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RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 7th August, 2009/16 Sravana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Kishore Kumar Mohanty (Orissa)

Shri Parvez Hashmi (NCT of Delhi)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Failure to check spurious drugs

*481. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:††

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of circulation of fake and spurious drugs in Indian markets;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether various Central as well as State agencies have completely failed to put a check on the circulation of fake and spurious drugs in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps Government proposes to take to ensure that fake drugs are not available in the markets?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity indulged in by antisocial elements which exploit the confidence enjoyed by certain fast selling drug products. The drug samples tested all over the country, however, reveal that approximately 0.3% to 0.4% of around 40,000 samples tested per annum were found spurious.

(c) and (d) No. The cases of spurious drugs are detected from time to time by the State Licensing Authorities. Recently, a spurious drug racket was busted in Gurgaon, Haryana,

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Janardhan Waghmare.

wherein stocks of finished goods, semi-finished goods, packed tablets, printed packing material, dies and punches used in the manufacturer of counterfeit drugs were seized by a team comprising of the State Crime Branch and Drug Controller Organization of Haryana. The Managing Director of the firm was arrested. In another case of import of bulk drugs from unregistered sources originating from China were also detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The consignments were not permitted to be released and the Customs authorities' were requested for **Absolute Confiscation and Prosecution** in these cases.

To assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health, through CDSCO, on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad. Under this survey, around 24,300 samples of 61 brands of drugs belonging to 9 therapeutic categories of 30 manufactures from 100 different Pharmacy outlets located in each stratum viz. Metros, big cities, districts, towns and villages in different regions of the country have been collected. This would help in identifying geographical areas where spurious drugs are available so that a focused monitoring is done by the concerned authorities in these areas for eliminating the menace of spurious drugs.

Other measures taken to check the menace of spurious drugs are as follows:-

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008, has been notified on 5th December, 2008, providing for stringent penalties for offences relating to spurious and sub-standard drugs and making offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act cognizable and non-bailable.
2. In the 39th meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), a statutory body of drug regulators of all States/UTs constituted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, held on 10th December, 2008, the States were requested to play pro-active role in assessing the extent of spurious drugs in the country.
3. In the 40th meeting of DCC held on 29.6.2009, guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008, were adopted for the purpose of uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in the country. The guidelines have also been placed on the web site of CDSCO.
4. Testing facilities at Central and State laboratories have been upgraded and new drug testing laboratories have also been established so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under a Capacity Building Project, 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and provided with state of art equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended in 2001 to make it mandatory, and at par with the international standards, for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them. The amended Schedule M was made applicable to existing manufacturers from 1st July 2005.
6. Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Governments on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions, etc. has been conducted.
7. Pharma industry and trade have been requested to fight the menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. This would help in successfully detecting the cases of spurious drugs by regulatory authorities.
8. A meeting with representative of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Commissioner Customs and all port officers has been held to deliberate on modalities for absolute confiscation and prosecutions in cases of import of spurious drugs.
9. Pharmaceutical Zones, dedicated areas for handling import and export of drugs, are being developed at Port offices.
10. A whistle blower policy is being formulated whereby rewards would be given to the informers for providing information on clandestine activities relating to manufacture and trade of spurious/fake drugs.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, the Indian market is flooded with fake and spurious drugs and medicines. These drugs come especially from China. China is also misusing our name; it is selling medicines with the label 'Made in India' in Africa. But here, Government has rather failed in prosecuting the people who are involved in this. There are rackets and especially, costly drugs and medicines are fake drugs. There must be some nexus between the officials, the manufacturers, the agents, etc., but the Government has not yet detected it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: What has the Government done in this regard? That is my question.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it is true that insofar as spurious or counterfeit drugs are concerned, their number has increased globally and so has their number increased in our country. There has been, in the past few years, a boom in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. With that boom, there has also been an increase, or, I would rather say, temptation, on the part of some unscrupulous and anti-social elements to make quick money by floating spurious drugs. This is in the domestic market, but even internationally — I would agree with the hon. Member — very recently, it has come to the knowledge of the Government of India that some consignments of fake drugs bearing the label, 'Made in India' were seized by Nigerian authorities. The Government of India took up this matter with the Nigerian authorities and further

proved that these fake consignments had not originated from India. Rather these fake spurious drugs had originated, or had their origin, from China. In another similar case, an import of bulk drugs from unregistered sources originating from China was also detected at Chennai's sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the consignments were not permitted to be released. So, these consignments, with the help of Custom authorities, have been confiscated and are in their possession. Seeing the severity and magnitude of the case, we have recommended this case to the CBI to probe into.

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, apart from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Chemicals, and even the Ministry of Finance are involved in this. But, it seems that there is no co-ordination among them. The inter-Ministerial meetings should take place and they should think over these problems very seriously. I would like to ask hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that how many such inter-Ministerial meetings have taken place during the last five years.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, hon. Member has mentioned about the co-ordination among the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance. Rather I would add one more Ministry, that is, the Ministry of External Affairs because once we are talking about counterfeit of medicines across the globe, then, input or the help or assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs is equally important. I would like to inform the House, through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that there is a perfect co-ordination among the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance. As a matter of fact, the second part of the question is directly related with part (a) of the question raised by hon. Member that in the Ministry of Commerce, we have an autonomous organisation called Pharmexcil which promotes the export of Indian pharma products abroad and this organisation works in close co-ordination with the Drugs Controller General of India. As a matter of fact, this Nigerian case, which had come to the notice of the Government of India, it was the Ministry of Commerce which took it up with the Chinese Government and subsequently, it was also the Ministry of External Affairs which took it up with the Government of China, and it is at their initiative that the Chinese Government, ultimately, agreed that the consignment had actually originated from China to Nigeria, not from India. Very recently, we had, at the initiative of Pharmexcil, as I have said that it is an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Commerce, organised one function in South Africa where the Drugs Controller General of the Ministry of Health and MEA officers were present. They together discussed this issue of spurious drugs. So, we have a perfect co-ordination in so far as the Ministries are concerned. Well, I am afraid, I won't be able to say, at this moment, whether there has been, in the past, any inter-Ministerial

meeting, but keeping in view the severity and importance of the situation, I personally feel that there should be inter-Ministerial meetings.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Considering that the Minister has recognised that there is both an external and an internal dimension of this issue, on the external side, I would be contemplating a much better sharing of intelligence information between our intelligence organisations, particularly revenue intelligence with other international intelligence organisations like INTERPOL. On the internal side, I would be contemplating the constitution of a Central drug authority pending for long incentivising whistleblowers and generally ensuring that the corporates invest much more on better packaging and labelling to prevent spurious drugs.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, for the first part, I would like to say, yes, it has ramifications not only at the national level but also at the international level. We may not have taken the assistance of Interpol so far but, as I said earlier, there is coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, which have their offices across the globe, in most of the countries; at least, the MEA has its presence across the world. For example, in the case of Nigeria and China, we have taken the assistance of these two Ministries. So, these two Ministries are always there to help us across the globe. I totally agree with the hon. Member that we need to strengthen our intelligence abroad. But, I think, we also need to strengthen our intelligence within the country, and, we have taken and we are going to take a number of initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Mashelkar Committee, which was constituted in 2003, has given its report, and, some parts of the report, through an amendment, are going to become law. This amendment, which is going to be a part of the Act, has been notified by the Ministry of Law in the month of December last year but it would not become law unless the Ministry of Health notifies it.

The moment Ministry of Law notified it, there was a lot of hue and cry made by the pharma industry because stringent actions are being taken under this, which includes life imprisonment. Short of capital punishment, everything is being suggested in it, and, even setting up of special courts has been suggested in the amendment. But, as I said, it could not be notified by the Ministry because the pharma industry was against it. In these past six months, the Ministry has held series of meetings with the representatives of the pharma industry, and, now we have come to the conclusion that we shall go ahead with this. Only yesterday, I have signed the papers for notification, and, within a week's time, it is going to be notified and implemented.

Sir, the Central Drug Authority is the second part of the recommendation. Subsequently, we have made all the Cabinet papers. Some more consultation is required with the State Governments, and, in the meantime, that shall also come into being.

डा0 ज्ञान प्रकाश पिलानिया : धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदय। देर आयद दुरुस्त आयद । जैसा माननीय मंत्री जी ने फरमाया है, अगर वास्तव में यह अमेंडमेंट आ जाए, जो डा0 माशेलकर की कमेटी ने रिकमेंड किया था, तो शायद इन मौत के सौदागरों पर कुछ लगाम लग सके, लेकिन अब तक तो ज्यों-ज्यों दवा की, मर्ज बढ़ता गया। मेरा specific सवाल है कि पिछले तीन सालों में spurious drugs की manufacturing और sale करने वाले जो लोग हैं, उनके खिलाफ कितने एफआईआर दर्ज हुए और कितने लोगों को कैद की सजा मिली।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, कैद की सजा तो अब होगी। जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया कि आज लॉ नोटिफाई होगा और हफ्ते तक इसकी नोटिफिकेशन निकलेगी - कल ही हमने पेपर्स साइन किए हैं - और उसके बाद कानूनी जकड़ में ये लोग आ जाएंगे। अभी तक जो कानून था, वह इतना नरम था कि अगर कोई व्यक्ति पकड़ा भी जाता था तो उसी वक्त छोड़ दिया जाता था, ऐक्शन नहीं होता था। लेकिन अब यह नया कानून जो एक हफ्ते के बाद लागू हो जाएगा, उसके बाद जेल भी होगी, उम्र कैद भी होगी और स्पेशल कोर्ट्स बनेंगे, ट्रॉयल कोर्ट्स बनेंगे, ताकि तुरन्त स्पेशल कोर्ट के द्वारा फैसला सुनाया जाएगा। यह आने वाले वक्त में होगा।

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि भारत देश आयुर्वेदिक दवाइयों के प्रयोग में प्रख्यात है। परन्तु आयुर्वेदिक डॉक्टर्स अंग्रेजी दवाइयों का मिश्रण करके इलाज करते हैं। यह सब को पता है। आयुर्वेदिक दवाई...(व्यवधान)... सर, आयुर्वेदिक दवाइयों के अंदर अंग्रेजी दवाइयों का मिलाया जाना, यह भी एक मिलावट है।...(व्यवधान)... सर, आपने मेरा नाम पुकारा था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I think, he has given a wrong notice. ..(Interruptions).. Shri Satish Chandra Misra.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, with respect to Question No. 481, most of the drugs, which are life saving drugs, are being spuriated and they are being sold and manufactured as spuriated drugs. ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. ..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: These life saving drugs are being spuriated because they are very costly. Now, costly drugs are being duplicated. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the Government is having some scheme to see that subsidies are given to the life saving drugs which are costly drugs so that there is no duplication taken place of such drugs because only expensive drugs are being duplicated.

SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, there are two types of drugs which are being counterfeited — one is costly drugs because if they counterfeit the costly drugs, they will make a lot of money; and the other is the drugs which are being recommended by the doctors for longer duration like diabetes drugs, cardio vascular drugs, malaria-related drugs, T.B. drugs or cancer drugs. These are the drugs which are normally counterfeited. So, as I have said, steps are being taken, and I do not think the Government could have or this Parliament could have taken it more seriously than it has taken and made very stringent laws. In so far as the issue of free drugs is concerned, I would like to say that in so far as the drugs are concerned, I think, across the globe, we are the cheapest drug producers in the world. Even otherwise, all the vaccination,

immunisation across the country is free of cost. I do not think, at this stage it will be possible for the Government to introduce more drugs. Except, of course, this Tamiflu, we are giving so far three drugs. So, I do not think that it will be possible for the Government to give all types of drugs free of cost. ..(Interruptions)..

