dividend and the Railways turned around. So, you had a whole complexion being changed. Now, Sir, the second principle is, the passengers never pay the full fare of what it costs the Railways. The passengers are subsidised from the freight earnings. So, your freight has to be market-wise competitive with the Roadways, but, at the same time it has to earn you enough so that you are able to subsidise the passengers. Now, the Railways has functioned under this principle. Having functioned under this principle, Madam, if the mandate of the Prime Minister is to be followed, and, I do believe that the Prime Minister is right when he says that this must be followed, some basic questions will come up. How do you make the Prime Minister say, 'the Rail Budget will make train travel an enjoyable experience'? If you have unclean toilets at the Railway Stations or in the compartments, if the food is sub-standard, if the linen being served to the passengers is not properly maintained, if there are not resting places as far as the stations are concerned, I think, time has now

come to think in terms of the future and when you think in terms of the future, I think, there are two important considerations the hon. Minister must at least consider for the purposes of at least a pilot project or initiating a debate in the society. I am not saying for a moment that these are things which must be done forthwith because unless we have an experience of how it works in this Indian context there is no point in getting into those areas. The Railways has two basic functions. Its operation, safety, ownership are broad operations of the Railways. The second is the management of the hospitality as far as passengers are concerned. Now, are Railways the best managers of that hospitality? I am told that the Railways in relation to two trains are starting it as a pilot project, the Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani and perhaps another train. The Minister should share with the House at some stage what is the experience in these pilot projects taking even outside help as far as hospitality is concerned, the maintenance of cleanliness, the maintenance of waiting room, toilets etc. Even the present arrangement of food management through the catering organization of the Railways through private contractors has led to a huge amount of cartelisation. You have a limited number of people who have set up companies by different names, who have cartelised and are managing the entire service.

The hon. Minister has a daunting task ahead of her to crack these cartels. Therefore, outsourcing some of these hospitality functions is to be looked into seriously. After all, Sir, the airlines which cater to a little better or superior class of passengers gets its food from outside. The airlines do not know about the food management in aircraft. So, the world-over it is done from outside. Sir, worldwide the train hospitality is done from outside. Is it feasible for the Indian society? Therefore, we must seriously consider this particular experiment.

Secondly, the Railways has huge assets in the form of land, I think, we in India has a phobia that when we see land we think in terms of commercialising it. Railways has a huge chunks of land. I am not referring to commercialisation of that land at the moment. In today's environment how much will the hon. Minister be able to commercialise that land, even though she has announced ambitious projects, I have serious doubts. Sir, the most expensive piece of land that the Railways has is the New Delhi Railway Station. It has 253 acres of land. This land is contiguous to Connaught Place. It has Ajmeri Gate one side, Pahar Gunj and Sadar Bazar on the other side. Perhaps, a valuable 253 acres of land, next to Connaught Place, where additional FAR or FSI available, would not be existing anywhere in the country. When the Railways came out with a big tender for PPP, in today's environment of economic gloom, not a single bidder has come. If not even a single bidder has come for a piece of land contiguous to Connaught Place, what do we expect for Railway lands in other parts of the country to be developed. So, let us stop this obsession of Railway land would be sold, Malls would constructed, hotels would be built on land, etc. It is not the function of the Railways. Its function is to provide facilities. You have asset in the form of railway stations, you have assets in the

form of railway track and you have asset in the form of a well-trained Railway staff. Sir, even in England, when Mrs. Thatcher started privatising various sector, and when it came to Railways, she was faced with a blank. Therefore, the British Government also could not do it. For a number of years, the British Railways remains the same and it remains the same. Sir, what some of the countries have started doing is, fix route trains, intercity trains with special facilities for passengers who can afford it. This will reduce the load on your normal trains. Can we use the PPP model in those? The existing operations are entirely with the Railways. Can we use these existing assets of the Railways in highly crowded travel areas in intercity, etc.? Jobs in future will go from one small town to another. So, people will travel from suburbs to the main cities. So, can we use, where we do not have the Railway funds or the Governmental funds available, this model for that? This model has been experimented internationally. And, I would urge the hon. Minister to seriously look at this area.

One last point I wish to make. We have said that the Indian Railways was built in the pre-Independence period. I think, there is one basic area, when we are so obsessed with modernisation, PPP, tendering for railway line, commercial exploitation of land, we have ignored. Sir, world-over, the architecture for Railways has changed. You enter a railway station and you stand in front of various platforms. You can easily move to anyone of them. In India, when you enter into a railway station, you either enter into the first platform or the last platform. Old age people, disabled people, women, porters carrying bags-and-bags have then to climb the stairs, go over to some other platform and come down. This kind of plight of porters and others is heartening. In a modern age when we speak in term of human rights, etc., if some agency went into it seriously, it would be frowned upon. Therefore, I think, and it is my last suggestion to the hon. Minister, to start seriously reconsidering the architecture of our railway stations. The world over, architecture of railway stations is consumer and passenger-friendly. You don't have to climb stairs there. Except the younger population in India, there is a very large section of people who have difficulty in climbing stairs as facilities of escalators and lifts are not available. Therefore, I think, a time has come to seriously - it is an elementary change that must be experimented on some stations — think about the architecture of the railway stations.

Sir, finally I would like to conclude by saying that the hon. Minister has come into this department after almost 7 or 8 years. But there is a legacy behind. And, the legacy is that while there was propaganda of great achievement, the ground reality shows that she is in a squeeze as far as capital is concerned. The ground reality shows that the efficiency is not what it used to be. The operational ratio, we are told, is coming down to 78 per cent, it is over 92 per cent, projected for this year. Even when Mr. Nitish Kumar started turning around the Railways, when he left, it was 91 per cent. Therefore, today, we are worse off, despite all these track strengthening, than we were even at that

time. She has inherited a tariff structure that was deliberately altered against the interest of the consumer, while propagating that they have not done it. She has inherited the accounts that don't reflect the honest picture. Therefore, my earnest appeal to her would be to please concentrate on these core areas of railways — how does railways earn its profits by providing freight services effectively, while competing with the roadways; how does it translate that profit into passenger amenities; how do you make railways an enjoyable experience. I think, if there is some printing work, it can be outsourced. The Railways do not need to own printing presses. The Railways do not need to own hotels, after all the market will decide as to which are the costly hotels and which are the budget hotels, as far as the private sector is concerned. The world over, hospitalities are managed by the private sector. They are much better managers of hospitalities than the Railways are. The Railways ought not to get into medical colleges. If you get into medical colleges, because you have 17 hospitals, the first requirement will be that you need to have 25 acres of land contiguous to a hospital. If you don't have 25 acres of land contiguous to a hospital, the Medical Council is not allowing you a medical college, the Health Ministry will not allow it. Therefore, rather than getting into these extraneous areas, having inherited a difficult legacy, if you concentrate on the core areas of the Railways' responsibility, I am sure you will, perhaps, do much better. Thank you, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): The Railways have 14 lakh employees. We are proud of that. We have to provide some amenities also to our staff. That's why it is not the parallel organization of the Government of India. It is not at all. But we have our own institutions; we have our own hospitals. The medical colleges will be set up with their own hospitals on the land attached with them. We are not going to purchase land for that purpose. The land is available adjacent to the hospitals. So far as public-private partnership is concerned, fifty per cent will be sons and daughters of the railway employees. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please let me clarify. It is a very vital point. I listened to him very carefully. In the fifty per cent, the railway employees, their sons and daughters will get the medical opportunity and fifty per cent will be for the outsiders. Because of public-private partnership, it has to facilitate the employees, their sons and daughters. That comes in the amenities and facilities for the staff and nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the statement by the Minister of External Affairs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

First Anniversary of the Attack on Indian Embassy in Kabul on 7th July, 2008

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would like to make a statement.

Today is a year since the terrorist attack on our Embassy in Kabul in Afghanistan. A number of our Embassy personnel and a large number of Afghan nationals lost their lives in the attack on a diplomatic premise. We recall their sacrifice with a sense of grief as also to reiterate our commitment

against terrorism and all those who sponsor and sustain it. Our thoughts are also with all the families who lost their loved ones. No words of condemnation are too strong for the perpetrators and organisers of this attack. They must and will face a reckoning. Justice must be served.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I want to say something.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You just associate.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is very important. Simply observing an anniversary is not going to serve any purpose. The Minister would have done some service to the nation. What action is taken with regard to what has happened there? That is more important, Sir. Simply making an obituary reference or recalling the incident will not serve any purpose. What is the action taken by the Government with regard to the dependants of those families who lost their lives in this incident? Will the Minister enlighten the House about the steps taken? And, then, what are the steps taken to see that such incidents do not recur in Afghanistan which is a troubled country now? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; it is just a *suo motu* statement on the anniversary, ...*(Interruptions)*... So, let us not ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: No, Sir, this is never done. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is never done. ...*(Interruptions)*... एक साल हो गया। One year is over. People want to know what is happening. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not a political issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, then, we will have clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, it is not a political issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; we will have a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, hundreds of Indians are working there in their infrastructure development. What is the guarantee? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the guarantee? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will have clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will have clarifications later on. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : यह जो इन्होंने स्टेटमेंट पेश की, इसकी जरूरत क्या थी? इसका purpose क्या है? ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या purpose है, यह बताएं।

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, just tell him to give the reply. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : हम लोग जानना चाहते हैं कि इसका purpose क्या है? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: My predecessor, it is who was then the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is assisting you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I am not assisting. With your permission, may I say that time, I was in the Government when this tragic incident happened in the Ministry of External Affairs. We had sent the same day when we got the information about this attack, in which one Brigadier who was the Defence Attache, Brigadier Mehta, and one Political Counsellor Venu, these two officers, were killed. The Secretary in the Ministry was immediately dispatched along with the senior security and intelligence officials to Afghanistan to bring the bodies back. At the same time, when they arrived, they were received by the External Affairs Minister and myself. We had taken immediate steps to give support to the families. I can say that we not only increased manifold the ex-gratia, which was to be given, but also, for the entire duration of the service of the officers concerned, as far as the IFS officer who was killed, the External Affairs Ministry had taken the special measures with the approval of the ...*(Interruptions)*... The wife is getting the salary of the officer as per the date till she will get as he would have superannuated and all other facilities which were announced at that time by the Prime Minister, including the ex gratia and the money that has been given, also a flat from the External Affairs' accommodation, the new accommodation which has come up next to the Sanskrit School, that was there. Similar steps were taken for the Defence Attache also. Even the wives ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just telling you ...*(Interruptions)*... You asked that. You asked whether we did something or not. I am just sharing that with you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What about engineers? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: You asked about this particular incident ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: No; Sir, there was no such convention. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Minister's statement is only about ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, in this House, there was no such convention to come out with a statement on the Anniversary ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री उपसभापति : क्यों issue बना रहे हैं इसको?

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : Issue तो बन गया है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, day before yesterday, Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed. Why was a statement not made then? How can it be ...*(Interruptions)*... When thousands of people were killed, why was there no statement about it?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA : I am only clarifying. Please don't ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is so great about this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why have they not explained. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : यह बताइए कि इसका मकसद क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)... इसको पढ़ने का मकसद क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is the sanctity of it all? Are you taking ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Will the Minister make a statement about Kargil? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I sought to clarify only because this statement has been made. As I was aware of the details, I shared those details with the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, don't politicise the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Now that ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, don't raise any other issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: This is a statement. Please don't politicise this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : क्या purpose है, किसलिए यह पढ़ा जा रहा है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप उसे छोड़िए। Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, so many technocrats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I have to say something. This is not an occasion that should be politicised. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, so many technocrats, engineers and labourers being killed over there. Where is the ...*(Interruptions)*.. Why was it not mentioned? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I believe that the hon. External Affairs Minister has only made a statement. It is an expression of solidarity. Since the question was asked by Mr. Venkaiah Naidu as to whether the Government had done anything, I only elaborated on it. This is a matter of record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. The statement has been made and that issue is over. No, no. This is not ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Minister has made a *suo motu* statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. He said that he wished to make a statement and he has done that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What was the need? Nobody demanded it ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. He said that he wanted to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us have no argument over this.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : क्यों? किसलिए? हम लोग यह जानना चाहते हैं कि किसलिए? इसका परपस क्या है? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Rama Chandra Khuntia. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We are not trying to create any controversy. If the hon. Minister thought it good enough to come to the House and make a mention and recall the anniversary, he must also come to the House, prepared with all the details, and then, in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... What has he done? Now, we have a situation where the Minister takes the help of an *erstwhile* Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I said if you want to seek clarifications, we shall have it some other day. Mr. Khuntia. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: When, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): We wish to seek clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is customary here. You may seek clarifications. A day would be fixed later on for that.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That is not done normally.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. JURIEN) in the Chair]

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 2009-10 (*Contd.*)

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget presented by Ms. Mamata Banerjee, hon. Railway Minister in the UPA Government. I would like to say that it is, in the real sense, *Aam Aadmi's* budget. As has been said, from the very beginning, in the Budget Speech itself, Madam Railway Minister has laid more emphasis on passenger amenities, cleanliness, quality of railway catering, safety and security, punctuality and many other things which are related to passenger services.