श्री ईश्वर सिंह : सर, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए, आपका टर्न नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI ABANI ROY: May I draw the attention of the Health Minister please? Sir, Livofloxacin cost us Rs. 20.61 per 10 tablets — this is our price — whereas Sanofi Aventis is Rs. 951 which is branded one. ..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please.

SHRI ABANI ROY: Now, on the question of schedule 'M and GLP' that you have mentioned, you know that for this very high capital investment is required. And, Sir, from the side of the subordinate legislative committee, a report has been placed before the House. I would like to ask what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure the competitiveness of SME pharma units. As recommended by the Hathi Committee in 1978 to phase out branded medicines. The said SME unit was closed due to financial burden imposed by you through Schedule M and GLP.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I am afraid I won't be able to answer this specific question concerning a specific drug. I will send the answer to the hon. Member.

*482. [The questioner (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 20-22 *infra*.]

Treatment of Swine Flu patients

*483. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:††
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

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

(a) whether in view of the global menace of Swine Flu, fool-proof capabilities have been developed to treat patients who are contracting this virus from human-to-human transmissions;

(b) if so, how many suspected patients arrived from abroad and also those who contracted this virus in India through infection from such patients, were treated till 30 June, 2009; and

(c) whether any fatalities of Swine Flu patients have happened till 30 June, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda.

Statement

(a) Yes. Capabilities have been created in the designated hospitals across the country to treat patients who are either detected at the International airports, sea ports and international check points or those who get the infection from cases who travelled from abroad. Adequate stock of drug Oseltamivir to treat these cases are available.

(b) As on 30th June, 2009, a total of 103 influenza A H1N1 cases came to India from affected countries. 9 cases were indigenous cases who contracted the disease in India. All of them were treated and discharged.

(c) Till 30th June, 2009, there were no fatalities of swine flu patients in India.

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदय। अभी पूरे देश में स्वाइन फ्लू के 600 से ज्यादा मामले सामने आए हैं और पुणे में एक बच्ची की दर्दनाक मौत भी हो चुकी है। यह बीमारी बड़ी तेजी से छोटे और बड़े शहरों में फैल रही है। क्या मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो एपिडेमिक एक्ट 1897 में बना था, उसमें आजकल होने वाले असाध्य रोग स्वाइन फ्लू, एचआईवी जैसी बीमारियों का कोई जिक्र नहीं है, इसलिए पब्लिक हेल्थ बिल को सरकार लाना चाहती है, उसके बारे में अभी तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है। ऐसी स्थिति में, तमाम महामारियों और पुणे में हुई बीमारियों से निपटने के लिए सरकार के पास में क्या तरीका है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद : सर, हेल्थ बिल के बारे में, जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है अभी immediate future में तो आने की कोई संभावना नहीं है। लेकिन जहां तक वायरस जैसी बीमारियां हैं, ये हमेशा से, आज ही नहीं, अगर आजादी से पहले की बात भी देखें, हमारे देश में लेबोरटीज़ कसौली में या चेन्नई में हैं, तो वे एक सौ साल पुरानी हैं। इसका मतलब है कि अंग्रेजों के जमाने में भी, जब साइंस ने इतनी तरक्की नहीं की थी, तो उस जमाने में भी, हमारे देश में इस तरह का वायरस होता था, बीमारियां होती थीं और आज तक चल रही हैं। एक बीमारी का इलाज हो जाएगा, वह कुछ साल के बाद खत्म हो जाएगी, उसके बाद दूसरा वायरस आएगा, वह कुछ साल चलेगा। मुझे लगता है कि इन्सान और बीमारी के बीच में, जब से उसने जन्म लिया है और जब तक वह जिंदा रहेगा, तब तक यह युद्ध चलता रहेगा। अब सवाल है कि किस क्षमता से सरकारें या दुनिया के साइंटिस्ट इसका मुकाबला करते रहेंगे।

दूसरा सवाल हेल्थ बिल लाने के संबंध में है। सर, हेल्थ के लिए कोई भी बिल लाएंगे, तो वह आज की स्थिति के अनुसार लाएंगे। कल को क्या आ जाता है, उसके बारे में, आप कैसे कह सकते हैं कि वह पूरी उम्र के लिए ही होगा और कल को कोई दूसरी बीमारी नहीं आएगी। पिछले कुछ दिनों तक किसको मालूम था कि स्वाइन फ्लू आएगा या बर्ड फ्लू आएगा। एक डॉयनामिक वर्ल्ड में इस तरह तमाम चीजें चलती रहेंगी। जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने पुणे के केस की चर्चा की है, अब बहुत सारे आगे सवाल आएंगे, तो मुझे स्वाइन फ्लू के बारे में बात करने का मौका मिलेगा, लेकिन मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि जो पुणे का केस है, उसमें थोड़ी दोनों तरफ से गलती हुई है। यह बहुत ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है कि एक छोटी बच्ची, स्कूल जाने वाली बच्ची हमसे जुदा हो गई और जिसकी जान बचाई जा सकती थी। अभी तक जो साढ़े पांच सौ या पौने छह सौ पॉजिटिव केसेज़ स्वाइन फ्लू के आए हैं, उनमें से 470 केसेज़ में दवाई दी गई और वे डिस्चार्ज हुए। स्वाइन-फ्लू के लिए Oseltamivir दवाई दी जाती है और जिसको Tami Flu भी कहते हैं। इसको वर्ल्ड हेल्थ आर्गनाइजेशन ने पूरे विश्व के

लिए तथा हमारे देश के लिए रेकमंड किया है। हमारे देश में जिस-जिस को भी यह दवाई दी गई है, चाहे वह हॉस्पिटल में रहा हो या वह कंटेक्ट ट्रेसिंग या कम्युनिटी ट्रेसिंग से, चाहे कई हजारों में जिनकी संख्या है, उनको दवाई दी गई है, अभी तक उनमें से किसी आदमी, बच्चे या औरत की मृत्यु नहीं हुई है, यही मैं बताना चाहता हूँ। जहां तक पुणे का ताल्लुक है, वह बच्ची प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनर के पास गई और वहां पर उसको बुखार के लिए दवाई दी। उसके बाद बच्ची फिर स्कूल गई। जब बुखार ठीक नहीं हुआ, तो वह फिर दूसरे प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिशनर के पास गई। उसने फिर दवाई दी और जब वहां से उसकी तबीयत खराब हुई, तो फिर तीसरे प्राइवेट हॉस्पिटल में दाखिल हो गई।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. (Interruptions) Just one minute. (Interruptions) This is not fair. (Interruptions)

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : मैं डाइग्नेजेज़ की बात कर रहा हूँ।...(व्यवधान).... मैं फैक्चुअल बात बता रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your turn will come. Please don't interrupt. ... (Interruptions)... पाणि जी, प्लीज़, आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान).... This is not fair. ... (Interruptions)... I would request you to give short and crisp answers.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : मेरे कहने का यह मतलब है कि लोगों को यह मालूम होना चाहिए यह दवाई इसके लिए हिन्दुस्तान में और पूरे विश्व में रेकमंड की गई है। क्योंकि दवाई पर भी लोगों का विश्वास होना जरूरी है और उसके लिए डाइग्नेजेज़ का होना भी जरूरी है। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि डाइग्नेजेज़ वक्त पर नहीं हुआ। इसके बारे में जो हिदायतें दी गई थीं कि अगर इस तरह की तीनों, चारों चीजें किसी को हों, कफ़ हो और साथ में नाक बह रही हो, जुकाम हो, खांसी हो और बुखार हो तो स्वाइन-फ्लू हो सकता है। पुणे कोई गांव नहीं है, बहुत बड़ा शहर है, जहां पर अखबार से और टेलीविजन के माध्यम से लोगों को ये चीजें मालूम थीं। उस बच्ची का उस वक्त टेस्ट किया गया जब वह ventilator पर थी और तब उसका तमाम सिस्टम भी खत्म हो गया था। जब उसको दवाई दी गई, तो तब उसको कोई असर नहीं हुआ। मेरे कहने मतलब यह है कि दवाई परफैक्ट है और इसको वक्त पर डाइग्नेज करने की जरूरत है।

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, अभी मंत्री जी ने डाइग्नेज करने की जरूरत बताई है। कल ही पुणे के एक हॉस्पिटल के अंदर बच्ची को वहां पर ले जाया गया, तो डॉक्टर ने कहा कि इसको कुछ नहीं हुआ है। उसके फादर ने इनसिस्ट किया।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, यह सवाल ही है।...(व्यवधान).... मेरे हर सवाल के आगे, पीछे जवाब है।...(व्यवधान).... उसके फादर ने इनसिस्ट किया, तो पता चला कि उसको स्वाइन-फ्लू है। आज फ्लू के ज्यादातर शिकार स्कूलों के बच्चे हैं, जैसा कि संस्कृति स्कूल के एक बच्चे को फ्लू हुआ है और फिलहाल उस स्कूल को बंद कर दिया गया है। क्या सरकार की ओर से स्कूल तथा कॉलेज के स्तर पर कोई कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं? इसके टैस्टिंग के लिए लगभग दस हजार का खर्चा आता है, इसके लिए प्रदेशों में क्या कोई पर्याप्त व्यवस्था की गई है या भारत सरकार की ओर से उनको कोई मदद दी जा रही है?

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, इससे दो-तीन सवाल जुड़े हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप एक सवाल का जवाब दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विजय जवाहरलाल दर्डा : सर, यह नाइंसाफी है। अगर मंत्री जी जवाब देना चाहें तो...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This technique will not work.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Excuse me, Sir. I beg your pardon. I think, this is the best opportunity and the best forum for me. There is panic outside. I think, this is the best place. This is the last day of the Parliament Session. So, what I think is that whatever little bit I know about it and whatever little bit my colleagues know about it also would help us in spreading the right message across the country. If you permit me, Sir, I would like to say that it is not put in the right perspective outside because each channel has its own way of putting it and each channel has its own interest. So, I think, it is the right time that I should put it in the right perspective.

सर, तीनों चीजें हैं। देश में पहले गाइडलाइन्स थीं, उसकी सिविलियटी को देखकर हमारे देश में हर हफ्ते दस दिन के बाद रिव्यू लिया जाता है। दुनिया के बहुत सारे देशों ने 6 जुलाई को ही हाथ खड़े कर दिए थे, हमने हाथ खड़े नहीं किए। 6 जुलाई को WHO ने कहा कि दुनिया के देशों ने अब हमें इन्फॉर्मेशन देना बंद कर दिया है। क्योंकि वहां मरने वालों और पॉजिटिव केसेज की संख्या इतनी बढ़ गई है, इसलिए अपने-अपने देश अपने-अपने हिसाब से जो कुछ करना है, करें। कुछ गाइडलाइन्स WHO ने हमें दे दी हैं। आज 6 जुलाई से 7 अगस्त, एक महीना, एक दिन हो गया है, हम उन देशों से आगे जा रहे हैं और अभी भी टेस्ट कर रहे हैं। हम अभी भी कंटेक्ट ट्रेसिंग कर रहे हैं, हम अभी भी कम्युनिटी ट्रेसिंग कर रहे हैं, जबकि वहां पर - जैसे कि ब्रतानिया ने कहा कि अब सब घर पर बैठ जाओ, बच्चे भी घर पर बैठ जाओ, रुमाल लेकर बैठो, किसी के पास आओ नहीं, किसी के पास जाओ नहीं, लेकिन हम जहां तक भी सुविधा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, हमने अभी तक टेस्ट करने की सुविधाएं प्राप्त की हैं। दूसरा पक्ष, जो इन्होंने बताया, यह ठीक है कि एक टेस्ट के लिए दस हजार रुपए लगते हैं, लेकिन हमने अभी तक जितने भी हजारों केसेज किए हैं, ये गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया और हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से मुफ्त किए जाते हैं, हालांकि ये टेस्ट बहुत कॉस्टली और टाइम कन्ज्यूमिंग है। पॉजिटिव केस करने के लिए छह घंटे लगते हैं। इसके लिए जो रीजेंट है, टेस्ट करने का जो केमिकल है, वह दुनिया की एक ही कंपनी है, जो अमरीका में है, यह पेटेंट है, उससे पूरी दुनिया को जाता है। दुनिया के दूसरे देशों ने इसे लेना बंद कर दिया है, जबकि हम अभी ले रहे हैं। गवर्नमेंट के खर्च पर यहां लाकर यहां टेस्ट करते हैं। एक महीने पहले हमारे पास सिर्फ दो ही लेबोरेट्रीज थीं, एक पूना में, एक दिल्ली में, एक महीने के अंदर हमने सोलह लेबोरेट्रीज बनाई हैं। कल पूना में एक और दूसरी लेबोरेट्री यानी 17वीं नई लेबोरेट्री तैयार की है। कुल मिलाकर अब 19 लेबोरेट्रीज हैं, जहां पर ये टेस्ट किए जा रहे हैं। ये टेस्ट मुफ्त में किए जा रहे हैं।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सभापति महोदय, इतना होते हुए भी वहां पर मृत्यु है।

श्री सभापति : आप इंटरुप्ट मत कीजिए।

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, the Government of India has taken steps for polio. But in the case of swine flu, the Government has not taken it seriously. That is why one student died in Pune because of delay in treatment. So, I would like to say that the Government should take it seriously just like polio. Now, polio is decreasing. In the case of swine flu, now 470 people got the infection. I would like to know whether the Government is going to have some special cells in the hospitals for immediate treatment.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I think, the hon. Member knows the global scenario. If she knows the global scenario, then, she would have known what is happening across the globe, in 168 countries. In comparison to other countries and keeping in view the size and

population of the country, I think, the spread of the epidemic in this country is minimal. We have been able to restrict it to some individuals so far and whatever is possible humanly and clinically, that is being done by the Ministry of Health.

SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Thank you, Sir. Yesterday, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced that those who were affected with swine flu should take treatment only from the Government hospitals. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would allow all the district and taluk Government hospitals to provide treatment facilities to these patients. Would the Government also allow the corporate hospitals to treat these patients?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it is not that only the Government of Tamil Nadu has advised the public to go to the Government hospitals. When this spread of epidemic took place in our country, we had designated certain hospitals because this is a very highly contagious and very communicable disease. So you cannot allow these patients to mix up with other patients because it is a communicable disease. That is why, initially, at the entry points, when the passengers were coming from across the globe at international airports and seaports, we started the screening process. In those particular States, where we have international airports and seaports, we had identified those hospitals which were having Isolation Facility Centres. Each doctor and paramedical staff has been provided with personal protection equipment. The private hospitals do not have these facilities. Even if they want, the private hospitals cannot afford it. In that case, you have to restrict other passengers to that block or to that area. I don't think any private hospital would like to cut short the number of patients. Since these were identified about a month-and-a-half ago, they are already in a position to take care of it and they are also well versed with the disease and with the protocol. As the number is increasing, we are now in touch with, the Director-General, Health Services is in touch with the private hospitals across the country and seeking their cooperation that they should also identify some Isolation Facility Centres in their hospitals and they should also train the doctors. We are ready to train the doctors. Our Ministry is ready to train the doctors. We have already trained the doctors who have been drawn from different areas at the national and State level. We have trained the doctors at the State level. About a month-and-a-half ago, we have issued a direction that at the district level also doctors should be trained to undertake this exercise.

श्रीमती माया सिंह: मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि swine flu के नाम पर देश में कई कंपनियां अनेक तरह के दावे करके अपनी दवाओं को बेच रही हैं और पैसा कमा रही हैं। वास्तव में सच्चाई क्या है? हमारे देश में कुल 27 दवा प्रयोगशालाएं हैं, जिनमें से मात्र सात ही पर्याप्त जांच उपलब्ध करा पाने की स्थिति में हैं। ऐसे में इस निगरानी तंत्र को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करने की दिशा में आप क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं, इस संबंध में मैं सच्चाई जानना चाहती हूँ?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: मैं समझा नहीं कि आप कौन सी दवाई की बात कर रही हैं?

श्रीमती माया सिंह: मैं swine flu की दवाई की बारे में बात कर रही हूँ।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, मेरे खयाल में मैंने खुद पिछले तीन महीने से कई दर्जन इंटरव्यूज इस संबंध में दिए हैं और साथ ही हमारे ऑफिसर्स ने भी अखबार और टेलिविज़न के जरिए यह बताया है कि इसके लिए पूरी दुनिया में सिर्फ एक ही दवाई है, जिसे World Health Organisation ने तैयार किया है। उसका कॉमन नाम Tamiflu है और असली नाम Oseltamivir है और यह भी सरकार के आदेश से बाजार में रिटेल में बिकनी बंद है, वरना जिसको भी खांसी जुकाम हो जाए और वह इस दवाई को खा जाए, फिर बाद में इम्युनिटी डेवलप हो जाए तो मुश्किल हो सकती है। गवर्नमेंट ने एक ही कंपनी से एक करोड़ लोगों के लिए यह दवाई लेकर रखी हुई है और कंपनी के पास तकरीबन 60 लाख डोज़िज़ और तैयार रखी हैं, जिसे जरूरत पड़ने पर मंगाया जा सकता है। इसलिए मैं नहीं समझता कि इस दवाई के अतिरिक्त कोई दूसरी दवाई स्वाइन फ्लू के लिए ली जा सकती है। मैं नहीं समझता कि किसी को यह मालूम है कि वह इस दवा के बगैर कोई दूसरी दवा फ्लू के लिए उपयोग कर सकता है। हाँ, WHO की तरफ से भी यह advice है कि अगर किसी आदमी को शुरू में खांसी है, जुकाम है, तो उसमें वह Tami Flu पर मत जाए, जब उसे यह मालूम हो जाए कि यह बीमारी है, यह फ्लू है, तभी उस पर जाए। इस तरह नॉर्मल बुखार खांसी के लिए या नॉर्मल जुकाम के लिए तो कोई भी रिटेलर या कोई भी कम्पनी कोई दवा देती होगी, लेकिन खास करके जब एक दफा swine flu डिटेक्ट हो गया, तब मैं नहीं समझता कि कोई भी कम्पनी tamiflu के बगैर किसी दवा को prescribe करेगी।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I appreciate Minister's version that, as compared to the world, the spread in India is much less. As per the Minister's statement on 30th June, the total number of cases was 103, and nine were indigenous cases. The World Health Organisation, as you may be aware, has already designated the present outbreak of H1N1 virus as the planet's fastest moving pandemic. In just less than six weeks, the spread has been much more than what the past pandemic flu viruses did in more than six months. Now, as per the present statistics, the total number of affected people, as on yesterday, is 574, and the number of indigenous cases is 207. From nine to 207 is a substantial increase. The number of affected children is 245, from amongst these 504. We must stop one more Rheda from becoming a victim. While appreciating that the Government is spending Rs. 10,000 for determination of every positive case and Rs. 5000 for every negative case, I would like to ask the Minister whether he has instructed all the schools to conduct awareness programmes for the school children. Also, have you instructed private hospitals where Rheda seems to have acquired this infection, to take necessary care and to make Tamiflu drug freely available?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, this is a very pertinent question. This is one of the fastest moving and travelling disease viruses across the globe and, that is why I have been saying, while not taking credit for that, that I would like to give 100 per cent credit to our doctors who have been working at different airports because contact-tracing, as far as I understand, is being done and has been done by our country all over. I would like to again explain what contact-tracing is. We started this entry screening and, so far, 43 lakh people coming from different parts of the

world have been screened, not physically, but they have been provided a form at airports and sea ports; if they have symptoms, they are supposed to fill up the forms. Whosoever had filled in this form at the sea ports or the airports were immediately shifted to the nearest isolation facility centres and tested, and for any person or individual who tested positive, immediately, within 12 hours, the contact-tracing started. If he had come in a particular flight, the manifest of that airline was taken. The addresses and the manifest of passengers sitting up to three seats behind him, three seats in front and also sitting on his left and right were taken and they were contacted at their respective places in different States; they were put on the tamiflu. Such cases are not in hundreds; such cases are more than 7,000; and all the 7,000 contact traces have been treated successfully. So, it is not for nothing that the disease has not spread. Maybe, other countries did not take so much of pains. If we would not have contacted, Sir, these so-called 7000-odd suspect cases would by now have gone to seven million cases because it runs into geometrical ratio; 7000 cases would have spread to 14000 cases, 14000 cases would have spread to 28000 cases, and then, it would have gone to millions. So, I want to say here that most of the people do not appreciate that when other countries had hands-up, we did not say, 'hands-up'. We tried to trace it up to their place of residence and the State, and treated them.

Sir, in the last part of his supplementary, the hon. Member has mentioned about the school. As I have said, we are going to review it after every second day. We have not so far allowed this Tamiflu to be sold in the retail market. In the next two-three days, we are, again, going to review it. Should the need warrant that it has to be allowed for the public consumption on the retail, we will do so. Our scientists and doctors are meeting almost everyday to take stock of the situation. As and when the need will be felt to give directions to students and directions with regard to open-market sale of Tamiflu that will be done.

पोलियो से प्रभावित देश

*484. **डा. राम प्रकाश:** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या विश्व में केवल चार देश ही पोलियो से प्रभावित हैं;
- (ख) क्या उनमें से एक देश भारत है तथा पोलियो से ग्रस्त सर्वाधिक रोगी भारत में हैं;
- (ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और
- (घ) भारत में 'पोलियो-उन्मूलन' का लक्ष्य कब तक प्राप्त कर लिये जाने की संभावना है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद): (क) और (घ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (घ) विश्व में केवल 4 देशों में ही पोलियो स्थानिकमारी के रूप में व्याप्त है और उन्होंने कभी भी घातक पोलियो विषाणु के संचरण को नहीं रोका है। ये देश नाइजीरिया, भारत, पाकिस्तान और अफगानिस्तान हैं।

इन 4 स्थानिकमारी वाले देशों के अतिरिक्त ऐसे 15 देश हैं जिन्होंने वर्ष 2009 के दौरान अब तक पोलियो के रोगियों की सूचना दी है।

वर्ष 2008 और 2009 के दौरान देशों में सूचित किए गए पोलियो रोगियों की संख्या विवरण-1 में दर्शाई गई है। (नीचे देखिए)

भारत में पोलियो के रोगियों की संख्या अधिकतम नहीं है। नाइजीरिया ने भारत की अपेक्षा पोलियो के अधिक रोगियों की सूचना दी है। वर्ष 2009 के दौरान अब तक भारत ने नाइजीरिया में पोलियो के 349 रोगियों की तुलना में पोलियो के 163 रोगियों की सूचना दी है। वर्ष 2008 में भारत ने पोलियो के 559 रोगियों की सूचना दी थी जबकि नाइजीरिया ने पोलियो के 789 रोगियों की सूचना दी थी।

भारत सरकार ने भारतीय विशेषज्ञ सलाहकार दल (आईईजी) गठित किया है जिसमें जन स्वास्थ्य, जनपादिक रोग विज्ञान और विषाणु विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में राष्ट्रीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विशेषज्ञ शामिल हैं। यह दल पोलियो की स्थिति की समीक्षा करने के लिए प्रत्येक वर्ष 2 बार बैठकें करता है और पोलियो उन्मूलन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत सरकार को सिफारिशें करता है। भारतीय विशेषज्ञ सलाहकार दल ने जून, 2009 को हुई अपनी पिछली बैठक में यह निष्कर्ष निकाला है कि जानपदिक रोग विज्ञान, विषाणु विज्ञान, जेनेटिक प्रचालानात्मक और तकनीकी प्रमाण से ऐसा पता चलता है कि भारत मजबूती से पोलियो का पूरी तरह से उन्मूलन करने के सही मार्ग पर अग्रसर है। तथापि, उन्मूलन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने की कोई पक्की तारीख नहीं दी जा सकती है।

विवरण-1

वर्ष 2008-2009 के दौरान देशों में पोलियो के रोगियों की संख्या
(28 जुलाई, 2009 की स्थिति के अनुसार)

देश का नाम	वर्ष 2009 से अब तक	वर्ष 2008 से अब तक	वर्ष 2008 का योग
1	2	3	4
भारत	163*	331	559
पाकिस्तान	25	17	117
गिनिया	13	0	0
नाइजीरिया	349	483	798
अफगानिस्तान	13	13	31
चेड	7	9	37
कार (सीएआर)	13	1	3
लाइबेरिया	3	0	0
केन्या	17	0	0
नाइजर	15	12	12
सूडान	44	1	26
कोटे डी आईवोर	17	0	1
बरकीना फासो	12	0	6

1	2	3	4
अंगोला	13	20	29
यूगांडा	8	0	0
बेनिन	20	1	6
डी आर सी	2	2	5
टोगो	6	0	3
माली	1	0	1
घाना	0	0	8
नेपाल	0	4	6
इथोपिया	0	2	3

*31 जुलाई, 2009 को

Polio affected countries

‡*484. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether only four countries in the world are afflicted by polio;
- whether one of them is India and maximum number of cases of polio are in India;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- by when the target of polio eradication is likely to be completed in India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Only four countries in the world are endemic for polio and have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus. They are Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In addition to these 4 endemic countries, there are 15 countries that have reported polio cases during 2009 so far.