Sir, the hon. Opposition Leader had talked about economic viability and social issues. Rather he should have been happy and felt thankful to the Railway Minister because Railways is not an area where only economic viability could be considered. It has two aspects; one of them is economic viability. Before and after Independence, we had States having very long railway lines as also some States having smaller railway lines. If you consider economic viability, it may so happen that backward States, with lesser number of railway lines, may not get the same facilities as those of the bigger States. Secondly, railway lines are a monopoly transport of our country. So, if we consider only from the economic point of view, railways cannot cover the backward regions, tribal areas and areas which are not accessible and people there would not be benefiting from the railways. So, in my opinion, what the hon. Railway Minister and the UPA Government have done in taking social viability into account too is very correct.

Coming to the issue of hospitals and other aspects mentioned by him, I wish to mention here that the Railways is not the only organisation which is coming up with medical colleges and hospitals. Even the ESI Corporation with the Ministry of Labour are now going to start 26 hospitals in the whole of the country, in accordance with decision taken by the Government, the Board and with the advice

of our Labour Minister. It would be done in order to give super specialist treatment to the patients and also so that doctors and nurses can be employed, who would ultimately be utilised by the ESI Corporation and the Railways. So, it is not only the Railways; even Coal India have their own hospitals and medical colleges. There is nothing wrong to open medical colleges and also to do something which will take care of the need of railway passengers and common people. Sir, the idea of creation of 50 world class stations, 375 other stations and also multi-functional complex is very innovative. This is an innovative idea, which has been given thought in the Railway Budget. Sir, I want to mention here that a question arises about the comparison between the British India period and period after Independence. Sir, the question of British India period does not arise here. Whatever had been done by the British that is not the gift to the Indian people. They did many things and something is created in the usual process. That is not the gift of the British Government. Let us compare what you have done at the time when you were in Government and at the time when the UPA is in Government. Let us compare new railway lines; let us compare new trains; let us compare the facilities provided; let us compare what steps you have taken when you were in power and let us compare what we have done when the UPA Government is there. Whether it is Lalu Prasad Yadav or Mamata Banerjee that does not matter. It is the policy of the UPA; it is the line of thinking of our Prime Minister and our leader Sonia Gandhi which has been reflected in the Railway Budget from 2004 to 2008 and now from 2009. It is the idea and the policy of the Congress Party and the Government which has been reflected which is pro-poor and for *Aam Aadmi*. Sir, look into the ticketing system, reservation and other facilities, which have been decentralised and powers are given to post office. Reservation system is provided in other cities, and it also involves suggestions of MPs. This is a very unique thing, which has been done. Whatever has been said about *Tatkal* and other things, I don't agree on this point. If we don't allow *Tatkal*, should we allow transport agents and *dalal* to exploit people? What is *Tatkal*? In Transport Department, they were giving numbers to VIPs, Ministers, MLAs, businessmen, etc. If somebody is paying more, he is getting a good number. What is wrong in it? By doing this, the Government is getting more revenue. Do you give the proposal not introducing *Tatkal*? If we do this, we will give facilities to middlemen and *dalal* to earn more money. By allowing *Tatkal*, nobody will get money. If some money is coming, that is coming to the State Exchequer and the Railway Department. I do support *Tatkal* and other things, which have been provided. Sir, one thing has been said about this ticketing system that the passenger fare rate has not been increased, but in other areas it has been increased. Sir, it is correct that passenger fare has not been increased from 2004 till today. As I have said, this is the policy of the UPA Government not to increase the passenger fare. But, as you have said, anybody who is interested to get more facilities and benefits, naturally he has to pay something. So, that has been done, and there is

nothing wrong in that. If you look to the system of railway, whether it is metro railway, whether it is wagon, whether it is production unit, I think, their performance is definitely good and it is appreciated by everybody. Sir, during the year 2009-10, Railways have planned to acquire about 18,000 wagons under rolling stock plan as against 11000 wagons in 2008-09. This is very important because wagons are very much required to increase the revenue of the Railways. Now, the freight traffic target for the year 2009-10 has been fixed at 882 metric tons. This will give an incremental loading of 49 metric tons over the year 2008-09, whereas the incremental loading in 2008-09 was only 39 metric tons. This is not an ambitious, target. As has been said by the hon. Minister, she is very much practical and she has never said or done anything so ambitious that it cannot be achieved. Sir, if you see the projection for goods earning, it is Rs.58,525 crore, which is Rs.5,092 crore more than performance of 2008-09. Passenger earnings are projected at Rs.24,309 crore. A growth of 10.8 per cent has been provided. The target for other coaching earnings has been kept at Rs.2,750 crore which would imply a growth of 40 per cent of the performance in 2008-09. Clearance from traffic suspense has been kept at Rs.75 crore as against the performance of Rs.25 crore achieved during the year 2008-09. Based on forgoing projection, the Gross Traffic Receipts have been projected at Rs.88,419 crore reflecting an increase of Rs.8,557 crore on the actuals of 2008-09. Sir, as far as the Sixth Pay Commission is concerned, even after giving the benefit to the extent of Rs.14,600 crore in 2009-10, the cash surplus before dividend of the Railways works out to Rs. 14,201 crore, Net Revenue - Rs. 8,121 crore and Operating Ratio - 92.5 per cent. The Railways paid a dividend of Rs.4,717 crore in the year 2008-09, and will pay an even higher dividend of Rs.5,479 crore in 2009-10.

Sir, although nothing has been said to privatise the Railways, yet indirectly, some people are interested that everything, which is in Government's hands in this country, should be privatised. Now, take the case of retirement room or the railway hotels. It is not a new thing. From the very beginning, it is there. So, if you ask to privatise everything, like Centaur Hotel, Modern Foods, or BALCO, without considering the cost of the company, it is not acceptable. It has been said that the core functions of the Railways should be in the hand of the Government. It has been said to the extent that trains connecting cities should be privatised. We do not at all support this suggestion, I would like to say that the railway is the lifeline of our country and India has the second biggest railway network in the world. It has been functioning well from the day of its inception. There may be some loopholes, there may be some old railway tracks, there may be some difficulties, but we should suggest how best we can overcome these difficulties and improve the performance of the Railways. We should suggest how best we can give more amenities to the passenger on the railway stations in the form of food, cleanliness and other benefits. But, the suggestion of privatising any part or any activity of the Railways is not acceptable to the general public of this country. Now, some people are trying to argue that the core sector will be in the Government's hands and other activities can be

outsourced. But, on the other hand, when some proposal is put up in the Railway Budget to do some work in public-private partnership mode, they do not accept it. This is a double standard maintained by some political parties and some leaders which is also not correct. If you oppose public-private partnership or outsourcing, it is okay. But, if you support outsourcing, you should also support public-private partnership wherever it has been done.

Now, I would like to raise the question of amenities and facilities given to the workers. In the Railways, we have got 14 lakh workers. There also, they have failed. If any amenities or facilities are given to the workers, it is subject to the criticism. If any other thing is done in the Railways, that is also subject to criticism. That is also not correct.

Sir, I would like to say one thing. I do expect that whatever is given in this Railway Budget will be implemented. I would say about the innovative ideas about railway reservation, railway booking, new railway lines, new trains or the extension of the trains. If you see, 57 new trains and thirteen train-extensions have been announced in this Budget. It is so in other areas like electrification and doubling of lines etc. I think, the Budget is very much pragmatic and I do expect that the UPA Government will definitely be able to fulfil the promises made in this Budget.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions, which we must consider, with regard to operating railway lines in the public-private partnership mode. It is happening at some places that the railway line, which is economically viable, and, which is expected to earn more, has been given to private companies. And, the railway line which is not earning anything, or, which is not expected to earn more, that is operated by the railways itself. This, ultimately, is not doing justice to the railways. If you operate the railway lines, which are earning more, under the public-private partnership, and, operate on your own those railway lines which are not earning, it will impact the railway department.

I want to give some suggestions in respect of my State Orissa. Sir, Orissa is a backward State. I would like to thank the Railway Minister for announcing of some new trains, 'adarsh' railway stations, making the railway stations of international standard, and, expansion of some railway lines. But, in some areas, justice has not been done to us. For the State of Orissa, as far as allotment of funds is concerned, the amount which has been allocated now is around more than Rs. 200 crore lesser than what had been allocated last time in 2008-09. I think, this should be considered. This has been done in many projects like Khurda-Bolangir, Haridaspur-Paradip, Jakhapura-Banspani, and, Talcher-Bimalagarh. In many areas where more money is required, the amount has been reduced in comparison to 2008-09. I do expect that this money should be increased accordingly.

I would also like to give some suggestions with regard to some other trains. It is good that they have increased the frequency of Bhubaneswar-Rajdhani Express but we demand that it should run,

at least, twice a week, *via* Sambhalpur-Raigad-Raipur to Orissa so that it takes six hours less, and, in eighteen hours approximately, the train can reach from Delhi to Orissa.

Sir, one super fast train should also be started from Jharsuguda *via* Sambalpur-Talcher-Jajpur-Keonjhar road, *via* Baleshwar to Howrah. Sir, this Puri-Patna Express should run, at least, four days in a week. One more super fast train should be introduced from Jagannath Puri to Kolkata.

Sir, I would also like to mention about Railway Projects. Some new projects have been included. But, again and again, I would ask for more and more funds for works on Bangirposi line to be connected to Dharamgarh-Badampahar-Keonjhar, Haridaspur-Paradip Railway line, Nuapada Gurupur railway line, Angut Sukinda railway line, Talcher-Bimalagarh railway line, Jakhapura Banspani, and, Berhampur-Muniguda *via* Daringbadi and Balliguda railway line. These lines should get more funds. The funds, which have been given, are not adequate.

Another railway line about which I want to say belongs to my own district, it is a new project from Jajpur-Keonjhar Road to Dhamara Port *via* Navigaya-Jajpur, which is a renowned place, and Aradikhetra Akhandalamani. It can connect two important pilgrimage places and also to Dhamara Port. The transportation of ore could be done from Jakhapura-Daitari-Banspani section. This line should get priority and should be included as a new line.

On doubling of railway line, I want to say one thing. While presenting the last interim Railway Budget, the then hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad, assured this House, and it is on record, of the completion of doubling of the Khurda-Puri Line and also the Talcher-Sambalpur Railway line. But I do not see any provision for that in the Railway Budget. I request our hon. Railway Minister to include these projects in this Budget also.

So far as electrification of railway line is concerned, Waltair-Raigarh-Raipur railway line and Titlagarh-Sambalpur railway line may also be included in it.

If you see records, after the creation of the East Coast Zone, it is one of the zones which are earning most profit for the Railways. What I find is that the Budget provision, which has been made for the East Coast Zone, is not being utilised fully. On the other hand, the bifurcation of the Division, which is the main cause of the slowdown in the development work, has not been done. In the other zone, which has been newly created along with the East Coast Zone, the bifurcation of the Division has already been done. So, I demand that the bifurcation of the Division should be done and there should be one Division in Rourkela and one Division in Jajpur-Keonjhar Road.

Lastly, I want to make one demand for the stoppage of the Rajdhani Express, the Falaknuma Express, and the Coromande Express at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road. Jajpur is a very fast growing and

industrially developed city and many steel plants are coming up there. It is also connecting the district to Kendrapara, Angul, Dhenkanal, and, also Keonjhar and Jajpur. But there is no stoppage of the Rajdhani Express, the Falaknuma Express, and the Coromandel Express. I request the hon. Railway Minister to pass an order for the stoppage of the Rajdhani Express, the Falaknuma Express, and the Coromandel Express in Jajpur-Keonjhar Road.

Sir, I must thank the Railway Minister for the measures she has taken to reduce the administrative and other expenditure.

I want to mention one thing here and it is the role of the DRMs or the General Managers. I do not have any personal allegations against anybody. But I think that they are like a super officer in the country. They do not respond to the query of Members of Parliament. They do not call the meetings of the DRM-level Advisory Committee or Zonal-level Advisory Committee or Station-users Committee also. I also demand that there should be a time-frame and at least once in every three months these committees should meet and discuss the passenger amenities.

One thing I do not understand why the Railways is out of the system of the country. A General Manager who is going to retire can appoint 200 employees without interview or without any qualification. The DRMs live a life which is more splendid than the life of a Chief Minister. I want to know exactly what is the total expenditure incurred by the Railways on its Divisional Railway Managers and General Managers. What is the total expenditure incurred on the staff used by them? Whether it is correct. The Railways should try to amend this. If a General Manager will retire, heavens will not fall. Why should the GM have the power to appoint more than 200 employees without interview as per his wish? This is a very bad law and I urge upon our Railway Minister, who is trying to squeeze the expenditure and who is trying to save the State exchequer and the railway money, that she should review the power and the money spent for DRM and GM. She should also make an order to reduce the power so that no appointments are made without interview. To that extent, I urge upon the House and let the House also contemplate that those appointments which have already been made earlier, should be reviewed because indirectly it means encouraging corruption in the Railways.

Sir, I want to say one more thing, I agree with some other Members. In the Budget, a provision is made. But, it is not being properly utilised. Why is it not being utilised? The Budget provision is made. Sir, I know specially about the projects in Orissa. The Budget which has been provided for the project is not being utilised even for one or two years. How is it being done? Who is responsible? The hon. Minister has allocated money in the Budget for passenger amenities, for other stations, for multi-functional stations and for international stations. But, that is not important. It is more important to see whether the money allocated in the Budget during a financial year has been spent or not. We must achieve our targets. If it has not been achieved, we have every right to ask as to who is

responsible for that. I do agree with the Leader of Opposition that nowhere neither the Railway Minister nor the Railway Department officers should think that they have a parallel Government. They are getting the money from the State exchequer. They are getting the money from the Indian people. They have to obey the principles, regulations and systems of this country. If they are thinking that the Railways are a separate Government and nobody can touch them, then, they are committing a mistake. The other Government Department officers are subject to criticism and are subject to answer as to why the Budget provision has not been implemented. I would like to see that if the allocation for a particular project of a particular State has not been utilised or has been mis-utilised, the officer concerned should be taken to task. It is for a competent Railway Minister like Mamata Banerjee to take these officers to task as to why her dream Budget has not been implemented. I do think, if this could be done not only in the Railway Department, but also in other Departments, definitely, we could fulfil the aspirations of the people. The UPA Government has a dream. It has a leader like our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the world famous economist and a dynamic leader like Sonia Gandhi who refused to become the Prime Minister. We could fulfil the aspirations of the general public. As has been said, as the UPA Government has said, this Government is for *aam admi*. That will be the real reflection and we can fulfil the aspirations of the people.

With these words, Sir, I once again support this Railway Budget placed by our hon. Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee and expect that the Budget aspirations also will be fulfilled by the Government.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Railway Minister vindicated the fact of marked deterioration in the financial position of the Railways. In 2008-09, the Budget reported a cash surplus of Rs.25,000 crores. In the interim Budget, it was reduced to Rs.15,000 crores. Now, for the recent budget proposals, it has come down to Rs. 8700 crores. The present Government owes an explanation for this steep deterioration. Why has such a deterioration taken place within a short span of time?

Sir, so far as the PPP model is concerned, the Budget for this year failed to come up with new measures in tackling the situation. Instead, the Minister has chosen a path to take recourse to a wrong route of privatization through the PPP model. In a number of areas, the Railways proposed the PPP projects. The Ministry is proposing to develop 50 stations as world class stations with international standard facilities. Sir, in India, the people are unable to get even the minimum amenities, but in the name of world class railway stations, 50 stations are proposed on the PPP model. New freight and coach terminals are proposed, logistic parks are proposed. Sir, if we see the explanation for these logistic parks, the entire transport is rallied around these logistic parks. In these terminals, even packaging system is also proposed. These logistic parks are proposed under the

PPP model. New freight and coach terminals, special purpose rolling stocks and cargos for perishable commodities are proposed. In my view, it is completely misplaced at a time when economic recession is there. During this recession, private investment is hardly forth coming. The hon. Minister herself admitted in her speech that out of Rs. 3400 crores proposed under the PPP mode, only Rs.100 crores are realised. Under such conditions, how does she propose this in 5 areas on the basis of the PPP model? It needs explanation.

The second aspect which we have to take note of with regard to the PPP model is that the private investors are interested only in areas where they can get sizeable amount of profit. If they do not get sizable profit, they are not coming forward. If the Indian Railways open up all the areas of profit-making to the private operators, then only the loss-making areas will remain with the Railways. This will lead to multiple problems and the development will come to a stand still. This type of PPP model proposed in the Budget is not advisable for any reason.

Sir, the third point relates to overshadowing the real issues. Some of the measures announced by the hon. Minister overshadows the real problems of the Railway development strategy. Due to the proposed privatization, thousands of workers are going to be thrown out of their jobs. The real issue relates to a number of workers who due to privatization are going to lose their jobs. The allocation for crucial areas like expansion of the Railways, modernization, safety and electrification has been neglected.

Sir, the fourth point relates to the development strategy. The serious problem which the Indian Railways are facing is the issue of development. The coordination between the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry of Railways and the State Governments is lacking. Railways' development is very closely related to the development of railways in urban centres. The coordination between the Railway Ministry and the State Governments is very much neglected these days. Sir, the State Government has a big role to play in the development of railways. This is being neglected all these days. Sir, from the State of Andhra Pradesh, a multimodal transport system, MMTS, is being proposed. The Government of Andhra Pradesh came out with a proposal. The Chief Minister had written a letter to the Minister. He had written a letter to the earlier Minister as well as to the present Minister. Who will bear the two-thirds of the cost? Two-thirds of the cost was proposed, but that is not being sanctioned. I cannot understand the policy of this Ministry. I cannot understand how new projects are going to be taken up. What is the policy? Two-thirds of the cost of a specific project was proposed, but that is not being sanctioned. This shows that it is politically motivated. The hon. Minister is violating all types of norms. ...*(Interruptions)*... Everybody knows who is the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): You are a very articulate person. Why are you snubbing? Don't snub. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Listen, listen. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, for any railway development, the most important aspect, today, is losing huge income. Our goods transport is taking place @ 20 kms. per hour. Very slow movement. To speed up the goods transport, to gain more profits, terminals and junctions are to be improved. Terminals and junctions are centred around urban areas and railway centres. Terminals and junctions are there in all the big cities. Just like ring roads, ring rails need to be developed; just like by-pass road routes, by-pass rail routes need to be developed. Unless they are developed, this railway system cannot cater to the needs of the people; it cannot come up to the expectations of the people. Sir, for that purpose, the coordination with the State Government is essential. Virtually, there is no coordination at present. For any project, for any industrial hub or SEZ, first of all, roads are to be developed. Development of roads is taking place. But the railway line laying is not being planned. For this reason, in the last 60 years, the transport share of railways remained stagnant at 35 per cent. Our road transport share has gone up from 30 to 70 per cent, but our railway transport share remained at 30 per cent. Our Planning Commission had suggested increasing the railway transport share to 70 per cent from 30 per cent by 2000. The road transport share should remain at 30 per cent. That was the suggestion given in 1980. The target was fixed to be achieved by 2000, but that is not being achieved. Even now, the situation is very pathetic. The requests of most of the States are ignored. For example, the Krishnapatnam port in Andhra Pradesh came into being. The port is already completed. It has become operational. But no rail link is there. Obulapuram-Krishnapatnam rail line is proposed under public-private partnership. No PPP is coming up. It still remains to be taken up. Now ore is carried by only road transport. This is one example of how the Railways Ministry is neglecting the States and ignoring the requests of the State Governments. There is lack of coordination between the States and the Railways. This is the reason why the share of the Railways in the development of transport remains stagnant at 30 per cent in spite of the Planning Commission's recommendations to increase it to 70 per cent. The Planning Commission in the year 1980 appointed a National Transport Committee to look into this problem. It has recommended that the transport share of the Railways should be enhanced from 30 per cent to 70 per cent by 2000. But there is no significant change. The rail network in the last 62 years grew by 20 per cent, while the road network grew by 400 per cent. When rail transport is much cheaper than road transport and less polluting, why is this poor growth rate in rail transport?

In the case of Railways, the main income is through goods transport, but the average speed of the goods-trains is only 20 kilometres per hour. To increase its speed, ring rails and by-pass routes are to be developed at railway junctions and terminals in urban centres. Hence the coordination between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Urban Development assumes importance. Instead of developing these ring rails and by-pass lines, we are resorting to short term remedies like metro rail system. The cost of laying metro line is Rs.150 crores per kilometre, whereas the cost of

laying one kilometre of new railway line is about Rs. 10-20 crores. For developing the old line the cost is Rs.5-10 crores per kilometre. Under such conditions, with huge investment in many big cities, emphasis is laid on building metro rails, neglecting development of urban rail system like the MMTS.

In Hyderabad, the MMTS first phase is completed. It cost us Rs.150 crores. It is a system which covers all the areas of urban transport. If we spend Rs.1,000 crores for second phase of MMTS, it can carry ten times more than the metro rail designed for Hyderabad at a cost of Rs.13,000 crores. The cost of the metro is Rs.13,000 crores, whereas the cost of MMTS is Rs.1,000 crores and it has ten times higher capacity than the metro. The minimum ticket cost for metro is Rs.6-8, whereas the minimum ticket cost for MMTS is only Rs.2. In the case of metro, the lowest season ticket costs Rs.270, whereas the lowest ticket cost of MMTS is Rs.60.

Sir, here I am not discouraging the metro rail system, nor am I against it. I want the Government to take up the MMTS in all urban centres along with the metro. My objection is to the negligence shown to the MMTS. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter to the hon. Railway Minister proposing to bear two-thirds of the cost of MMTS. But our hon. Railway Minister has not come forward to take up this project. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the policy for sanctioning such projects. If we take up projects like MMTS in urban centres, it can ease goods traffic and speed up our transport which will enhance our income.

In the present context, when several requests of several States are pending, one is related to the on-going projects; the second is related to new lines; and the third is related to new trains.

The third point is about new trains. In all these areas, the Railway Ministry has been unable to satisfy the people. For this the only remedy is, develop junctions and terminals with bypass lines and ring rails.

The second aspect is, enhance the budgetary support from Rs. 15,000 crores to Rs. 30,000 crores.

The sixth aspect is, privatisation in the Railways. No department or the area of work in the Indian Railways is safe from privatisation. Every department is being privatised. Whether it is the Engineering Department or the Electrical Department or the Signal Department or the Telecommunication Department of the Indian Railways, all the works get executed through contractors.

In various wings, the construction department was only confined to the construction activity till now and the maintenance wings of the system were never encroached upon by the contractors. Now almost all the maintenance works including maintenance of buildings, electrical work, track maintenance and signalling systems, etc. have been thrown open to the contractors. Even the safety

related work of track maintenance is being handed over to the contractors in more and more areas. Main attacks have been on the workshops and the carriage and wagon departments.

The workshops which used to manufacture all the items needed for maintenance of coaches, bogies, locos, bridges, etc. are being kept idle and most of the items needed are being procured through trade. The items procured are of substandard quality and they will cost us more in the long run. This has resulted in huge reduction in manpower. Is it a human face reform?

Coach cleaning, locking, watering, everything has been handed over to the contractors, which has resulted in lack of neatness. Goods parcel, passenger booking, reservation, etc. have all been privatised, which has resulted in hike in costs for the consumers. In the name of modernisation, IRCTC was introduced. Bedrolls supply, cleaning of coaches, maintaining retiring rooms, cleaning railway stations, etc. all these works have been handed over to IRCTC. Because of its entry, the bedrolls are being supplied to the passengers without washing them on many occasions. Same bedrolls are being supplied repeatedly. Consumer is denied of clean service.

Now because of private contractor's entry, the security of people is in danger. In Mumbai, the Railway Station was attacked by terrorists. Instead of the RPF safeguarding the stations, private security staff has been engaged for this purpose which is endangering the security of the people.

The Railway staff has been replaced by contractors. So the consumer is suffering not only from cleanliness but also price hike.

The number of trains has gone up, the number of passengers has gone up but the number of employees working in the Railways has gone down. So I propose to the Railway Minister to change the strategy for the speedy development of the railway system in order to have 70 per cent share of transport.