The number of polio cases reported in the countries during 2008 and 2009 are shown in the Statement-I (See below).

India does NOT account for the maximum number of polio cases. Nigeria has reported more polio cases than India. During the year 2009 so far, India has reported 163 polio cases compared with 349 polio cases in Nigeria. In the year 2008, India reported 559 polio cases while Nigeria reported 789.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government of India has constituted the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) that comprises of national and international experts in the field of public health, epidemiology and virology. This group meets twice each year to review the polio situation and provide recommendations to the Government of India to achieve polio eradication. IEAG in its last meeting held in June, 2009, has concluded that epidemiological, virological, genetic, operational and technical evidence suggests that India is firmly on the right path to finish polio eradication. However, no firm date for achieving eradication can be given.

Statement-I

The number of polio cases reported in the countries during 2008-2009

Case breakdown by country

(as on 28th July, 2009)

Country	Year-to-date 2009	Year-to-date 2008	Total in 2008
1	2	3	4
India	163*	331	559
Pakistan	25	17	117
Guinea	13	0	0
Nigeria	349	483	798
Afghanistan	13	13	31
Chad	7	9	37
CAR	13	1	3
Liberia	3	0	0
Kenya	17	0	0
Niger	15	12	12
Sudan	44	1	26
Cote d'Ivoire	17	0	1
Burkina Faso	12	0	6
Angola	13	20	29
Uganda	8	0	0
Benin	20	1	6
DRC	2	2	5

1	2	3	4
Togo	6	0	3
Mali	1	0	1
Ghana	0	0	8
Nepal	0	4	6
Ethiopia	0	2	3

*As on 31st July 2009

डा० राम प्रकाश : श्रीमन्, मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि प्रति- वर्ष भारत में पोलियो कि दवा कितनी मात्रा में निर्मित की जाती है, कितनी दवा किन-किन देशों से आयात की जाती है और उस पर क्या व्यय होता है? महोदय, मैं सवाल का विस्तृत, सही और संदर्भानुकूल दिए गए लिखित उत्तर के लिए मंत्री जी को बधाई भी देता हूँ।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए, बधाई मत दीजिए।

डा० राम प्रकाश : महोदय, मैं ने सवाल पूछा है कि प्रति वर्ष भारत में पोलियो कि कितनी दवा निर्मित की जाती है, कितनी दवा किन-किन देशों से आयात की जाती है और उस पर क्या व्यय होता है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, माननीय सदस्य को बधाई के लिए बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। महोदय, पोलियो के लिए mostly दवा हमारे यहां अपनी बनती है और वैक्सीन कुछ दूसरी जगह से भी आती हैं। अभी मेरे पास नाम नहीं हैं क्योंकि अभी हम ने पोलियो की वैक्सीन यहां लगानी शुरू नहीं की है। वह एक exercise चल रही है। अभी हम orally बच्चों को देते हैं, परंतु injectable हमें injection देना होगा या नहीं देना होगा, उस के बारे में अभी exercise चल रही है और जब वह exercise इस अगले दो-तीन महीनों में पूरी हो जाएगी, उस के बाद आयात या निर्यात का काम शुरू होगा।

डा० राम प्रकाश : महोदय, पोलियो की रोकथाम में, भारत में सर्वाधिक सफलता किन-किन प्रदेशों में प्राप्त हुई है और सब से ज्यादा पिछड़े हुए प्रदेश इस प्रसंग में कौन से हैं? महोदय, क्या वहां पोलियो उन्मूलन में असफलता का कारण कुछ ऐसी अफवाहें हैं कि ये ड्रॉप्स देने से बच्चे में नपुंसकता या कुछ इस तरह की बीमारियां हो सकती हैं?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: सर, हमारे देश में पोलियो 35 में से तकरीबन 33 राज्यों में खत्म हो गया है और अब यह पोलियो अधिकतर उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार तक सीमित रह गया है। इसकी संख्या भी आज 10 सालों में बहुत कम हुई है। अगर आप देखेंगे तो 10 साल पहले इसके लगभग 1126 केसेज़ पूरे देश में थे। पिछले साल, 2008 तक 10 सालों में इन केसेज़ की संख्या 1126 से घट कर 560 तक पहुँच गई है। मुझे अफसोस है इन 560 में से भी तकरीबन 538 केसेज़ सिर्फ उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में हैं। सिर्फ कुछ दर्जन केसेज़ ही पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में हैं। इन 560 केसेज़ में से 305 उत्तर प्रदेश में और 233 बिहार में हैं।

सर, पोलियो का जो Immunization Programme है, वह साल में पहले दो दफा लगता था, अब यह 6-7 दफा होता है। अब उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार पर खास तौर से ध्यान केन्द्रित किया जा रहा है। अभी मैंने दो-तीन दिन पहले एक मीटिंग बुलाई थी और उसमें यह पूछा था कि अगर यह पूरे देश में खत्म हुआ तो उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में क्यों नहीं हुआ? मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुँचा हूँ कि उसका कारण यह है कि बहुत सारी चीजों की तरह, कुछ राज्यों में जो चीजें पहुँचनी चाहिए, वे नहीं पहुँचीं। मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुँचा हूँ कि इन राज्यों में हमें जो आंकड़े दिये जाते हैं, वे कितने authentic हैं, हमें इसकी तह तक जाना है। हमें जो लिख कर दिया जाता है कि इतने बच्चों को पोलियो ड्रॉप्स दिये गए हैं, उसकी authenticity क्या है? जब मैंने अपने अधिकारियों

से पूछा, तो उन्होंने कहा राज्य सरकार ने लिख कर दे दिया है। अभी तक जो इससे जुड़ा है या नहीं जुड़ा है, दूसरे प्रोग्राम्स में जो vaccines पूरे देश में लगते हैं, मैं उनसे बिल्कुल satisfy नहीं हूँ, क्योंकि पूरे देश के जिलों में जो चीफ मेडिकल ऑफिसर (सी.एम.ओ.) है, वह यह दिखाने के लिए कि मैं बहुत अच्छा काम कर रहा हूँ, वह एक संख्या बनाता है। फिर वह सेक्रेटरी के पास जाता है, वे अपनी - और स्टेट्स अपना-अपना नंबर बढ़ाने के लिए लिख कर देते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के लिए कल हमने instructions दी हैं, जिसे हम बड़ी सरख्ती से लागू करेंगे। इसमें हमने कहा है कि नवम्बर से आगे आने वाले वक्त के लिए हम जो भी पोलियो ड्रॉप्स बच्चों को देंगे, उन तमाम बच्चों के नाम, उनका address, उनकी parentage और उनका टेलीफोन नंबर soft disc में डाला जाएगा और उसकी कॉपी हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री को मिलनी चाहिए ताकि कोई भी नकली, कोई स्टेट हमें केवल नंबर लिख कर न भेजे कि हमने 50 लाख immunization किया या 20 लाख immunization किया। जब यह होगा तो मुझे पूरा यकीन है कि हर बच्चे को vaccine मिलेगी।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, मंत्री जी ने answer दिया। आज Health Day है। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि we have been doing the 'Polio Plus Campaign', तो क्या आपने पोलियो के oral vaccine देने के बाद कोई सर्वे किया है कि जिन लोगों को vaccine दिये गये, उनमें से कितने लोग पोलियो से affected हो गये? क्योंकि यह जो oral Polio vaccine दिया जाता है, वह refrigerated condition में रहना चाहिए। अगर आप गांव में देखते हैं, अगर उसकी चेन टूट जाती है तो वह ineffective हो जाता है। आप बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के गांवों की बात कर रहे हैं, तो जो vaccine वहां दिया गया है, क्या आपने इसका कभी कोई सर्वे किया है? आपने figures दिये हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में अब यह 163 हैं, जो 559 से कम हुए हैं, मगर पाकिस्तान में यह 117 में से सिर्फ 25 रह गये हैं। दूसरी बात है कि जब भी कभी हमारे मुल्क में इस तरह की ऐपिडेमिक की बात होती है तो हम क्यों अफ्रीकन या डेवलपिंग कंट्रीज के कोटे में जाते हैं, हम एडवांस कंट्रीज के कोटे में क्यों नहीं जाते हैं, हमेशा नाइजीरिया से हमारा रिफरेंस क्यों दिया जाता है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, मैं मैडम से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ, जो इन्होंने सवाल पूछा है, वही सवाल मैंने अपनी मिनिस्ट्री से पूछा कि हमारा comparison ऐसे क्यों होता है - जब हम टेक्नोलॉजी की बात करते हैं तो विकसित देशों अमरीका, ब्रिटेन और जापान की बात करते हैं और जहां हमारी कमजोरी होती है तो हम बंगला देश, नेपाल और अफ्रीकन कंट्रीज के साथ comparison करते हैं? मैंने उनको कहा कि ये दो पैमाने नहीं चलेंगे। या तो हम अमरीका, ब्रिटेन और जापान के मुकाबले के हैं या हम अफ्रीका के मुकाबले के हैं, यह हमको फैसला करना होगा। मैंने अपने मंत्रालय के साथियों को बता दिया है कि यह दोहरा मापदंड नहीं चलेगा। इसलिए, मैंने कल बता दिया है कि मैं खाली इसी वैक्सीन से नहीं, बल्कि सभी ..(व्यवधान)..

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए0 हेपतुल्ला : आप इसी का बता दीजिए।

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : बाकी जितने भी immunisation programmes चल रहे हैं, उनमें भी हम तो vaccine प्रोवाइड करते हैं, हम तो खरीदते हैं, हम तो राज्य सरकारों को देते हैं, उसके लिए incentives भी देते हैं, लेकिन उधर से नकली कागज भरकर आता है या असली Immunisation Programme होता है, इसका हमारे पास कोई आंकड़ा नहीं है।

डा0 (श्रीमती) नजमा ए0 हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैंने specific question पूछा है कि आपने Polio Vaccine Campaign के बाद, जो TV वगैरह पर दिखाए जाते हैं, क्या कभी कोई सर्वे किया है कि vaccine देने के बाद कितने बच्चों को पोलियो हुआ? That is most important. You do what you want to do.