Equal opportunities to all the States have been denied. Andhra Pradesh is one such State. The entire contingent of Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including the Ministers from our State, met the Railway Minister repeatedly in regard to so much injustice being done to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The projects, which were taken up 12 years back, have not been completed. A very meagre amount of money has been sanctioned for the projects. One such project is Yerraguntla-Nandyal. The other projects include Peddapalli-Nizamabad and Nizamabad-Adilabad. Also, fund for the proposed workshop at Kazipet has not been sanctioned. In fact, the State Government came forward to bear part of the costs. Even then the projects have not been taken up. I do not know how we are going to get justice. Cutting across political parties, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly came up with a Resolution stating, "This House records its serious concern that the State of Andhra Pradesh has not been given its due in this Budget in respect of new lines, funds for ongoing projects and introduction of new lines. Therefore, it resolves to request the

Government to re-examine and allocate sufficient funds for various projects in the State." We had requested for a coach factory at Kazipet and a concrete sleeper plant at Betragunda. Nothing was done last year, and this year too, there is no mention of it in the Budget. I would like to know what the policy of the Government is. ...*(Interruptions)*... You people are at the helm of affairs. You may enjoy now, but you will reap the fruits of it. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to what the policy is while sanctioning new projects. Is there any policy at all? Even when the State is prepared to bear two-thirds of the cost, the projects are not being taken up. They cannot act like a king. The people of India are not going to permit this kind of a thing. Therefore, I request, through you, Sir, that the Minister must give some kind of an assurance when she replies to the debate in the House.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, आपको बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे इस रेलवे बजट की चर्चा में हिस्सा लेने का अवसर दिया है। मैं बहुत संक्षेप में बात करूंगा, क्योंकि जो समय है, उसके अंतर्गत मेरे अन्य साथियों को भी इस पर बोलना है। श्रीमन्, मैं पिछले एक बहुत लंबे अर्से से यह देखता चला आ रहा हूं कि जब-जब रेल बजट प्रस्तुत होता है तो उसमें बहुत-ही लोक-लुभावनी घोषणाएं की जाती हैं। इस पर सदन में बैठे हुए सदस्य तालियां बजाते हैं और मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि उसके बाद रेल मंत्री को इतनी फुर्सत भी नहीं होती है कि वह यह देखे कि उनके द्वारा कौन-सी घोषणाएं हुई हैं और उन पर कितना अमल हुआ है। अगर अभी तक अधूरे कार्यों को पूरा करने की कोशिश की गई होती तो देश का, इस देश की जनता का और आम लोगों का बहुत कल्याण हो सकता था। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि मौजूदा रेल मंत्री जी ने अपने पहले दो बजट भाषणों में भी जो घोषणाएं की होंगी, उनमें से भी नब्बे परसेंट अभी तक पूरी नहीं हुई हैं और इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि निरंतर लागत बढ़ती जाती है, रेलवे पैसा दे नहीं पाता है और काम अधूरे रह जाते हैं। मैं केवल कुछ उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। उत्तर मध्य रेलवे में पिछले कई वर्षों से केवल 6 नई रेलवे लाइनें हैं, जिन पर काम चालू है। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक रेलवे लाइन स्वर्गीय माधवराव सिंधिया ने 1984 में सैंक्शन की थी - गुना-इटावा रेल लाइन। चौबीस वर्ष हो चुके हैं। माननीय रेल राज्य मंत्री श्री ई. अहमद बैठे हुए हैं, वे ज़रा नोट कर लें। The project for a railwayline from Guna to Etawah was sanctioned in 1984 by late Madhavrao Scindia, But, till today, it has not been completed. From Bind to Etawah. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sure, your party Ministers were also ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: It is meaningless. ...*(Interruptions)*... What does it mean? I want to say ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will look into this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Not only this. There are hundreds of such cases. I want to say that you just make pronouncements in the House and then sleep over it. ...*(Interruptions)*... What does it mean?

4.00 P.M.

इसी तरह से आगरा-इटवा वाया फतेहाबाद, इसका शिलान्यास स्वयं तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने किया था। अगर अटल जी ने शिलान्यास किया है, तो क्या वह रेल लाइन पूरी नहीं होगी? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दस साल हो गए हैं, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने अगर शिलान्यास किया था, तो उस रेल लाइन पर कोई पैसा ही सैंक्शन नहीं किया जाएगा, यह क्या देश के बाहर का हिस्सा हो गया है? अगर यह मानसिकता होगी, तो आप या जो भी रेल मंत्री होते हैं, वे देश के रेल मंत्री होते हैं, किसी पार्टी के रेल मंत्री नहीं होते।

इसी तरह से एक रेल लाइन का शिलान्यास हमारे राष्ट्रपति ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम साहब ने किया था, इटावा-मैनपुरी रेल लाइन का। वह 57 किलोमीटर लंबी रेल लाइन थी। तत्कालीन रेल मंत्री नीतीश कुमार उस अवसर पर उपस्थित थे और नीतीश कुमार साहब ने यह घोषणा की थी कि इसका उद्घाटन भी ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम साहब ही करेंगे। उस 57 किलोमीटर लंबी लाइन को सैंक्शन होते हुए, काम होते हुए सात साल से ज्यादा हो गए, पर अभी तक उसमें केवल मिट्टी का काम हुआ है और मिट्टी उस पर पड़ी है। यही नहीं, मैं केवल नॉर्थ और सेंट्रल की बात कर रहा हूँ, इसमें तीन लाइनों और हैं- ललितपुर-सतना, रीवा-सिंगरौली, महोवा-खजुराहो। 541 किलोमीटर लंबी ये तीन लाइनें हैं और जिस रफ्तार से काम हो रहा है, मुझे नहीं लगता कि ये रेल लाइनें कभी पूरी हो पाएंगी। और गुणवत्ता क्या है, इसका एक उदाहरण मैं आपको देना चाहता हूँ। यहां अधिकारी लोग भी बैठे होंगे। इटावा में क्रॉसिंग नंबर 27 ए पर एक रोड ओवरब्रिज बना। चार महीने पहले उसका उद्घाटन भी हो गया और वह चालू हो गया। जो रेलवे के ऊपर का हिस्सा होता है, उसको रेल विभाग बनाता है और स्टेट पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. का विभाग बनाता है। रेल विभाग ने जो बनाया, वह रेलवे लाइन के चालू होने के ठीक तीन महीने बाद दूट गया और रेलवे लाइन के ऊपर शायद एक गाड़ी गिर गई होती। माननीय नेता प्रतिपक्ष ध्यान दें, तीन महीने के बाद ही बिल्कुल बालू भर दी गई। उसमें किसी अधिकारी के खिलाफ आज तक कार्यवाही हुई? किसी से कोई जवाब मांगा गया? पूरा ट्रैक बंद है और इटावा के outgrowth में जो लोग रेलवे लाइन के उस पार रह रहे हैं, उनको शहर में जाने के लिए मीलों घूमकर जाना पड़ता है, लेकिन कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। रेलवे की टेक्नीकल कमेटी जाने को है, वह चार महीने से नहीं जा पा रही है और हजारों लोगों को प्रतिदिन कष्ट होता है।

इसी तरह से इसी रेलवे लाइन पर 33 ए और 34 ए क्रॉसिंग के बीच में by-pass बन चुका है। एक साल से मशीनें खड़ी हुई हैं। रेलवे का जो पुल बनना है, वह आधा बन चुका है और आधा नहीं बन रहा है। अगर यह तरीका है, तो आप घोषणा करते रहिए। कुछ भी होने वाला नहीं है। अभी हमारे नेता, प्रतिपक्ष श्री अरुण जेटली साहब ने कहा था कि हमें ऐसा लगता है कि पिछले वर्षों में जो आंकड़े दिए गए, वे सही नहीं थे। उसमें मुझे भी सच्चाई लग रही है क्योंकि पिछले अंतरिम बजट के समय मैं उस सदन का सदस्य था और सारे देश ने टेलीविज़न पर देखा कि तत्कालीन रेल मंत्री ने हमारी डिमांड पर एक घोषणा यह की कि मैनपुरी से एटा, बदायुं, संभल होते हुए गजरौला तक रेलवे लाइन बनायी जायेगी। मैं उसकी सीडी निकलवाने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ। मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि पूरे रिकॉर्ड से, जब हमने पार्लियामेंट से रिकॉर्ड लिया तो उसमें जो रेल मंत्री का अनाउंसमेंट था, जो पूरे सदन के सामने किया गया था, वह अनाउंसमेंट मुझे कहीं नहीं मिला। अगर रिकॉर्ड में इस तरह से हेराफेरी हो सकती है तो यह एक गंभीर मामला है। मैं इसकी सीडी लेने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ। मैं इस गंभीर मामले को सबके सामने लाऊंगा, प्रधान मंत्री जी के पास लेकर जाऊंगा कि वे कौन लोग हैं जो इस तरह से रेल मंत्री को गुमराह करते

हैं। अगर लालू जी को गुमराह कर सकते हैं तो ममता जी तो बहुत सीधी-सादी रेल मंत्री हैं, इनको भी गुमराह किया जा सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो घोषणाएं होती हैं, इन पर अमल होना चाहिए। दूसरे, जो आदर्श स्टेशंस या वर्ल्ड क्लास स्टेशंस हैं, मैं आज तक यह नहीं समझ पाया हूँ कि ये हैं क्या चीजें? दुनिया के दूसरे देशों के स्टेशन भी आपने देखे होंगे। मुझे लगता है कि हिन्दुस्तान से अच्छे स्टेशन कहीं के नहीं हैं। वहां तो गाड़ी एक मिनट भी लेट नहीं आती। लोग आते हैं और बैठकर चले जाते हैं। न वहां वेटिंग रूम्स हैं, न कुछ और। यहां पर तो बहुत शानदार बिल्डिंग्स हैं, बहुत बढ़िया स्टेशन हैं। दुनिया के कौन से ऐसे स्टेशन हैं जिनको आदर्श मानकर आप आगरा, मथुरा, बनारस या अन्य स्टेशंस को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के स्टेशन बनाना चाहते हैं? एक तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ, मंत्री महोदया कृपया इसका जवाब दें। दूसरा, यह अच्छा है कि माननीय रेल मंत्री जी अपने क्षेत्र के लिए कुछ करें, अपने राज्य के लिए कुछ करें, ज्यादा करें। इसमें कोई बुरी बात नहीं है। अपने क्षेत्र के लिए करना भी चाहिए। लेकिन कहीं मैं यह प्रार्थना ममता बनर्जी जी से जरूर करना चाहता हूँ कि अपने मन के कोने में कहीं उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे राज्य को भी रखें। ऐसे बहुत से राज्य हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश इतना बड़ा राज्य है। देश की कुल रेल लाइनों का 14 प्रतिशत रेल पथ उत्तर प्रदेश में है। महोदय, कुल 375 रेलवे स्टेशनों को आदर्श स्टेशंस के रूप में चिन्हित किया गया है जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश से केवल सात हैं। श्रीमन्, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन सात स्टेशनों में से तीन स्टेशन ऐसे हैं, जो देश के तीन बड़े नेताओं के बेटों के क्षेत्र में हैं। एक मुलायम सिंह जी के बेटे अखिलेश जी के क्षेत्र में शिकोहाबाद है, दूसरा राहुल जी का अमेठी है और तीसरा वरुण जी का पीलीभीत क्षेत्र है। सात में से तीन तो बड़े नेताओं के बेटों के हो गए, बाकी चार बच गए आम आदमियों के। इस प्रकार उत्तर प्रदेश के केवल सात स्टेशन हैं, जबकि बंगाल में 52 हैं। आप बंगाल में सब कर दीजिए, मुझे कतई बुरा नहीं लगेगा - देश की आजादी में बंगाल का भारी योगदान है। मुझे कतई बुरा नहीं लगेगा, लेकिन थोड़ा-बहुत संतुलन तो होना ही चाहिए। उत्तर प्रदेश का दुर्भाग्य यह है कि बहुत लम्बे अरसे से उत्तर प्रदेश का कोई मंत्री रेल मंत्री नहीं हुआ। ऐसा लगता है कि इस देश में जो रेल मंत्री हो जाता है, वह देश का नहीं, अपने राज्य का मंत्री हो जाता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्यों लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी के नाम की बात कर रहे हैं? उनका नाम ऐसा है जिनके नाम को लेते ही श्रद्धा से सिर झुक जाता है। वह बात दूसरी है। उन्होंने तो एक रेल एक्सिडेंट पर इस्तीफा दे दिया था। हालांकि नीतीश कुमार ने भी एक बार रेल एक्सिडेंट पर इस्तीफा दिया था। आदर्श रेलवे स्टेशनों के बारे में उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ नाइंसाफी है, यह नहीं होनी चाहिए। काउंसिल ऑफ स्टेट में हम राज्यों को रिप्रजेंट करते हैं और हमारा यह कर्तव्य है कि हम अपने राज्य के हितों के संरक्षण की बात करें, इसलिए यह जरूरी हो गया था।

रेल बजट में 25 रुपये मंथली पास की बात कही गई है। यह बहुत अच्छी बात है। इसको आप कैसे इम्प्लीमेंट करेंगे, यह आप बताइये। आपने कहा है कि 1500 रुपये महीने तक की आमदनी वाले व्यक्ति को यह सुविधा मिलेगी। आज के दिन 100 रुपये प्रतिदिन की मजदूरी है। कोई भी गरीब आदमी किसी एसडीएम से, तहसीलदार से अपना इनकम सर्टिफिकेट नहीं बनवा पाएगा और जो पैसे वाला होगा, वह इनकम सर्टिफिकेट बनवा लेगा और वही 25 रुपये का मंथली पास बनवा लेगा और वही उसमें चलेगा। गरीब आदमी को भूसे की तरह भरकर, लटककर ट्रेन में जाना पड़ेगा, वह ट्रेन में बैठकर नहीं जा पाएगा।