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : अभी उसी के लिए हम कह रहे हैं कि we are going to now introduce compulsory. अभी अगर आप सर्वे करेंगे तो वह सर्वे भी वैसा ही आएगा जैसा immunisation होगा। जब

immunisation का कोई अर्थ नहीं तो सर्वे का क्या अर्थ होगा। इसीलिए हमने कहा कि हम compulsory पोलियो से शुरु करेंगे और बाद में सभी immunisation programmes के लिए, in the medium term, हम इन सबका computer में रिकार्ड रखेंगे - उस बच्चे का नाम, गांव, टेलिफोन नम्बर आदि और फिर कोई गलत आंकड़ा नहीं आएगा, क्योंकि फिर हम यहां से किसी भी गांव में पूछ सकते हैं कि तुम्हें vaccine लगी है या नहीं। अभी आप सर्वे कराएंगे तो उसका क्या अर्थ है, जैसा vaccine लगा है वैसा ही सर्वे भी आएगा।

श्री वी० हनुमंत राव : सर, स्वाइन फ्लू के अलावा भी आंध्र प्रदेश के ट्राइबल एरियाज़ में दैवी बीमारी की वजह से बहुत से लोग ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Question is on polio. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question quickly because we are running out of time.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Minister, we have been listening to you. You have been nice enough to give an exhaustive reply and all that. We are happy for that. As far as my question is concerned, how long the problem of polio has been in existence in Tamil Nadu? How long it is there? It is very important to know. You have been trying your level best to do something and you are making efforts this way and that way. All these things are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: But the fact remains that it has not been eradicated. How long has it been in existence and how long have you been trying to eradicate it? You have stated in your reply that a time frame cannot be specified. You have been emphatic in many of your replies. You seem to very keen on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I need a time frame within which you can eradicate polio. You have done it in smallpox and many other diseases, why can't you do it in polio also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to put a question or to make a statement?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my specific question is ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you have exactly 30 seconds to reply.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I will fully utilise this. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, as I have said in the beginning, it is almost eradicated across the country except Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. If the hon. Member goes through the chart, which we have provided, he will find that in the last four years, rather including this fifth year also, there has not been even a single case reported from Tamil Nadu. In the last 11 years, there have been only 8 cases, 7 in one year, and 1 in another one year. In the last nine years, there has not been even a single case of polio. Therefore, it should be treated almost as eradicated. Now our attention is to be focussed on Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Spurt in prices of pulses

*482. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have shown a spurt in the recent months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in prices of pulses over the last six months and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that pulses are made available, if possible, through Public Distribution System, to the people at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Delhi, the wholesale prices of pulses as on 4.8.2009 had registered an increase over the last six months as follows: Gram (4.31%), Masoor (5.36%), Tur dal (47.54%), Moong dal (39.47%), Urad dal (31.08%). The domestic prices of pulses have risen mainly on account of demand supply mismatch. Availability of Tur, Moong and Urad reduced considerably during 2008-09 as compared to the previous year. As per 4th Advance Estimates, the domestic production of pulses declined to 14.66 million tonnes during 2008-09 as compared to 14.76 million tonnes during 2007-08. In addition, hardening of international prices affected imports of pulses, which declined from 2.95 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 2.57 million tonnes in 2008-09.

(c) Government has taken specific measures to improve the domestic availability and ease the price situation with respect to pulses. These measures include, extending import of pulses at zero duty up to 31.3.2010; extending ban on export of pulses (except kabuli chana) up to 31.3.2010 and extending the current dispensation for PSUs to import pulses against reimbursement up to 15% of losses and service charge of 1.2% of cif value up to 31.3.2010. In order to ensure the supply of pulses at reasonable rates to the vulnerable sections of society, Government has initiated a scheme to give subsidy to PSUs @ Rs. 10 per kg to supply imported pulses to state governments for distribution through PDS. This scheme is extended up to 30.9.2009.

Schemes launched in view of unemployment in rural areas

*485. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether in view of large-scale unemployment or under-employment of youth in rural areas, any specific schemes have been launched containing incentives like access to finance or giving preference to purchase of their products;

(b) whether training facilities in organizations like State-run Industrial Training Institutes have adequate rural penetration to avoid wastage of to-and-fro journeys involving significant time and distance factors; and

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has broadly achieved the purpose for which it was set up aiming at optimum utilization of local resources and talent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) formulates policies and programmes and coordinates activities for the development of khadi, village and coir industries. With a view to providing employment in rural as well as urban areas, the Ministry of MSME has been implementing 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP). PMEGP is a credit-linked subsidy scheme launched in August 2008 by merging the erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) of this Ministry. It is a significant initiative and is more attractive and useful than both the above schemes. Under this programme, financial assistance is provided to prospective entrepreneurs to set up micro-enterprises costing upto Rs. 10 lakh in service/business sector and Rs. 25 lakh in manufacturing sector in rural and urban areas. The permissible margin money subsidy provided under PMEGP is as under:

Categories of beneficiaries under PMEGP	Beneficiary's Contribution (of project cost)	Rate of Subsidy (of project cost)	
		Urban	Rural
General Category	10%	15%	25%
Special Category (including SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas etc.)	05%	25%	35%

PMEGP is implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is being implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industries Centres (DICs) with involvement of banks. Applications are invited by implementing agencies and are screened by District Level Task Force and recommended to banks for consideration and sanctioning of credit for setting up of the proposed micro-enterprises. The State/UT - wise number of persons estimated to have benefited from employment generated under REGP during 2006-07 and 2007-08, and PMEGP during 2008-09 (provisional figures) are given in the Statement (See below).

358 items have been reserved for purchase by the Central Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertaking from small scale industrial units including units in handicraft sector like cane furniture, bamboo file tray, baskets, pencil-stand, side racks, artistic wooden furniture, jute products, file cover, woolen and silk carpets, etc. Some State Governments/local authorities have also issued guidelines to agencies/offices under their control to extend preference to KVI items while making purchase.

(b) The Government in the Ministry of Labour and Employment through Directorate General of Employment and Training is considering setting up 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) and 5000 skill development centers in the country preferably in the un-serviced blocks/difficult and backward areas; including hilly areas, border areas, etc. in Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode so that large unskilled workforce in these areas acquire skills and join mainstream workforce in progressive regions.

Further, KVIC conducts training programmes in various disciplines for supervisors, managers, artisans, orientation and refresher courses for artisans and entrepreneurs, specialized courses for prospective entrepreneurs, etc., through a network of the training centres run by KVIC, KVIB and Institutions/NGOs and accredited training centres which includes peripatetic components for achieving rural penetration.

(c) Through its various programmes and aiming at optimum utilization of local resources and talent, KVIC assists the khadi and village institutions for producing saleable products viz., khadi and khadi cloth, agarbatti, honey, pickles, handmade soap, handmade paper, papad, etc. The details of growth in the value of production and sales of the khadi and village industries sector as well as employment during each of the last three years are given below which indicates that KVIC has broadly achieved the purpose for which it was set up:

Year	Production (Value Rs. crore)		Sales (Value Rs. crore)		Cumulative Employment (Lakh persons)	
	Khadi	V.I.**	Khadi	V.I.**	Khadi	V.I.**
2006-07	491.52	13527.19	663.19	18888.21	8.84	80.08
2007-08	543.39	16134.32	724.39	20819.09	9.16	90.11
2009-09*	565.12	16779.70	854.78	21668.48	9.53	93.78

*Provisional **Estimated

Statement

State/UT-wise number of persons estimated to have benefited through employment generated under REGP during 2006-07 and 2007-08, and PMEGP during 2008-09

(Number of persons)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Estimated employment generated under REGP		Estimated employment generated under PMEGP*
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	50	199	310
2.	Delhi	267	215	50
3.	Haryana	28339	45185	8210
4.	Himachal Pradesh	17102	26848	3400
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	23274	43865	18210
6.	Punjab	35604	37412	8870
7.	Rajasthan	44168	94468	7030
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	323	273	80
9.	Bihar	12334	20057	67410
10.	Jharkhand	7289	9064	9400
11.	Orissa	16311	21857	19760
12.	West Bengal	42834	120126	56670
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	2106	1783	1300
14.	Assam	30912	48303	7280
15.	Manipur	1881	1105	30
16.	Meghalaya	2174	3509	30
17.	Mizoram	16455	17299	230
18.	Nagaland	3358	6910	310
19.	Tripura	5851	14178	50
20.	Sikkim	2208	2260	40
21.	Andhra Pradesh	59750	98449	9030

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Karnataka	42420	58855	24230
23.	Kerala	30144	48668	3890
24.	Lakshadweep	0	36	40
25.	Puducherry	854	2099	420
26.	Tamil Nadu	25216	54634	14730
27.	Goa	1389	809	70
28.	Gujarat	13520	19271	3070
29.	Daman and Diu	—	—	60
30.	Maharashtra	27182	33266	33680
31.	Chhattisgarh	17719	25933	10780
32.	Madhya Pradesh	22332	42793	6280
33.	Uttarakhand	10962	19270	3780
34.	Uttar Pradesh	51123	56652	44140
TOTAL		595451	975651	362870

*Provisional

Jan Aushadhi Outlets

*486. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) how many Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened so far and the details thereof, city-wise;

(b) what are the parameters of identifying the cities, locations and dealers for setting up Jan Aushadhi Outlets;

(c) whether Government has set any annual target for setting up such Outlets; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent black-marketing and pilferage from such Outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) At present, 14 Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan, as follows:-

State	District	Nos.
Punjab	Amritsar	1
	Mohali	1
	Bhatinda	1
	Ludhiana	1
	Jalandhar	1
	Patiala	1
	Faridkot	1
	Moga	1
Haryana	Panchkula	1
	Gurgaon	1
NCT of Delhi	New Delhi (in Shastri Bhawan)	1
Rajasthan	Jaipur	2
	Alwar	1
TOTAL		14

(b) Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened by Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings with the co-operation of State Governments in District Hospitals identified by the States. These Outlets are managed by State Government or Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), reputed Charitable Societies like Red Cross Society etc.

(c) The opening of Jan Aushadhi Outlets depends on the facilities that may be offered by the States in District Hospitals etc. Government has plans to open 270 Jan Aushadhi Outlets in 2009-10.

(d) The unbranded generic medicines are sold in Jan Aushadhi Outlets in specially designed packs. The sale price is printed on the strips/labels. Further software has been provided to these Outlets enabling them to account for purchase and sales.

Pending consumer cases

*487. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the National and State Consumer fora in the country;

(b) whether there is any time limit prescribed for disposal of cases by the various types of consumer fora;

(c) if so, the details as regards the time limit fixed; and

(d) the nature of consumer awareness programme, if any, carried out in the State of Goa since the establishment of consumer fora at the State and District levels?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The number of cases pending in the National Commission and State Commissions in the country, **as on 03.08.2009**, as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is as follows:

National Commission	State Commission	Total
8588	110610	119198

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Section 13 (3A) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides that every complaint shall be heard as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to decide the complaint within a period of three months from the date of receipt of notice by opposite party where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities and within five months, if it requires analysis or testing of commodities.

(d) In the State of Goa, a Multi-Media Consumer Awareness Campaign 'Jago Grahak Jago' is being carried out. Electronic and print Media are being utilized for the same. Grant-in-Aid has also been released to the State for carrying awareness activities. Song and Drama Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also been involved in creating consumer awareness.

Funds have also been given through the Consumer Welfare Fund to educational institutions for the purpose of holding seminars/workshops/festivals etc. for consumer awareness activities.

National pharma policy

*488. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government is working to revive a ministerial panel which was set up to finalise national pharmaceutical policy that has been hotly contested;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry had recommended constitution of a Group of Ministers (GoMs) to resolve differences that had delayed the policy;

(c) if so, whether the draft policy prepared after consultation with GoMs unveiled in 2006 contained proposal to bring all 354 essential drugs under price control;

(d) if so, whether the policy was opposed by pharmaceutical industry; and

(e) by when decision to set up a new GoMs would be taken and the final policy announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was

prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM was constituted on 31.1.2007 and had held four meetings on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008.

In the meeting of GOM held on 12.9.2007, presentations were made separately by representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations. During this meeting, GOM interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Associations (IDMA), Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). GoM also heard the views of NGOs namely Centre for Consumer Education, Research, Teaching Training and Testing (CONCERT), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE). The representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations have expressed their perspective regarding the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 including Price Control. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, GOM constituted on 31.1.2007 has not yet made its recommendations to the Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Government, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has recommended on 12.06.2009 for continuation of the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM takes a decision in this regard.

Irregularities in fertilizer subsidy

† *489. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the subsidy being provided by the Ministry is given to the fertilizer producing companies and the remaining 20 per cent is given after the report from State Governments is received;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that most of the fertilizer producing companies receiving subsidies are non-existent; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is considering investigation of irregularities prevalent in fertilizer subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Government gives subsidy on Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), 12 grades of NPK Complexes, Mono-Ammonium Phosphate MAP, Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP). As regard Urea under the New Pricing Scheme, fertilizer subsidy is released to the manufacturers of Urea on 100% basis on the receipt of Urea in the Districts. The 100% release is on the basis of *ad hoc* notified rates of subsidy. The concession rates are finalized on quarterly basis based on the escalation/de-escalation in the fuel/feedstock prices. The difference of subsidy is paid or recovered from the manufacturers. Under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled P&K fertilizers, the manufacturers/importers DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes, MAP, TSP and Ammonium Sulphate are provided 'On Account' payment of 85% (90% with Bank Guarantee) of the concession amount month-wise on receipt of the fertilizers in the states *w.e.f.* 1.12.2008. Prior to that, the 'On Account' payment was released on the sale of the fertilizers. In the case of SSP, the 'On Account' payment is released on the basis of sales of the fertilizers. The balance 15%-10% payment of concession is released to the manufacturers/importers of P&K Fertilizers after the State Governments certify the receipt/sale of the fertilizers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Department of Fertilizers investigates complaints regarding alleged irregularities by the fertilizer companies in claiming payment of concession.

Arrest of agents and without-ticket travellers

† *490. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of agents and passengers travelling on other's tickets and without tickets have been arrested by Railways in the third week of July, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of arrested agents and passengers travelling on other's tickets and without tickets from 5 July 2009 till date and the details zone-wise and division-wise; and

(d) whether any order has been issued by the Ministry in this regard in July, 2009; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Apprehension of touts/agents selling tickets in fictitious names and detection of passengers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

travelling on such tickets/travelling without tickets through checks is an ongoing activity. Date-wise figures of such checks are not maintained. However, the date for the period 05.07.2009 to 29.07.2009 are as under:

Railway	Number of touts/agents apprehended	Number of persons apprehended travelling on tickets purchases in other's names	Number of passengers travelling without tickets
Central	15	158	28148
Eastern	16	5	30911
East Central	4	1	15534
East Coast	1	4	2383
Northern	65	50	30525
North Central	Nil	24	6436
North Eastern	4	2	12527
Northeast Frontier	1	14	3774
North Western	3	17	20697
Southern	49	1707	18654
South Central	1	45	34652
South Eastern	2	Nil	16783
South East Central	Nil	Nil	2376
South Western	3	18	Nil
Western	8	52	34836
West Central	15	12	49
TOTAL	187	2109	248285

Since persons travelling on other's tickets in reserved accommodation are apprehended and charged by the ticket checking staff in the running trains, Division-Wise originating journeys of such passengers is not segregated.

(d) Orders have been issued to intensify such checks and effectively combat the menace of touts, passengers travelling without tickets, etc., so as to provide better service to the genuine passengers.

Loss of crops due to floods in Assam

*491. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and other agricultural products in Assam has been affected by heavy floods and the farmers are facing immense loss due to such perennial problem every year;

(b) if so, the details of action plan to provide protection to the farmers and to increase the agricultural production;

(c) whether various mission agencies working under the Ministry have forwarded any views or plan of action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Flood occurs almost every year in the State of Assam and affects the production of kharif crops, mainly winter paddy. According to the State Government, due to the floods of 2007-08 and 2008-09, about 5.82 lakh hectares and 3.15 lakh hectares of area, respectively, were affected. The State Government has informed loss of 5 human lives and damage to about 6348 hectares of cropped area during South-West Monsoon 2009.

2. The State Government has further informed that they have been taking up contingency measures under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and State plan schemes.

3. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods to mitigate its impact through funds available in CRF. However, in case additional assistance is required for relief operations, Government of India considers it on the submission of a detailed Memorandum by the State Government.

4. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture is constantly monitoring the kharif sowing operations in various States including Assam, in consultation with the State Government and other concerned agencies, and assistance is available to Assam through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation in the State.

Adulteration of edible oil with animal fat

*492. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the media reports regarding adulteration of edible vegetable oil with animal fat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government has taken or propose to take in such cases;

(d) whether responsibility of local authority has been fixed in such cases of adulteration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) There have been some media reports regarding adulteration of food items.

The State/UT Governments which are responsible for implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955, have been requested from time to time to keep strict vigil on adulteration of food.

They have been further advised to draw food samples, test them and take strict action against the offenders whose samples do not conform to the standards laid down in the PFA Act and Rules.

Gas cracker project in Assam

*493. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the commissioning of gas cracker project 'Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited' (BCPL) in Assam showing the details of phase-wise implementation;

(b) the domestic as well as international market link envisaged for the products and for the downstream industries;

(c) the steps taken for awareness and training of entrepreneurs in phases for direct and indirect employment avenues; and

(d) the details of recruitment drive made and planned for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The target for project commissioning is April 2012. The phase wise achievements of the project implementation in major areas is as given below:

An Agreement for constituting Joint Venture Company was executed on 18.10.2006 and M/s. Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) was incorporated on 8th January 2007. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for the Project at Lepatkata in Dibrugarh, Assam on 9th April 2007. Feedstock supply agreements for Naptha with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Oil India Limited (OIL), and Gas with Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) were signed in 2007. M/s Engineers India Limited (EIL) were appointed as the Project Management Consultant in 2007. 1157 Acres of land has been acquired for the project, including township etc. Civil construction activities for various components of the Project, including Plant and Non-Plant buildings have been started. Technology licensors for all the major units have been selected and license agreements signed during 2008 and 2009. Pipeline survey work has been completed. Firm commitments of Procurement and Contract in terms of Work Orders/Purchase Orders/Fees stand at Rs. 1686 crores till date.

(b) There is a huge gap between demand and supply of Polymer materials in the domestic market and it is envisaged that the total product will be consumed by domestic polymer processors.

(c) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Guwahati and Imphal are conducting various training programmes for Entrepreneurship Development and Skill Upgradation Programmes for the direct and indirect employment avenues for the upcoming Assam Gas Cracker Project. The training programmes are sponsored by different Government organizations like Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Financial Institutions like Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI).

(d) Written Test for 60 Graduate Engineering Trainees (GETs)/Executives Trainee (ETs) and 20 experienced Executives have been conducted. Further manpower to be recruited in future will be based on the specific requirements for Construction phase, Pre-Commissioning, Commissioning and Operation and Maintenance phases.

Collaboration with US in agriculture

*494. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently entered into a collaboration with the United States in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether US has agreed to provide help in agricultural research work to improve productivity; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has cooperation with USA under the Indo-US Agriculture Knowledge Initiative, signed on 12.11.2005. Besides this, there is cooperation between DARE/ICAR and some of the American Universities such as Cornell University and Iowa State University in the field of agricultural research.

Use of organic manure

*495. SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken/is planning to take measures to popularize and increase use of organic manure for agriculture and progressive reduction of the use of chemical

fertilizers, in view of the beneficial aspects of the organic manure and adverse effects of the chemical fertilizers both on the quality of agricultural produce and the fertility of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government has taken measures to popularize organic manure and increase its usage under different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation such as the National Project on Organic Farming, the National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility etc. because of its beneficial impact on soil health.

Though imbalanced and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers has been observed to have affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country, balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers is not known to adversely affect quality of agricultural produce or soil fertility. Keeping in view the imperative of increasing agricultural production, it is not feasible to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in the country as a whole.

Insurance scheme to protect cash crops farmers

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any plans to extend the insurance scheme under the Agriculture Ministry to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to protect the cash crops, farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two insurance schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under both the schemes, food, oilseeds and annualcommercial/horticultural crops are covered. Plantation and Cash Crops such as tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco are not covered under these schemes. However, Department of Commerce is already implementing Weather (Rainfall) Insurance as a Risk Management Support for Coffee Growers and have formulated a proposal on crop insurance scheme for tea, rubber, tobacco and some spices.

Construction of new station at Nedumbassery

*497. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for construction of a new railway station at Nedumbassery to make better rail connectivity with Nedumbassery Airport, which is one of the fast developing international airports in the western coast of the peninsula; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) A Memorandum has been received from Shri M. Vijayakumar, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala on 18.6.2009. One of the items in the Memorandum is regarding construction of new railway station at Nedumbassery to provide connectivity to the International airport at Nedumbassery. The matter is under examination.

Increasing number of cancer patients

*498. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of new cancer patients is increasing by one lakh annually;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the reasons for the increasing number of cancer patients in the country, particularly food pipe/breast cancer amongst women;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the strategies to be adopted to make Government hospitals/health centres equipped to handle such cases, free of cost; and

(e) the fiscal allocation made to combat increasing number of cancer cases for the last three years till the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Health being a state subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However, according to the population based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Program of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are about nine lakhs new cancer cases occurring every year in the country. Further, the estimated annual increase in the incidence of new cancer cases is about 17000. There are several factors in the causation of these cancers but the exact reasons are still not known clearly.

Central Government has evolved a comprehensive cancer control strategy *i.e.* National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) where emphasis has been laid down on awareness, prevention, early detection and treatment. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. Diagnosis and treatment of cancer is available in the health care delivery system at various levels in Districts Hospitals, Medical Colleges and tertiary apex centers. There are 27 Regional Cancer Centres for comprehensive

care management in the country. The treatment of cancer is either free or subsidized in the Government institutions. The Government has set up the “Health Minister’s Cancer Patient Fund” (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cancer patients for treatment of this chronic disease.

The fund allocation for the National Cancer Control Program pertaining to last three years is as under:-

Year	Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
2007-08	110.00
2008-09	105.00
2009-10	120.00

Curtailment in budgetary allocation for health schemes

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

- (a) whether Government has made curtailment in health budget;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of health-schemes in respect of which budget has been curtailed; and
- (d) whether Government has made an assessment of the effects of curtailment in health budget on human resource development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) no curtailment has been made in the health budget. Rather, there is a steady increase in the allocation for the entire health sector over the years as given below:-

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2006-07	11688.00	1322.55	13010.55
2007-08	14363.00	1491.88	15854.88
2008-09	16534.00	1589.00	18123.00
2009-10	19534.00	3107.33	22641.33

Difference between consumer purchase price and producers’ selling price

†*500. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is fact that there is a huge difference between consumer purchase price and producer's selling price of essential daily use consumer commodities in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the average minimum and maximum difference in the first quarter of the years 2008-09 and 2009-10; and

(c) whether this difference has caused high inflation and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The difference between producer's price and consumer's price of essential commodities vary from commodity to commodity and location. Wholesale and retail prices are collected on a weekly/daily basis. Any large differences between the wholesale and retail prices are brought to the Notice of the respective State Governments. The wholesale and retail prices are mainly determined by market forces of supply and demand. Difference in wholesale price and retail price of essential commodities is mainly due to (i) transportation and handling costs (ii) packaging and other marketing expenses at retail, (iii) retailers mark-up and (iv) various taxes levied by different State Governments e.g. octroi duty.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Empowerment of women in animal husbandry and dairy sector

†3656. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for empowerment of women in animal husbandry and dairy sector;

(b) whether women have any contribution in the field of fish, milk and food and they also remain forerunner in dairy cooperative; and

(c) if so, the level at which Government is helping them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Women are actively involved in allied fisheries activities like seed collection, fishing and juvenile fishes, collection of mussels, sea weeds, fish marketing, fish processing and product development etc.