रेलवे के दो ही मुख्य काम हैं कि सामान को एक जगह से दूसरी जगह तक ठीक तरीके से ले जाए और यात्रियों को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान तक पहुंचाए। अब भी यही स्थिति है कि जो गरीब आदमी है, जिसके पास पैसा नहीं

होता है, वह भी ट्रेन में लटककर, बैठकर अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंच ही जाता है। लेकिन उन गरीब लोगों के लिए ट्रेनों में जगह कहाँ है? 80 फीसदी जगह इस देश में केवल 20 परसेंट यात्रियों के लिए है और 20 परसेंट जगह 80 परसेंट गरीब पैसेजर्स के लिए है।

जब मैं पूर्वा ट्रेन में बैठकर इटावा जाता हूँ, तो देखता हूँ कि ए.सी. फर्स्ट से आगे जो जनरल डिब्बे लगे होते हैं, वहाँ पर पुलिस लोगों को डंडा मारती है कि लाइन से चलिए। कोई दिन ऐसा नहीं होता है, कोई भी आदमी जाकर देख सकता है, जिस दिन लोग न पिटते हों। आपको महिलाएं, बच्चे ट्रेन में लटकते मिल जाएंगे। उनमें से कई का एक्सीडेंट भी हो जाता है। ट्रेन के जनरल डिब्बे में जो आदमी एक बार घुस जाता है, वह पानी पीने के लिए भी बाहर नहीं निकल पाता है।

आपने कहा है कि नॉन स्टापेज ट्रेन चलाएंगे। जैसे ही नॉन-स्टॉपेज ट्रेन चलेगी, तो अभी पैसेजर्स ट्रेनें घंटों रेलवे स्टेशन पर खड़ी रहती है, उसके बाद सुपर फास्ट ट्रेनें भी घंटे-घंटे भर खड़ी रहेंगी। मैं जब पूर्वा से इटावा जाता हूँ, तो वह अलीगढ़ से पहले एक घंटा खड़ी होती है, क्योंकि पांच राजधानी एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन निकालनी पड़ती हैं। उसके बाद ये नॉन स्टापेज ट्रेन निकलेंगी, तो आम पैसेजर्स को और असुविधा होगी। आम यात्रियों को जो सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए, जैसा कि बताया जाता है, व्यवहार में ठीक उसके उलटा होता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ममता जी की एक बहुत अच्छी योजना है, अगर उस पर अमल हो जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि जो perishable vegetable or fruits हैं या मछलियां हैं, मांस है, यह खराब हो जाता है। देश में ये चीजें लगभग 50 हजार करोड़ की हर साल सड़ जाती हैं। perishable vegetables or fruits, मीट और फिश के बारे में हमारी एग्रिकल्चरल एंड एनिमल हसबैंडरी कमेटी की एक रिपोर्ट आई थी। हम कई साल से देख रहे हैं कि लगभग 50-52 करोड़ रुपये का हर साल नुकसान होता है। एक पाइंट से दूसरे पाइंट तक ले जाने के लिए ममता जी ने कहा है कि गाड़ियां चलेंगी। जहां पर ये चीजें पैदा होती हैं, वह अपने गंतव्य स्टेशन तक कम से कम समय में पहुंचे। इससे अकेले काम चलने वाला नहीं है। जब तक इस तरह के सामान को ले जाने के लिए आपके पास एयर कंडीशंड वैगन्स नहीं होंगे, तब तक वे चीजें सुरक्षित नहीं पहुंच सकती हैं। पता नहीं कहाँ रेलवे लाइन में गड़बड़ी आ जाए, कहीं धरना-प्रदर्शन की वजह से रेल रोक ली जाए, तो ये चीजें खराब हो जाएंगी। इसलिए जब तक एयर कंडीशंड वैगन्स की व्यवस्था नहीं होती, तब तक यह योजना भी क्रियान्वित नहीं हो सकती।

आप रेलवे में भर्तियां करने की बात कर रहे हैं। वर्ष 1990-91 में हमारे रेलवे में कुल 16 लाख 52 हजार कर्मचारी थे। अब वर्ष 2007-08 में घटकर 13 लाख 95 हजार कर्मचारी रह गए हैं। पिछले 15 वर्ष में ढाई लाख नौकरियां रेलवे में कम हो गई हैं। जितने लोग रेलवे में रिटायर हो रहे हैं, अगर उनकी जगह पर उतने ही लोगों को नौकरियां दी जातीं, तब भी नौकरियां कांस्टेंट में रह सकती थी, लेकिन नौकरियां कम हो रही हैं। आपने कहा है कि हम नौकरियों में महिलाओं का, अल्पसंख्यकों का, आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े लोगों का ख्याल रखेंगे। आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े और सामाजिक रूप से पिछड़े लोगों पर बहुत बहस हुई है। आप इंदिरा साहनी वाले केस को जानते हैं। मैं आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े शब्द पर एतराज करता हूँ और मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सोशली बैकवर्ड शब्द को जोड़ना चाहिए। आप इकोनमीकली बैकवर्ड पर किस तरीके से तय करेंगे कि यह इकोनमीकली बैकवर्ड है?

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र) पीठासीन हुए]

सोशली बैकवर्ड शब्द जुड़ना चाहिए और उसमें जो आर्थिक दृष्टि से हैं, क्रीमीलेयर का प्रोविजन है, They will be sorted out. लेकिन इस बजट भाषण में ममता जी ने जो आर्थिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े शब्द की बात कही है, मैं इसके लिए यह कहना चाहूंगा कि वे इसमें संशोधन करें और उसमें सोशली बैकवर्ड या सामाजिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े वर्गों की बात करें, वरना लोगों के दिमाग में यही कंप्यूजन रहेगा। नर्सिंग, मैडिकल कॉलेज और सभी विषयों के बारे में लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन ने डिबेट में सभी बातें कहकर बहुत से वक्ताओं का काम हल्का कर दिया है। उन्होंने बहुत ही स्पष्ट रूप से तमाम बातें कही हैं।

महोदय, मैं अंत में एक ही बात कहकर, अपनी बात खत्म करना चाहूंगा। रेलवे में जो खान-पान की व्यवस्था है, वह बहुत ही दूषित है। पेंद्री कार में जहां पर खाना बनता है, वहां पर इतनी गंदगी है, अगर आप उसे देख लेंगे, तो कभी खाना नहीं खा सकते और भूखे रहना पसंद करेंगे। जब तक शुद्ध पानी का प्रयोग नहीं होगा, तो आपका चाहे जितना मैटिरियल ठीक हो, सारा बना हुआ भोजन बेकार हो जाएगा। वहां पर शुद्ध पानी का प्रयोग नहीं होता है। जो पानी रेल में भरा होता है, उसी में खाना बना दिया जाता है। मुझे इसका अहसास तब हुआ, जब मैं शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस में जा रहा था। शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस जैसी ट्रेन में खाना खाने के बाद जब मेरी तबीयत खराब हो गई और डायरिया होने की नौबत तक आ गई, तब मैंने कहा कि मेरे साथ ऐसा क्यों हुआ है? मैं ऐसा खाना कभी नहीं खाता। मैं अपना खाना घर से ले आऊंगा, रास्ते में खा लूंगा, लेकिन मैं शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस का खाना नहीं खाऊंगा, क्योंकि यदि मैं उसका खाना खाऊंगा तो मैं बीमार हो जाऊंगा। इस खान-पान विभाग में चैकिंग की बहुत जरूरत है। न जाने कौन सा कॉर्पोरेशन है, जिसको इसका ठेका दे दिया है और सब खराब हो गया है। रेलवे स्टेशनों पर पहले छोटी-छोटी दुकानें हुआ करती थीं और उनसे लाखों लोगों को रोजी-रोटी मिलती थी। अब कोई कॉर्पोरेशन बना दिया है। यहां बड़ौदा हाऊस में बैठकर सौदा तय हो जाता है और बड़े-बड़े लोग, करोड़पति और अरबपति लोग ठेका ले लेते हैं और वे बाद में सबलैपिंग कर देते हैं। जो छोटी-छोटी दुकान चलाने वाले गरीब आदमी थे, सब बेकारी हो गए। लाखों लोगों का रोजगार चला गया। आप उसको फिर से शुरू कीजिए। जो पुरानी पद्धति थी, आप उसको शुरू कीजिए, वरना वह गरीब आदमी तो यहां तक आ भी नहीं पाता है। हमने अपने इटावा स्टेशन पर पूछा कि ये कौन लोग हैं? पता चला कि वहीं पर सब हो जाता है। वहां जो जितना ज्यादा पैसा दे आता है, उसको ठेका मिल जाता है। आज यह स्थिति है। यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए जो साधारण डिब्बे हैं - मैं यहां पर दो चीजें कहना चाहूंगा कि एक गरीब रथ है, जो लालू जी ने चलाया था। आप पता करवा लीजिए कि उसमें कोई एक भी गरीब चल पाता हो। एसी-3 टियर में एक भी गरीब नहीं चल पाता है, केवल गरीब रथ नाम है। जनसाधारण एक्सप्रेस दिल्ली से चलती है और कानपुर रुकती है। वह खाली जाती है। जब वह बीच में इटावा रुकती है, तो स्टाफ चाय पीने के लिए उसको रोकता है। वहां पर कोई उतर नहीं सकता है, उतर वह सकता है, जिसने कानपुर की टिकट ली होगी और बीच में उतरना चाहता हो। वहां से कोई चढ़ भी नहीं सकता है। आपने जो नॉन स्टॉप ट्रेनें चलाई हैं, उनमें भी ऐसा ही होगा। उनमें सब बड़े और पैसे वाले लोग चलेंगे। जिसको छोटी यात्रा करनी हो, 200 या 300 किलोमीटर की यात्रा करनी हो, वह उन गाड़ियों में नहीं चल सकेगा। इससे आम आदमी को कोई लाभ होने वाला नहीं है। आम आदमी को लाभ देने के लिए गाड़ियों में जनरल डिब्बे बढ़ाइए या जो आपने जनसाधारण एक्सप्रेस चलाई है, उसमें 50, 100 किलोमीटर पर स्टॉप दे दीजिए, ताकि गरीब आदमी भी उनमें चल सके। मिश्र जी, आप खुद भी जानते हैं कि गरीब आदमी कानपुर जाते हैं, तो वे रास्ते में कहीं से भी नहीं चढ़ पाते हैं। आप यह तत्काल सेवा खत्म कर दीजिए, वरना किसी को आगे

जाने के लिए रिजर्वेशन नहीं मिलेगा। पैसे वाले पैसा देते हैं, रिजर्वेशन ले लेते हैं और बैठ जाते हैं। आपका महीनों पुराना रिजर्वेशन पड़ा रहता है। जिसकी पैसा देने की हैसियत नहीं है, वह तत्काल में टिकट नहीं ले सकता है, तो आप 40 परसेंट सीटें तत्काल के लिए अलग कर दीजिए। यह सिस्टम सब इतना गलत हो गया है कि रेलवे के लिए केवल लाभ कमाने के लिए - शुरु में ममता जी ने कहा है कि केवल लाभ का मामला नहीं है। सामाजिक दृष्टि से इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य सोशल सर्विस है। अगर इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य सोशल सर्विस है तो डिब्बे बढ़ाइए, जनरल डिब्बे बढ़ाइए, तत्काल सेवा खत्म कीजिए। आम आदमियों के लिए जो साधारण एक्सप्रेस जैसी गाड़ियां हैं, उनके स्टॉपेज और बढ़ा देंगे तो लोगों को राहत मिल जाएगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ अपनी बात खत्म करता हूँ, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): I owe my thanks to the hon. Vice-Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget.

Before commencing, it is my endowed duty to express my gratitude to my beloved leader, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and General Secretary of the AIADMK, Dr. Purutchi Thalaivi Amma, who made me a Member of this august House.

Going into the details of the Budget, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, I have some reservations on some aspects of the Budget. This Budget does not reflect the wishes and requirements of Tamil Nadu. It has not rendered equal justice to all the States. Sir, Tamil Nadu is getting a raw deal in this Budget. I plead the Government, through this august House, that there should be a balanced approach towards all the States. Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the length of the Meter Gauge is much more when compared to other States of the country. I appeal that concerted efforts should be made by the Railway Ministry to convert the existing Meter Gauge into Broad Gauge. Many on-going Broad Gauge projects remain incomplete for a long-time. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Railway Ministry two such instances in this regard. The first one is Villupuram-Tanjore Broad Gauge Conversion Project which was sanctioned in 1998-99 at the cost of Rs. 420 crores and it was scheduled to be completed in the year 2007-08. Sir, ten years have already been passed but this project could not be completed. It still remains a dream for us. Likewise, there is another project Villupuram-Katpadi Broad Gauge Conversion Project which began in 2001 and the target for completion was fixed in 2007-08. But, to the disappointment of everybody, only 10 kms. distance is completed in this entire 8-year period. At this juncture, I would like to stress the Railway Ministry, through this august House, to be stringent towards responsible authorities who failed to monitor or supervise appropriately. At the same time, I welcome the hon. Railway Minister's announcement, in the Railway Budget, that a Monitoring Committee would be constituted to ensure speedy and timely completion of all the on-going projects. I also earnestly request the hon. Railway Minister to allocate sufficient funds to the on-going projects and the timely completion of the same.

Sir, with regard to new lines, I would say that there are six lines under construction. The first one is Selam-Karur, Tindivanam-Nagiri, Andipattu- Puttur, Eroad- Palani, Tindivanam-Thiruvanamalai

and Chennai-Cuddalore. One of these six new lines, namely Selam-Cuddalore was sanctioned in 1996-97 at the anticipated cost of Rs. 613 crores. It is very painful to inform the House that during these 12 years, the Railway Ministry has not released even 50 per cent of the project's cost. Every year, the Railway Ministry would release only a meagre fund. Therefore, I sincerely place my demand before the Railway Minister, through this august House, to release adequate funds to all the ongoing new-line projects, including Salem-Karur.

Sir, in the last tenure of this Government, the *erstwhile* Railway Minister had announced five new lines — Dindigul-Lower Camp, Needamangalam-Pattukottai, Ariyalur-Tanjavur, Morappur-Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamali-Jolarpettai. The total estimated cost for this was Rs. 1500 crores. The Railway Board had accorded its sanction, the Planning Commission had also cleared the projects on the condition that the Government of Tamil Nadu will have to bear the 50 per cent of the projects' cost. But it seems that the State Government is reluctant to agree with this condition, stipulated by the Planning Commission. Hence, these prestigious projects have been kept in the cold storage. These projects, which I have just now mentioned, have also not been mentioned in the Railway Budget. Hence, I sincerely urge upon the Union Government to impression upon the Tamil Nadu Government to share the 50 per cent of the projects' costs and, thus, pave way for the timely execution of these projects.

As far as doubling projects are concerned, there are three important doubling projects - Trivellore-Arokonam, Chennai Beach-Korukkupet, and Athipattu-Korukkupet. These doubling projects cover the suburban parts of Chennai Metropolitan. The timely completion of these projects will benefit the office-goers, factory workers and small vendors in and around Chennai.

An announcement has been made by the Railway Minister, in the Railway Budget, about the world-class-level modernisation of railway stations. Out of fifty railway stations selected by the Railway Ministry, only one station, namely, the Chennai Central Station, finds place in that list. I sincerely urge upon the Railway Minister to include Chennai Egmore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Salem, Tirupur and Coimbatore in the list of the stations, earmarked for modernisation.

Another announcement has been made regarding the '*Adarsh Railway Stations*'. Under this scheme, 375 stations have been covered, and 319 stations have already been identified. Out of these 319 stations, only 13 stations from Tamil Nadu have found place in this scheme. So, I earnestly request the Railway Minister to include the railway stations, like, Tambaram, Tindivanam, Virudachalam, Uludurpet, Kallakuruchi, Athur, Ariyalur, Srirangam and Sivagangai in the proposed programme.

The passengers from the North and the Western parts of the country, who opt to alight at the Perambur Railway Station, are facing difficulties due to insufficient length and height of the platform. I urge upon the railway authorities to increase the length and raise the height of the platform.

Sir, I would also like to raise another important subject. There are 1116 unmanned railway level crossings in Tamil Nadu. To prevent frequent accidents, I urge upon the Railway Minister to convert them into manned level railway crossings or construct RoBs or RuBs there.

The *Garib rath* trains run once in a week in Tamil Nadu. As there are a plenty of commuters who want to travel in trains, I urge the Railway Ministry to increase the frequency of Garib-rath trains.

Another important demand is, there is no pantry car facility in the Garib-rath trains. The passengers, especially, women, children and old-age people are facing difficulty in getting food and water. Therefore, I urge the Railway Minister to provide pantry car facility in the Garib-rath trains.

Sir, Avadi is a town which is a fast developing town. In that town, the important departments of Military Tank Factory, Army Clothing factory, the CRPF State Headquarters and the Tamil Nadu Police Training Centres are also located there. People hailing from all the States are working in Avadi. Hence, I request the Railway Minister through this august House to order for the stoppage of all trains at Avadi.

Sir, before winding my speech, I earnestly request the hon. Railway Minister to pay special attention to the genuine demands of the Tamil Nadu and take positive steps to fulfil the needs of the people.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar; not present. Shri Balavant *alias* Bal Apte.

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE (Maharashtra): Sir, it is bothering my mind for some time, the relevance of a Railway Budget. It was mentioned earlier that the British left us, the Railways, which they built for a stranglehold on their Empire, but, as a by-product, we got the Railways. The British left us the manner in which these railways are to be managed.

The Government took over the Railways around 1900 and then Railways became a part of the financial structure of the Empire. The Budget that was being presented to the then Legislative Assembly included the Budget for Railways. This was separated in 1924 and a Railway Convention myth was created. From 1924, two Budgets came to be presented to the Legislative Assembly, the General Budget and the Railway Budget. Probably, the simple reason was that at that time, the Railway Budget constituted 70 per cent of the entire Budget and, therefore, since those 70 per cent dominated, the rest of the Budget was ignored; therefore, there were two Budgets. So, a Committee was created, the Railway Convention Committee, and, every year, that Committee will decide the contribution which the Railways will make to the General Revenue. This constitution of the Committee continues up to today. The separation of the Railway Budget continues up to today

without any relevance to the basic facts. Now, the Railway Budget is not 70 per cent; it is only 15 per cent and we have this anomaly of an entire Budget being presented to the Houses and equal time being given to their discussion. So, 12 hours for 15 per cent and 12 hours for the rest of the 85 per cent; that is how the House also allocates, and, Sir, the entire exercise is irrelevant because it is very much part of the General Budget.

The Expenditure Budget includes the expenditure on Railways. The Annual Financial Statement includes the Revenue account of the Railways and the capital account disbursements for the Railways. They become part of the speech of the Finance Minister. This year, they have allocated Rs. 14,600 crores. This finds mention in the speech of the Finance Minister. And, the Railway Budget stands on the same footing as the demand for grants by the various departments of the Government. Then, why this separate budget for Railways? This is something that I cannot fathom. It is time that we took certain steps to dissociate ourselves from these false legacies and started answer at least, 60 years after the Constitution coming into force. It is time that we do away with this contribution, and the Railways are not contributory. So, while the Railways contribute Rs. 5000 crores to the national revenue under the Railway Convention Committee clause, the revenue spent on Railways is Rs. 14,600 crores! This is really absurd. It is a different kind of accounting that we see. Therefore, my first submission is that the Government should take immediate steps to abolish the Railway Budget, to bring it within the framework of the General Budget, and the Railways' demands must be part of the general demands for grants of all the departments.

Sir, as I mentioned, this is an outdated system which we inherited from the empire. It is time that we abandon these outdated systems. I always find that there is one article in the Constitution which is from that outdated system. Everyday, we all receive a bulletin that the President has recommended some Bill to us under Article 117 of the Constitution. Every Money Bill, or every legislation that entails money being spent from the Consolidated Fund of India, must go to the President for the President's recommendation. Why? Under our Constitution, the President does not control the Government. The provision had some meaning when there was a Governor General representing the imperial interests. That Governor General wanted to control everything; the British wanted to control everything. They did not leave it to the Legislature. In our country, so far as spending for the country is concerned, the Legislature is sovereign and not the head. Earlier, the Governor General had to recommend it because it was their money. They were looting it from us.. So, if it is to be spent in this country, by the competent Legislature of this country, the Government's recommendation is necessary. The Governor General's recommendation is necessary. Now, we don't need the recommendations of the President, who acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is responsible to the Lok Sabha. So, in a responsible Government, it is the Government which decides what to spend and it is the Lok Sabha which sanctions that. The

President has no role. But it is a colonial legacy. Because it was there in the 1,935 Act, they have repeated it here and, mechanically, every legislation where some money is being spent has to be sent to the President. The recommendation has to come even if it is a private bill. So, such anomalous provisions will have to be done away with, now that we are a mature democracy after 60 years of the Constitution coming into force. Shri Rama Jois had started a debate on the President's Address. His case is that the Address is not necessary; this procedure of thanking is not necessary. If it is a Government policy, let the Prime Minister come with that policy and let the House discuss it. Whether we agree or disagree, a formal thanks to the President and then amendments to the thanks is not necessary at all. What Rama Jois says is that let the President come and meet all the Members, inaugurate the House and let us thank him unanimously the next moment. The President, being the Head, must be respected. There should not be qualifications to thank him. These qualifications come because the President presents the Government's case. It is not necessary for the President to present the Government's case. The President should inaugurate and all the Members should thank him. Then the Statement of Policy of the Prime Minister may come to which the opposition may not agree. It may be severely criticised. It does not matter. What I want to say is that such practices, which are outdated, which don't have a place in our democracy now must be done away with. The British have gone for good. Let these things also go if not with them, at least after them. Sorry for my digression.

Now, I come to the Railway Budget, which is not necessary. Why is this Budget? The Budget is mainly to make hollow promises. Every Railway Minister makes a long list of proposals. Sir, I had an occasion to work with this Railway Convention Committee. There are at least 125 pending projects throughout the country. Every year, there is an allocation — somewhere Rs.10 lakhs and somewhere Rs.2 crore. But the projects are pending at some stage or the other due to survey, viability, necessity of re-survey and land acquisition. At every stage, there is a delay because there is no allocation of money. Project is announced, but there is no money. I remember, there are, at least, 125 pending projects to which another list will be added by the present Budget. Even the Budget will show that there are projects for which there is an allocation, but a large amount is yet to be spent. Projects which were expected to be completed in 2008 and in 2007 are continuing. Some money is being given every year. They are kept alive. In our places of worship people remove hair from their head. There are competing barbers. To garner maximum customers, he shaves one side of one head and then one side of another's head. This way, he keeps ten people pending for their entire shave. The Railway Ministry does the same thing. It is shaving everybody's head without giving the last result. Therefore, the Railway Budget should not be permitted if the Budget continues to just give hollow promises. There is no timeframe for them; there is no exact allocation for them and there is no expectation from them. It is only the good wishes of the Minister and it is only the hopes of Members

here who are happy that something is done for his State. In the new list, I found that there is a proposal of a new project between Pune and Nasik in Maharashtra. *Prime facie* I thought that it is good. It is something that we want as I belong to Pune. But then I found that this project was cleared in 2001. Railway Board found it fit and then shelved it. From 2001 to 2009, there is Pune-Nasik project. Now again there will be new survey, viability survey and again a new proposal for land acquisition, which will lead to nothing. There is also a case for scrapping the Railway Budget because I find that there are several things which do continue to be pending with solemn promises. We are on the urban renewal these days. Crores of rupees are being spent. Thousands of crores of rupees are proposed to be spent, and, therefore, there are the MUTP-I and MUTP-II schemes for the urban development of Mumbai. In the present speech of the hon. Minister, I find that MUTP-II is mentioned. MUTP-I is conspicuous by absence even though it is not completed. This was supposed to be completed in 2006 and still, it needs another Rs.1300 crores to complete. But, it is not mentioned. Only phase II is mentioned. So, phase I will join those 125 or 130 or 140 projects which will continue to be pending *ad infinitum*. Now, MUTP scheme has to be completed. Rs.10 crores were to be spent upto March, 2009. They have not. And, another Rs.1700 crores will have to be spent to go near completion. In all, Rs. 5300 crores are to be spent. Money is not forthcoming and I have a long list, in this speech, of new projects. This will lead to nowhere. In this urban renewal, there is a widening of the Virar-Dahanu rail track; there is procurement of new rakes; the Harbour Line in Mumbai is to be modernised; Vasai-Panvel shuttles; there is a long list. Then, a specific demand was made in Mumbai during Ram Naik's tenure. A ladies special train was introduced during peak hours to enable working women to travel. It is a highly successful introduction. We demanded, we made a representation that instead of one, there should be two trains during peak hours towards the city and then back from the city in the morning and evening. We thought that our demand would be received. It was received.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

But, we were told by the speech that your idea is good; we will not give you anything more; we will use it in some other cities, I do not have a grudge against that. Let Chennai and Howrah get ladies special trains. They also need it. The woman commuters there also will appreciate that. But, looking to the size of the commuting in .Mumbai, 60-70 lakh people, one train is not enough for woman commuters. There should be, at least, two trains going towards the city, two trains coming back. I believe that if my idea is to be used for somebody else, I should also get the benefit of that.