Under the Central Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Central financial assistance to the tune 75% of the product cost is provided to fisherwomen/fishermen cooperatives, self help groups of women for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities with a view to empowering the women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

About 71% of women are involved in various activities in dairy sector. They have been at the forefront of Dairy Cooperative Movement which was initially carried under the "Operation Flood" Programme and later under the "Integrated Dairy Development Programme" implemented by the Central Government.

(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering a Central Sector Scheme called 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme which provides skill upgradation training in animal husbandry and dairying sectors by mobilizing women in viable cooperative/SHGs, arranging for marketing linkages, support services and access to credit etc. Financial assistance is provided to women beneficiaries through various implementing agencies.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has established a Directorate of Women in Agriculture with the major objective of empowering of women in agriculture with advance knowledge and skills in farm operations. Such empowerment schemes carried out through training and demonstration also covers the animal husbandry sub sector. In addition to this all the Kissan Vikas Kendras in the country carried out women centric training in Animal Husbandry Sector.

Implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

3657. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with crops included and norms for payment under the said scheme;
- (c) whether Government proposes to amend the NAIS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited under modified NAIS along with the likely additional financial liability on Government as a result thereof during the current financial year; and
- (f) how much amount has been paid towards this scheme to farmers in last three years against their crops losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Insurance scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season onward. The scheme is voluntary for the States and UTs and is available to all the farmers—loanee and non-loanee both — irrespective of their size of holdings. It envisages coverage of food crops, oilseeds, pulses and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which yield data is available for adequate number of years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per provisions of the scheme, farmers are not required to file/lodge any claims. The payment of claims in a notified area becomes payable if there is a short fall in yield against guaranteed yield due to any non-preventable risk.

(b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group on Crop Insurance, constituted by the Government, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared. Modified NAIS *inter alia* include reduction in the unit area of insurance for major crops, improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher indemnity level; coverage of additional risk etc.

(e) and (f) In view of improvements in the proposed Modified NAIS more farmers would like to take insurance cover and hence, more farmers would be benefited by way of payment of compensation. As the scheme is yet to be finalized, no claim amount has been paid so far under the Modified NAIS.

Corruption in regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh

3658. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received from the industry about corruption in the regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh;

(b) is there any specific complaint received about officials in the laboratory demanding ratifications for modification of reports on results;

(c) if so, the nature of enquiries made into these complaints;

(d) the action taken in the specific cases of complaints; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to avoid corruption in national testing laboratories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) A complaint was received from pesticides industry regarding analysis of pesticide samples at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) located at Kanpur and Chandigarh. Following the complaint, some of the pesticide samples which were earlier tested by these RPTLs were re-analyzed at the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad. This revealed that a number of samples which were reported to be 'misbranded' or 'branded' by RPTLs were found 'branded' or 'misbranded' respectively. The officers in charge of RPTLs were placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings initiated against them.

(e) Multi-tier coding system has been adopted in the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad as well as the Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), Chandigarh and Kanpur so that identity of pesticide samples is not revealed right from receipt of sample to dispatch of the test report from the laboratory.

Co-operative farming

3659. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is introducing co-operative farming as a new initiative covering one or two villages in every district, without compelling farmers, to achieve agriculture growth in long term;

(b) if so, the details thereof worked out so far especially for Andhra Pradesh compared to other States; and

(c) the funds to be earmarked for this purpose for the current five year plan and the role of farmers in this regard especially for Andhra Pradesh?

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

(a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a scheme on following premises (i) Pooling of land of all farmers of a village on a voluntary basis and the land to be managed by the legal entity to be formed by the farmers, (ii) The Government to render maximum assistance for the success of the effort with least interference (iii) The government will ensure to provide guaranteed income to each share holder on the basis of maximum income earned by them during the last five years, and (iv) The main aspect of the scheme is to select 2 villages in 22 districts for integrated Agricultural collectively farming. The farmers are proposed to be given shares in lieu of their surrendering of individual rights over their land to the proposed body/society. The Government will provide seed capital equivalent to the land value contributed by farmers during first five years and banks have to be approached for extending loans to a tune of three to four times against the land guarantee to be offered by the farmers body. The well established practice of Consent Awards will be followed for acquisition of land (Jalayagnam) thereafter works will be followed for arriving at valuation of land, pooled up. The scheme once evolved, is planned to be implemented on an experimental basis in two villages selected in the district, based on the success of the projects. One month time is given for response from villages to be identified through a Gramsabha resolution to reach the Government of Andhra Pradesh before 28.8.2009.

(c) The information sought in the question about state-wise details is not maintained in the Department. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has stated that in Andhra Pradesh, 2,295 Joint Farming Cooperatives are registered with a total membership of 1,92,716 covering a total area of 2,62,776 acres. Out of these, 898 societies were extended finance assistance to a tune of Rs. 796.75 lakhs.

Calling back of fishermen by Coast Guard

3660. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints that the Coast Guard routinely handles our fishermen in a very rough way;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Coast Guard interrupts fishing operations for trivial reasons and generally call back fishermen to the port;

(c) has Government considered a code of conduct for the Coast Guard to ensure that such incidents are not repeated;

(d) what steps Government will take to ensure that the Coast Guard does not hamper fishing operations in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and

(e) the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (e) The Coast Guard has been entrusted to oversee the fishing operations of the Deep-Sea Fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in accordance with conditions laid down in Letter of Permission (LOP) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The members of the Coast Guard are bound by the Coast Guard Discipline Rules, 1986 which also involve treating the fishermen and seamen humanely at sea. The Coast Guard takes proactive measures for fishermen by training them, conducting Community Interaction programmes and rescuing them whenever they are in distress. No specific complaints regarding rough handling of fishermen by the Coast Guard have been received by the Government.

National Livestock Policy

3661. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Livestock Policy has been formulated;
- (b) if so, its salient features and follow-up action thereof;
- (c) the total indigenous and foreign cow-cattle population, breed-wise and whether indigenous breed is declining over the years, statistics, State-wise; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The salient features of the proposed National Livestock Policy are as under:
 - (i) Enhancing productivity in Livestock and removal of constraints which hinder productivity.
 - (ii) To double the availability of animal protein from the present level of 10 gm *per capita* per day to 20 gm *per capita* per day within a decade.
 - (iii) To improve understanding of socio economic problems relating to small holding systems and development of appropriate extension modules for transfer of technology for small farm production.
 - (iv) Formulation of breeding policy for each Livestock species aiming at qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock products.
 - (v) To provide quality assurance in the entire food chain to meet international standard concerning quality, hygiene and food safety.
 - (vi) Preparation of contingency plan concerning natural calamities and disease outbreaks which would also include appropriate insurance packages.

(vii) Strengthening of education infrastructure for training and retaining of Veterinary graduates, auxiliary staff as well as farmers.

(viii) Eradication and control of major animal diseases to improve productivity of animals and exploit export potential of livestock and livestock products.

The National Livestock Policy is under active consideration.

(c) and (d) The total number of indigenous cattle (state-wise) based on 1997 and 2003 census is annexed as Statement-I (*See below*) and total number of crossbred population (state-wise) is annexed as Statement-II (*See below*). The breed wise information on cattle/buffalo was not collected during the Livestock Census held up to 2003. Some breed wise parameters on the livestock have been included for the livestock census for 2007 which is under compilation.

Statement-I

State-wise total number of indigenous Cattle based on 1997 and 2003 census

(in thousands)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Indigenous						Total Cattle	
		Male		Female		Total		1997	2003
		1997	2003	1997	2003	1997	2003		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5712	4707	4139	3486	9851	8193	10602	9300
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	224	201	217	244	441	445	451	458
3.	Assam	3710	3878	4017	4122	7727	7999	8097	8440
4.	Bihar	12877	4184	11489	5271	24366	9455	24598	10729
5.	Chhattisgarh	4604	4343	4076	4286	8680	8629	8786	8882
6.	Goa	43	32	38	31	81	63	88	76
7.	Gujarat	3155	3286	3251	3498	6406	6785	6749	7424
8.	Haryana	675	410	878	557	1552	967	2401	1540
9.	Himachal Pradesh	945	800	861	759	1805	1559	2174	2236
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	959	714	1133	1050	2092	1764	3175	3084
11.	Jharkhand	—	4181	—	3332	—	7513	—	7659
12.	Karnataka	4511	3677	5027	4260	9539	7936	10831	9539
13.	Kerala	71	47	462	341	533	387	2491	2122

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10362	9077	8958	9519	19320	18595	19497	18913
15.	Maharashtra	8783	7610	6832	5917	15615	13527	18072	16303
16.	Manipur	258	189	182	160	439	349	508	418
17.	Meghalaya	344	347	394	397	738	744	756	767
18.	Mizoram	10	12	15	14	26	27	33	36
19.	Nagaland	99	93	130	115	230	208	383	451
20.	Orissa	7017	6838	5881	6002	12898	12840	13810	13903
21.	Punjab	327	289	483	219	810	508	2638	2039
22.	Rajasthan	4228	3547	7703	6843	11931	10390	12141	10854
23.	Sikkim	41	33	49	46	91	79	143	159
24.	Tamil Nadu	2317	1599	3224	2402	5541	4001	9046	9141
25.	Tripura	527	314	628	388	1155	702	1228	759
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9614	8239	8298	8678	17911	16917	20016	18551
27.	Uttarakhand	949	879	979	1082	1927	1961	2031	2188
28.	West Bengal	7762	7945	9134	9849	16895	17794	17832	18913
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	24	23	30	28	54	51	60	64
30.	Chandigarh	1	28	1	1	1	1	7	6
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	39	32	20	17	59	49	60	50
32.	Daman and Diu	4	3	2	2	6	4	6	4
33.	Delhi	6	4	30	30	36	34	96	92
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	2	2	3	2	4	4
35.	Pondicherry	6	3	17	12	23	16	73	78
TOTAL		90203	77534	88580	82961	178783	160495	198882	185181

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding up of figures.

0 is less than thousand figure

‘—’ NA

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, M.O. Agriculture and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Statement-II

State-wise total number of Crossbred Cattle based on
1997 and 2003 census

(in thousands)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Male		Female		Total	
		1997	2003	1997	2003	1997	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	213	272	539	836	751	1107
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	5	7	9	11	13
3.	Assam	95	122	274	318	369	440
4.	Bihar	117	217	115	1057	232	1274
5.	Chhattisgarh	39	127	67	126	105	253
6.	Goa	1	2	7	11	7	12
7.	Gujarat	62	118	280	521	342	639
8.	Haryana	292	114	556	459	848	573
9.	Himachal Pradesh	111	139	257	538	368	677
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	480	359	603	961	1083	1320
11.	Jharkhand		29		116		145
12.	Karnataka	155	139	1138	1463	1293	1602
13.	Kerala	144	135	1813	1600	1957	1735
14.	Madhya Pradesh	46	83	131	234	177	317
15.	Maharashtra	578	538	1879	2238	2457	2776
16.	Manipur	29	25	39	44	69	69
17.	Meghalaya	2	2	15	21	17	23
18.	Mizoram	2	2	6	7	8	9
19.	Nagaland	59	71	95	172	154	243
20.	Orissa	257	328	655	735	912	1063
21.	Punjab	398	274	1430	1257	1828	1561
22.	Rajasthan	33	69	178	394	211	464
23.	Sikkim	14	24	38	56	52	80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	1060	993	2445	4147	3506	5140
25.	Tripura	18	11	55	47	73	57
26.	Uttar Pradesh	929	459	1176	1175	2105	1634
27.	Uttarakhand	29	50	74	178	103	228
28.	West Bengal	161	222	775	897	936	1119
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	3	5	10	6	13
30.	Chandigarh	1	0.42	5	5	6	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.36	1	1	1	1	1
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0.05	0	0.04	0.01	0.08
33.	Delhi	9	6	50	51	60	58
34.	Lakshadweep	0.19	0.32	1	2	1	2
35.	Pondicherry	6	9	44	54	50	63
TOTAL		5344	4945	14755	19741	20099	24686

Note: 1. Totals may not tally due to rounding up of figures.