Then, I have a long list of pending projects from Maharashtra. I do not know whether I should read that list because every Member here is showing that this is something which was promised and

is not done. But, I find that new railway lines have been proposed for the last several years, right from 2005, 2002. There is a Baramati-Lonad line; then Amravati-Narkher line; then Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath line; then Puntamba-Shirdi line. In so far as the gauge is concerned, Miraj-Latur line, I am told, has been completed. The speech mentions that. And, I am very happy particularly because of the stretch which takes a broad gauge to Pandharpur, Pandharpur is a pilgrimage centre where lakhs of people go every year on four occasions. Therefore, this completion is a good news to me. But, other projects continue to be pending. Solapur-Gadakh continues to be pending. The doubling of Panvel-Roha, Diva-Kalyan, Panvel-Vasai continue to be pending. Then, there is Patni-Solapur, Patni-Mohor, Akola-Purnia, Jabalpur-Gondia (Gondia is in Maharashtra), Chhindwara-Nagpur, Kolamna-Nagpur, Kurla-Thane. Additional pair of Kurla-Thane is in the pipeline, at least, for the last ten years, and, every year, it is 'almost ready'. It is only 14 kilometres additional line to be completed. Land is available. Everything is available with the Railways, But the 'will' is not there. Therefore, the intention is also seems to be missing. Then, there are Thane-Turbhe, Nerul-Washi, Belapur, and, Thane-Mumbra. Then, there is Mumbai Urban, about which, I have already told.

Then, there is a long-standing demand — again, a legacy of the pre-Independence period — namely, the position of Nanded. Nanded is a town which was part of the Hyderabad State. After liberation and after reorganisation, parts of that State remained in Andhra Pradesh, some went to Karnataka and some to Maharashtra. That, is why Nanded is part of the South-Central Railway.

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह (हरियाणा) : अब इसका नाम बदल गया है, अब इसका नाम "हुजूर साहब नांदेड़" हो गया है।

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Yes, Sir. I am sorry. It is only last year when we had the tercentenary celebrations. It was part of the Nizam State. Therefore, it was the South-Central Railway. Now, it is not part of the Nizam State; it is part of the Central Railway structure, still, the legacy continues. Why? Nanded should naturally come to the Central Railways. It should be ordered but it is not happening. The State of Maharashtra has been writing since 2002.

Sir, projects should be completed. Projects should not be only announced. There should be some accountability to such announcements. Every year, new fancy provisions, new fancy announcements are made but nobody is bothered. Things do not get completed. There is no accountability. It all becomes only a matter of flowery language. You do not have to give anything, but only use good words. There is a saying in Marathi, We say, "Bolachich Kadhi, Bolachach Bhat". Basmati rice, you talk about it. Spicy curry, you talk about it. But you are not going to serve it. So, just talking will only increase the hunger but that is bad enough. Do something, and, talk about only those things which you can do. Otherwise, don't talk, and, one way of stopping that talking is abolishing the Railway Budget altogether.

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : उपसभापति जी, मैं आपके प्रति आभार प्रदर्शित करता हूँ कि आपने मुझे अपनी बात कहने का मौका दिया है। इन दिनों में दो बजट प्रस्तुत हुए हैं, एक "दादा" ने पेश किया है और दूसरा "दीदी" ने पेश किया है। "दीदी" ने जो रेलवे बजट प्रस्तुत किया है, उनके अपने स्वभाव, आचार-व्यवहार के अनुरूप यह आम आदमी पर केन्द्रित बजट है और उस बात के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदया को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उनका फोकस आम आदमी पर है और उन्होंने उसे सुविधा देने की बात की है। मैं बहुत लंबी बात नहीं कहना चाहूंगा। यद्यपि माननीय मंत्री महोदया ने महिलाओं के लिए, युवाओं के लिए, कर्मचारियों के लिए, अपंगों के लिए, हर वर्ग के लिए काम किया है, मैं केवल उन दो-तीन बातों की चर्चा करना चाहता हूँ, जिनकी चर्चा इस बजट में नहीं हुई है। मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदया से निवेदन है कि इतने स्टेशनों का दर्जा बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया गया है, अगर कोई स्टेशन पूरी तरह छोड़ दिया गया है, तो वह हरियाणा में कुरुक्षेत्र का स्टेशन है। कुरुक्षेत्र, महाभारत की भूमि है, कुरुक्षेत्र में भगवान कृष्ण ने अपना अमृतमय उपदेश दिया था, जिसकी वजह से तमाम दुनिया में भारत का नाम है। जो आदमी भारत को जानता है, वह कुरुक्षेत्र को अवश्यमेव जानता है। जो 375 आदर्श स्टेशन बनाए जाने हैं, उनमें से 309 की पहचान कर ली गई है, पर इन 309 में कुरुक्षेत्र नहीं हैं। 50 स्टेशनों को विश्वस्तरीय स्टेशन बनाने की बात है, इनमें से 35 के नाम तय हो चुके हैं। मैं दीदी का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने अभी इस बात के लिए इशारा किया है। चूंकि यह धार्मिक स्थान है, ऐतिहासिक स्थान है और पर्यटन की दृष्टि से बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है, इसलिए उन्होंने इशारे से जो आश्वासन दिया है, मैं उसके लिए उनके प्रति आभार प्रदर्शित करता हूँ।

महोदय, मैं दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यमुनानगर-कुरुक्षेत्र रेलवे लाइन की चर्चा बहुत दिनों से होती आ रही है, लेकिन उसके ऊपर कार्रवाई कभी नहीं हुई। सहारनपुर के साथ यमुनानगर जुड़ा हुआ है और अगर उसे कुरुक्षेत्र से जोड़ दिया जाए, तो आगे पेहवा के साथ पटियाला को भी जोड़ा जा सकता है। इससे बहुत-से यात्री जो मेले में या घूमने के लिए, सूर्य ग्रहण के अवसर पर, सुख-दुख में तथा पिण्ड दान करने के लिए पेहवा आते हैं या कुरुक्षेत्र स्नान के लिए आते हैं या इधर के लोग हरिद्वार जाते हैं, उनको अभी जो लंबा रास्ता तय करके जाना पड़ता है, वह नहीं करना पड़ेगा। अगर वे इस पर सर्वेक्षण करके इसकी ओर ध्यान देने का प्रयास करेंगे, तो यह बहुत उपयोगी रेलवे लिंक होगा।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से तीसरा निवेदन यह करना चाहता हूँ कि हम जब कभी भी रेल के माध्यम से सफर करते हैं, तो स्टेशन समाप्त होते ही रेलवे लाइन के दोनों तरफ गंदगी के अंबार लगे होते हैं। यह जमीन रेलवे की है, लेकिन इस जमीन का इस्तेमाल गंदगी के भंडार के रूप में किया जाता है। इस जगह को develop किया जाना चाहिए तथा इसको साफ-सुथरा किया जाना चाहिए। इसको ग्रीन बेल्ट के रूप में develop किया जा सकता है। इसको या तो रेलवे विभाग खुद करे या इस काम को NGOs या किसी एजेंसी को दिया जा सकता है। बहुत-से शहरों में बहुत-से ऐसे चौक हैं, जिनका अलग-अलग कंपनियां अपने प्रचार के लिए इस्तेमाल करती हैं और उसकी सफाई भी वही कंपनी करती है। लेकिन यह जो रेलवे लाइन के दोनों तरफ गंदगी पड़ी होती है, अगर यात्री अंदर बैठ कर भोजन कर रहा हो और वह बाहर की तरफ देख ले तो उसका भोजन अंदर नहीं जाता है। विदेश के लोग जब हिन्दुस्तान आते हैं और जब वे रेलवे लाइन के दोनों तरफ गंदगी के ढेर देखते हैं, तो वे हमारे बारे में एक अजीब धारना बनाते हैं। अगर हम उसको साफ-सुथरा रखेंगे, तो यह अपने आप में बहुत अच्छा काम होगा।

महोदय, मैं कोई लंबी-चौड़ी बात नहीं करना चाहता हूँ, इसलिए मैं यादव जी की इस बात से बहुत सहमत हूँ कि हमारी बार-बार जो घोषणाएँ होती हैं, अगर उनका विश्लेषण करके यह किया जाए कि जो उनमें से स्कीमें लागू की जा सकती हैं, वे की जाएँ और जो नहीं की जा सकती हैं, वे न की जाएँ। मुझे इस बात की उम्मीद है कि हरियाणा के साथ, कुरुक्षेत्र की धरती के साथ इंसाफ किया जाएगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपके प्रति धन्यवाद प्रकट करता हूँ।

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise here to speak on the Railway Budget, 2009-10.

Sir, some learned friends, including my colleague P. Madhu, have already spoken on several important points. Therefore, I do not like to repeat all these points.

Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has presented a dream Budget. It is called a dream Budget, not by me, but most of the media people have told me that this Budget is a dream Budget. All my learned friends know that there is a great difference between dream and realities. Sir, while appreciating the announcements of the hon. Minister for Railways for several new trains, projects, concession, and passenger amenities, I hope all these announcements will be fulfilled on time. I hope that the earlier decision of the Railways to close several printing presses will be scrapped. Sir, in this regard, I can recollect because already the Railways have decided to close several printing presses which are Railways' own. Out of these, three printing presses are in West Bengal. These are Garden Reach, Kharagpur, Kurseong. Sir, this is my earnest request to the Minister to scrap the earlier decision of closing these printing presses. Sir, I regret that takeover of ailing public sector wagon-making units, Burn Standard and Braithwaite, by the Railways has not progressed further from presentation of interim Budget which was placed by Lalaji on 13th February 2009. The transfer of these units, Lalaji told at the time, would be discussed with the concerned Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Heavy Industries. No further step has been taken yet. Sir, I recall, in the last year's Railway Budget, the Railways had declared proposals for developing 23 stations to be world-class stations. Now, the present Railway Minister has presented her Budget. She now says, "50 stations". I don't know whether those 23 are included in that or not.

Sir, I urge upon the august House to look at page 47 of the Safety Performance Report of 2007-08 where in clause 7.3, the Minister admitted that Justice Sagir Ahmed Commission was set up on 13th February 2001 to enquire into a collision of train no.3005 of Howrah-Amritsar Mail with a derailed wagon of DN Ajitwal-New Bongaigaon goods train that occurred on 2nd December 2000 in Amritsar-Ludhiana section of Northern Railways. The report of the Commission is still awaited. If the condition of the report is such, then, I don't know how the safety measures will be taken.

Sir, it has been observed that for years, every Budget declares some new sops which remain unfulfilled for years, as can be seen from the pending incomplete railway projects and schemes. Sir, I can give the details because the Railways had total 93 projects of new lines. Out of these 93, 64 were

up to the Ninth Plan. For gauge conversion, there were 55. Out of these 55, 39 were up to the Ninth Plan. For doubling, there were 121. Out of these, 32 were up to the Ninth Plan. For electrification, there were 18. Out of these, 5 were up to the Ninth Plan. So, all these pending projects are yet to be completed and I request the Minister for giving priority to these pending projects first. I expect that. The Railway Minister will not deny the delay in execution of the project and schemes, escalation of their estimated cost and loss of expected revenue. Sir, the hon. Minister has said that she is proud of her 14 lakh employees. She has also promised to review the recruitment process and the recruitment policies of the Railway Boards. We welcome the proposal. But, I would like to ask the Minister: What about the 1,50,000 existing vacancies/posts?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tarini Kanta Roy, how many more minutes do you need to finish your speech?

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Sir, how many more minutes do I have?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party has got another 10 minutes. But you continue tomorrow.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Sir, I can conclude within 5 to 7 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You continue your speech tomorrow.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: All right, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions. Smt. Brinda Karat, not present; Shri Rajeev Shukla, not present; Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, not present; Shri R.C. Singh.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demands for take over of the 'Burn Standard' by the Government

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, Burn Standard was a leader in the Indian Heavy Engineering Industry with versatile production facilities and extensive engineering capabilities. It manufactures railway rolling stocks and components, including milk tankers and specialized alumina wagons. The Steel Foundry Unit is located at Howrah and two forge shops are located at Howrah and Burnpur. But, due to lack of capital for modernization etc., it turned into a sick unit 15 years ago. It has a paid up capital of only Rs. 107 crores and losses of nearly Rs. 500 crores. The Government of West Bengal, workers and others have been repeatedly requesting the Government of India for revival of this prestigious unit. BRPSE has recommended that the Burn Standard be taken over by the Railways as their captive wagon makers to keep costs down as it delivers tailor-made solutions for the Railways. The former Railway Minister promised for take over. But no concrete action was taken. It had taken over the Bharat Wagon Limited factories at Mokama and Muzaffarpur in Bihar but not the Burn Standard whose production quality is much better than the BWL units. I failed to

understand the reason behind neglecting this prestigious unit in West Bengal in spite of recommendation from BRPSE. The company is on the verge of collapse and workers are facing umpteen problems and are eagerly waiting for its revival.

Hence, I request the Railway Minister, who is fortunately from Bengal and has a lot of concern for the State, through you, to immediately take steps and take over this unit immediately and help the company and workers working there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. C.P. Thakur, not present; Shri Moinul Hassan, not present. Shri Ram Narayan Sahu.

Concern over the declining level of ground water in the Country

श्री राम नारायण साहु (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदन के समक्ष पूर्व में भी तीव्रगति से गिरते भूमिगत जलस्तर पर चिंता व्यक्त कर चुका हूँ और आज पुनः कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस समस्या की गंभीरता पर विचार नहीं कर रही है। महानगरों को उनकी आवश्यकता का 25 प्रतिशत जल ही उपलब्ध हो पा रहा है। साथ ही भूमिगत जलस्तर का तीव्रगति से गिरना समूचे प्राणी जगत के लिए विकराल समस्या का सूचक है। जलस्तर के पेड़ों की जड़ों की पहुँच से नीचे जाने के कारण विशालकाय वृक्ष भी सूख रहे हैं। सरकार द्वारा लगाए गए पम्प दिनों-दिन जलविहीन होते जा रहे हैं। जलाशय, झीलें, तालाब, नदियाँ आदि सूख गए हैं या सूखने के कगार पर हैं। महोदय, मेरा मानना है कि सरकार इस समस्या के प्रति गंभीर नहीं है अपितु योजनाएं भी कागजों पर सिमट कर रह जाती हैं। इस समस्या पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चिंतन, जागरुकता, नियोजन एवं क्रियान्वयन की त्वरित आवश्यकता है। मेरे गृह नगर लखनऊ में ही सरकार अरबों रुपया पत्थरों पर खर्च कर रही है लेकिन पेय जल के नाम पर हैंडपम्प लगाने के लिए भी पैसा नहीं है। सरकार यह भूल गयी है कि पत्थरों से जीवन नहीं चलता बल्कि पानी से जीवन चलता है। मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सरकार जल समस्या को गंभीरतापूर्वक समझे और पूर्ण समर्पण से इस कार्य को करे। सरकार सभी सम्भव जल स्रोतों को पुनर्जीवित करने, भूमिगत जल स्तर का संरक्षण करने, अनावश्यक जलदोहन पर प्रतिबंध एवं जनमत बनाने एवं भूमिगत जलस्तर को पुनः चार्ज करने हेतु ठोस कदम उठाए। सरकार इस कार्य में इतनी देर भी न करे कि कल देश को इस समस्या से आपदा के रूप में जूझना पड़े। भारत जैसे विशाल देश को बोतलों में पानी से जिंदा नहीं रखा जा सकता है। इसे हरा-भरा रखने के लिए नदी, नाले, तालाब, झरने, पोखर, जलाशय जलमग्न होने आवश्यक हैं। जल के कार्य को कल का कार्य मत समझो, आज और अभी कुछ करना है।

श्रीमती जया बघन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करती हूँ।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री वीर पाल सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र भाटिया (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Demand to take effective steps to bail out the National Aviation Company from huge losses incurred by it

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Sir, it is a matter of urgent public importance. The National Aviation Company, popularly known as 'Air India', has been making, as we all know, huge losses for

many, many years. The merger between the *erstwhile* Air India and Indian Airlines has still not been successfully completed, and the employees of Indian Airlines, especially, are very unhappy. The Government needs to take urgent measures, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, to turn the Company around. Providing additional equity and loan will be only a temporary relief, but no solution. We have to find a solution to make the Company competitive. Funds will be required, of course, for aircraft acquisition. But taxpayers' monies should not be given to meet losses; there will be end to that. The Company is, probably, overstaffed, and, due to political and administrative pressures, has often succumbed to even unreasonable demands from Unions as it is afraid of facing a strike. And the Unions have reasons to complain because of interference. Costs must be reduced, if necessary, even by reducing the number of employees and rationalising their emoluments. Practice of appointing non-industry professionals as CEOs may have also contributed, Mr. Deputy Chairman, to the Company's present plight. Political and administrative interference, as I said earlier, lack of autonomy and the resulting weak work ethic is preventing the Company from successfully competing in a fiercely competitive market place where even the private companies are making losses. Urgent, corrective steps need to be taken. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman.

**Demand to take effective measures to tackle the malnutrition
among children in the country**

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring before this House the alarming levels of hunger in children in some States, including Tamil Nadu. The State of Tamil Nadu, once an exemplar for other States in the country in successful implementation of nutritional programmes, has now become one of the ten States in the country with alarming levels of hunger, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute's India State Hunger Index of 2008. The ratings are based on the prevalence of calorie energy deficiency, child mortality and the number of children below the age of five who are underweight. The National Family Health Survey data of 2008 show a similar trend. According to this survey, almost one-third, that is, 31 per cent, of children under the age of five in Tamil Nadu are stunted or too short for their age, which indicates that they have been undernourished. Further, seven out of every ten children below the age of five have iron-deficiency anaemia, according to the report of the National Family Health Survey. Anaemia has actually increased from 69 to 73 per cent in the age group of infancy to three from the last survey of 1998. Only 40 per cent of the households have access to adequately iodized salt and vitamin-A deficiency persists despite prevention programmes. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to view this situation seriously and implement nutritional programmes more effectively to wipe out the alarming level of malnutrition in all the States, including Tamil Nadu.

**Demand to resolve the problem of the shop-owners affected by the
elevated express way project from Chennai Port to Maduravayal**

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, an elevated express way project from Chennai Port to Maduravayal for a distance of 17.5 kilometres has been formulated and approved by the National

Highways Authority of India. This project is envisaged as the Port Connectivity Programme under NHDP. This project is proposed for free movement of commercial traffic from Chennai Port to outside Chennai. This elevated express way starts at Chennai Port near War memorial and ends at Maduravayal NH4. This project runs along the banks of river Cooum for the entire length. I would like to point out that on the vast stretch of land along the Cooum river, there are 2,500 shops and small commercial establishments such as lathe machine shops, spare-parts, iron scrap shops, etc., are available for a length of 2,400 metres at Chindadripet and Pudupet. Sir, these shop vendors have been there for more than four decades doing petty business. No solution was found during the negotiation between the committee of the State Government officials and the affected business people. The State Government is prepared to offer a small compensation on the basis of the structural value of the shop which is not accepted by the shop owners. The shops are the only source of their bread. They demand that the Government to provide alternative place to continue their business. There is an apprehension among the 2,400 small business people that they may be left stranded by the authorities. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to come to the rescue of the poor shop owners and save them from the present crisis.

Demand to give the benefits of Debt Waiver Scheme to all farmers

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Sir, the relief of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 envisaged by the Government is available only to those farmers whose loans were outstanding on 29.02.08. There are several farmers in Kerala who have repaid the dues before this date and the scheme obviously discriminates them *vis-a-vis* farmers who got the waiver. The Kerala Government has already taken up this case with the Union Government to include the farmers who have settled their dues before 29.02.08 within the purview of the scheme.

As per the scheme, the loans issued by lending institutions from 1.04.97 to 31.03.07, and overdue as on 31.12.07 which remained unpaid as on 29.02.08 is the eligible amount for relief. Before the announcement of the scheme in February 2008, the Kerala Government had ordered to implement a special collection drive programme. The farmers, in spite of their financial difficulties, responded to the call and settled their dues during the period. The poor farmers who have settled their dues during the special drive period are eligible for the benefits of the Debt Waiver Scheme announced and being implemented by the Government of India for the reasons that they settled the dues inbetween 1.02.08 and 29.02.08.

I, therefore, request the Government for sympathetic consideration of the matter and early orders. Thank you.

Demand to commemorate Bicentenary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, India has a great tradition of honouring the national heroes and is always proud of paying homage to their memory especially on

historic days. It is a known fact that during the long foreign rule over India, it was great hero Shivaji Maharaj who established a sovereign rule over a territory in Maharashtra in 1660 AD. We have so much respect for his deeds and have his statues all over the country. After him, the second person who had the honour of overthrowing the Mughal Rule in Punjab is Baba Banda Singh Bahadur who started his journey of victory from Nanded in Maharashtra and entered Punjab in 1709 AD. He was blessed by his master Guru Gobind Singhji in Nanded and was bestowed with armour of the Guru.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur defeated the Mughal Governor of Sirhind on 12th May, 1710 and was declared a sovereign ruler of Punjab. He established his capital near Nahan, now in Himachal Pradesh, and built a fort named Lohgarh. At that time, the entire agriculture land was owned by the Mughal Emperor and the tillers were treated as *Muzares*. It was to the credit of Baba Banda Bahadur that he in a proclamation on 27th May, 1710 AD made all the tillers of the land as owners of the land. This historic order changed the whole economy of Punjab and brought jubilation to the entire farming community.

I request that the Government of India should decide to commemorate the historic victory of Banda Bahadur, 200 years ago, by forming a national committee to honour the memory of great warrior and set up suitable memorials at historic places in India and also produce literature on his life and deeds. He died later on as a martyr and the details of that are written by the British travellers who were witness to that gruesome torture. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with this issue. I would just like to mention that Banda Bairagi, who was a Bairagi on the banks of Godavari, was blessed by Guru Gobind Singhji and was baptised. Ultimately, Guru Gobind Singhji gave him spiritual and marshal power. He invaded Punjab to take revenge of shahidee of four Sahebjadas and of Guru Teg Bahadur. Ultimately, he became a good administrator and a reformist. When he got this land transferred from Zamindars and Mughal Emperors in favour of farmers, that was a big revolution. In these days, even in a democracy, it is very difficult to go for land reforms in our country. In those days, he had done that with power, might, sword and with conviction. Thank you.

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

Demand to assess the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines in the country

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, अब तक केवल राजनेता ही इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीनों की विश्वसनीयता पर उंगली उठाते रहे हैं, पर अब विशेषज्ञ भी उसमें गड़बड़ी की सम्भावनाओं को सिद्ध कर रहे हैं। विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के अध्ययन के आधार पर यह भी कहा जा रहा है कि यदि मशीन का सॉर्स कोड ज्ञात हो

जाए, तो वह व्यक्ति बिना खुद ज्ञात हुए अनगिनत वोट डाल सकता है। एक प्रयोग सफल सिद्ध हुआ लगता है कि प्रत्येक दस के बाद हर पांचवा वोट एक निश्चित उम्मीदवार के पक्ष में डाला जा सकता है।

यह भारत जैसे श्रेष्ठ प्रजातंत्र के लिए बहुत गम्भीर व चिंताजनक विषय है। आने वाले दिनों में कई विधान सभा चुनाव हैं।

मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि वह सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में निष्पक्ष उच्च टेक्नीकल टीम के द्वारा जांच-पड़ताल व सार्वजनिक प्रयोग कर आशंकाओं को शीघ्र दूर करे अथवा मतदान की कोई अन्य पारदर्शी व्यवस्था कराए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Praveen Rashtrapal. Not present. Miss Anusuiya Uikey. Not present. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

Increasing incidents of assaults of whistle blowers in the country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to command the attention of this House towards growing trend of assaults on the whistle blowers by unscrupulous contractors and criminal mafia allegedly backed by local leaders in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is even more alarming that the State administrations could neither provide security to the whistle blowers nor have been able to act against the alleged culprits. Such incidents put the lives of engineers and workmen to hazards. It is demoralising to work under such undue pressure. The Central Government has undertaken the massive project of building the highways and road linkages to villages and resurrects the infrastructure through Central or Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These projects are being largely implemented by the State agencies. However, there have been serious complaints about pilferage and misallocation of funds from these projects. There have also been allegations about inferior quality of work and material being used by the contractors. In the interest of the projects funded by the Central Government, unless this is checked, the unholy nexus of contractors mafia and local leaders will resist every effort to provide equitable and inclusive development at grass root level. These incidents are unacceptable as we have made a commitment to provide corruption-free governance to our people. It is alarming that such incidents are taking place despite Government's Whistle Blowers Resolution to protect them. I call upon the Government to expand the coverage of this Resolution to include Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the State Governments.

Need to fully fund Central Government Schemes

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, various Departments of the Central Government announce schemes from time to time on the subjects mentioned on any one of the three lists of the Constitution.

However, the Central Government while framing a scheme presupposes and takes for granted share of the State Governments in the implementation of such schemes. The State Governments, in fact, have their own priorities and that, their budgets may not have scope to take burden of all the schemes proposed by the Central Government, however, good they may be.

Therefore, I suggest that the Central Government should draw only those schemes which they can fully fund, even though such schemes may be less in number, so that, the State Governments who cannot afford to share the burden are not embarrassed as against the States who can afford to do it.

Further there must be a legislation governing the preparation of schemes, their implementation, containing also transparency provisions and providing for stringent punishment for misuse or diversion of funds.

Further, some State Governments increase the scope of the scheme by pumping in their own resources and introducing new concept in the scheme, which should not be allowed, however, beneficial it may be to the targeted people, as, that is going to destroy the concept of Central Government Schemes and erode the authority of the Central Government, besides being embarrassing those State Governments, who cannot afford to similarly expand the scheme. If the State Governments have funds, they can prepare their own separate schemes on the subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes past five of the clock till
eleven of the clock, on Wednesday, the 8th July, 2009.