0 is less than thousand figure

‘—’ NA

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, M/O. Agriculture and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Decline in nutrition value of soil

‡3662. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there has been an inordinate fall in soil nutrition factors in several regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government action plan towards encouraging the use of bio-fertilizers to enhance soil fertility and control the use of urea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Over the years, imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, with little or no use of organic manures, has affected soil health and fertility in the intensively cultivated Indo-gangetic plains in the country.

(c) Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) use of bio-fertilizers is encouraged through trainings, field demonstrations, farmers' fairs etc. To increase availability of bio-fertilizers, financial assistance is provided for setting up new bio-fertilizer production units.

A new scheme, namely, National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility has been introduced during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including urea.

Claim made under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

‡3663. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to introduce the revised National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the payment made of amount claimed under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group on Crop Insurance constituted by the Government, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared. Modified NAIS *inter-alia* includes reduction in the unit area of insurance for major crops; improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher indemnity level; coverage of additional risks etc.

(c) A statement indicating State-wise number of farmers covered under NAIS during the last five years is at Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) A statement showing State-wise claim amount paid under NAIS so far, is at Statement-II.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*State-wise farmers covered under NAIS during the last five years
(from 2004-05 to 2008-09)*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Farmers Covered				
		Year 2004-05	Year 2005-06	Year 2006-07	Year 2007-08	Year 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2592621	2247535	2270278	2333702	2134420
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	118	208	78	176	198
3.	Assam	21241	22535	14618	19609	35165
4.	Bihar	411576	409946	684435	913018	765401
5.	Chhattisgarh	738704	665750	729320	708590	828297
6.	Goa	643	565	544	513	393
7.	Gujarat	1068284	891075	877882	839273	841662
8.	Haryana	168583	121400	98743	140741	1788
9.	Himachal Pradesh	25529	9499	19272	13228	22293
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4486	4501	5770	6012	1764
11.	Jharkhand	123313	828225	1262681	742089	742837
12.	Karnataka	963418	970767	1340337	636976	1288574
13.	Kerala	32549	31776	30212	33961	27953
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2132923	2176304	1859108	2215524	1845381
15.	Maharashtra	2210168	2555440	1676064	1984301	3502107
16.	Meghalaya	1504	1969	3102	1319	3225
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	1083404	1130061	1080217	973145	773544
19.	Puducherry	3682	4831	2824	2670	1545
20.	Rajasthan	1943030	2336993	2619180	2834649	2250815
21.	Sikkim	167	237	38	23	314
22.	Tamil Nadu	145639	119967	315371	557200	808617
23.	Tripura	1772	2651	2472	1889	4118

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1733429	1277156	1998002	2397911	2168213
25.	Uttarakhand	2882	15575	20135	33293	53793
26.	West Bengal	808484	897391	1001321	1052765	955280
GRAND TOTAL		16218149	16722357	17912004	18442577	19057697

Statement-II

*State-wise claims paid under NAIS since inception (i.e. Rabi 1999-2000)
till present season (i.e. Kharif 2009)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Claims Paid (In Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	176246.58
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	423.18
3.	Assam	0.63
4.	Bihar	98268.59
5.	Chhattisgarh	24267.73
6.	Goa	2.25
7.	Gujarat	256171.86
8.	Haryana	3111.81
9.	Himachal Pradesh	601.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.21
11.	Jharkhand	13307.19
12.	Karnataka	139780.89
13.	Kerala	2155.83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	86050.66
15.	Maharashtra	132331.70
16.	Meghalaya	32.13
17.	Mizoram	0.00
18.	Orissa	48104.03
19.	Puducherry	178.05
20.	Rajasthan	109458.49

1	2	3
21.	Sikkim	1.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	43635.18
23.	Tripura	52.59
24.	Uttar Pradesh	65301.10
25.	Uttarakhand	1338.31
26.	West Bengal	42713.67
TOTAL		1243545.25

Suicide by farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

‡3664. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of farmers have committed suicide during the past three years in Eastern Uttar Pradesh particularly in Mau, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Balia, Gazipur, Jaunpur and Varanasi;

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

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the plight of farmers in these districts is very pathetic and they are on the verge of committing suicide in large numbers any time; and

(d) year-wise and district-wise details of the steps taken by Government for the farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh in such conditions during the past five years?

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

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Central assistance for drought affected Karnataka

3665. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka State Government submitted to the Centre a Memorandum seeking Central assistance of Rs. 2019.55 crores on account of drought in the State in the year 2008; and

(b) if so, the extent to which State's request for drought relief has been accepted and by when the same is likely to be released?

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

(a) and (b) This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Union Finance Minister, in its meeting held on 1st July, 2009 and the HLC approved as under:-

- (i) Rs. 83.83 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State.
- (ii) Rs. 14.28 crores from Special Component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), implemented by the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Expansion of NAIS

3666. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 4 per cent of the country's farmers have availed the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) cover and more than 57 per cent farmers are unaware of crops being insured;

(b) whether a modified version of the existing insurance scheme for farmers is under examination by Government to expand the risk cover to more and more farmers;

(c) whether the present crop insurance scheme covers 23 States and 2 UTs and whether the Agricultural Insurance Corporation is insisting for a hike in premium for expanded coverage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir. At present, about 15.8% of total farmer's holdings are being covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). For better awareness about the scheme and to expand its coverage, particularly for non-loanee farmers, publicity campaigns both in print and electronic media through States/implementing agency is carried out.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) NAIS, at present, is being implemented by 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

No, Sir. For normal risk coverage (sum insured) flat premium rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% for food (including pulses), oilseeds and actuarial rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops are being charged. In case farmer wants to avail higher level of risk coverage (upto 150% of sum insured) commercial/actuarial rates of premium would be charged in respect of food and oilseed crops.

Alternative arrangements to tackle the uncertainty of monsoon

3667. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of rain fed agriculture in the country;
- (b) whether some alternative arrangements have been made for rain fed agriculture in the country in view of uncertainty of the monsoon;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made of the ground water utilization by the farmers for irrigation purposes;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) About 57% of the net sown area is cultivated under rainfed condition.

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

Ministry of Agriculture

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

Ministry of Rural Development

- (iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. Under the programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission also, special focus is given to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood and agricultural productivity.

(d) to (f) No specific assessment has been made regarding percentage of farmers utilizing ground water for irrigation. However, assessment of ground water resources is carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organisations. As per the assessment carried out during 2004, the ground water draft for irrigation is 212 billion cubic meter per year. About 60% of the total irrigated land in the country is irrigated by ground water.

Losses due to drought

‡3668. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the number of States affected by drought this year in the country;
- (b) the extent of loss incurred by each State as a result of this;
- (c) the norms prescribed for providing relief to drought affected States;
- (d) the amount of assistance and food-grains demanded by each States; and
- (e) the State-wise amount released and quantum of foodgrains provided to tackle the problem of drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (e) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during the period 1.6.2009 to 29.7.2009, out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, 18 received deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 1 received scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). In view of deficit rainfall in the State during South-West Monsoon, 2009, the Governments of Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh have declared drought/drought like conditions in their States. It is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments to take immediate necessary measures for drought relief from the funds available in its Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). For assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), over and above CRF, the drought affected States are required to send Memorandum, with all relevant details. No such Memorandum for financial assistance or allocation of foodgrains has been received from any State, including the States, which have declared drought, for the current monsoon period. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above, assistance for providing fodder for cattle maintained in the cattle camps, assistance for transportation of drinking water, assistance towards supplementary nutrition and gratuitous relief.

Steps to meet growing demand of foodgrains

3669. SHRI N.K. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the current level of production of foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane etc. is declining and not adequate to meet the growing demand in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been decrease in the area of cultivation and which is causing decline in food production; and
- (d) if so, the strategy adopted and the schemes formulated by Government to increase the production of foodgrains and also increase areas for cultivation to meet the growing demand of foodgrains in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) and (b) The estimated production of foodgrains has been continuously increasing in the last few years and it is sufficient to meet the current demand in the country. The estimated

production of oilseeds and sugarcane have also increased since 2006-07, except during the year 2008-09. The details of projected demand of foodgrains, oilseeds and sugarcane for 2008-09 against their estimated production during the year are as under:-

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	Projected Demand	Estimated Production*
Foodgrains	219.01	233.88
Oilseeds	47.43	28.16
Sugarcane	275.91	271.25

*As per 4th advance estimates released on 21.07.2009.

(c) and (d) The details of area under cultivation vis-a-vis production of foodgrains from 2004-05 onwards is given in the table below:-

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)	Area (Million Hectares)
2004-05	198.4	120.08
2005-06	208.6	121.60
2006-07	217.3	123.71
2007-08	230.8	124.07
2008-09*	233.9	123.22

*As per 4th advance estimates released on 21.07.2009.

To increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is under implementation in the country since November, 2007. The NFSM aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts.

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

Further, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector is also under implementation.

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

Spurious pesticides

3670. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the estimated sale of spurious pesticides in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to curb the menace?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not conducted any survey to find out estimated sale of spurious pesticides in the country. However, analysis of pesticide samples for previous five years from 2004-05 to 2008-09 indicates that 2.42 to 3.54 percent of the samples analyzed were misbranded in terms of provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) Import, manufacture, sale transport, distribution and use of the insecticides is regulated under the Insecticides Rules, 1971.

Following steps have been taken to regulate the quality of pesticides:—

- (i) Twenty one States and one Union Territory have set up 55 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories with analyzing capacity of 52,940 samples per annum.
- (ii) Union Government has established two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories with analyzing capacity of 1,000 samples per annum for each laboratory to supplement the resources of the States.
- (iii) Central Insecticides Laboratory has been established under section 16 of the Act to perform the statutory requirement of the referral analysis.
- (iv) Government of India provides assistance to States Pesticides Testing Laboratories for procuring sophisticated equipment for proper analysis.
- (v) Licensing authorities of State Agriculture Departments take action against the suppliers of the misbranded pesticides under provisions of Act, 1968.

Steps to achieve targets of production of foodgrains and pulses

†3671. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in foodgrains production during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) increase in foodgrain production required to meet out increasing population of the country;

(c) the reasons for slow growth rate of agricultural production; and

(d) steps taken/being taken by Government to achieve the targets of production of foodgrains and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) The year-wise estimated production alongwith increase(+)/ decrease(-) in production of foodgrains during the Tenth Five Year Plan, *i.e.*, 2002-03 to 2006-07 is given in the table below:—

(Million tonnes)		
Year	Estimated production	Increase(+)/decrease(-) in production of foodgrains as compared to the previous year
2002-03	174.77	-38.08
2003-04	213.19	38.42
2004-05	198.36	-14.83
2005-06	208.60	10.24
2006-07	217.28	8.68

(b) and (c) The current level of production of foodgrains is more than the consumption requirement of population of the country. As against projected demand of 219.01 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2008-09, its estimated production (4th advance estimates) stands at 233.88 million tonnes.

The production of cereals (rice and wheat) has increased considerably during the 1st Two Year of Eleventh Plan Period and there has been record production of these crops. The production of pulses has not picked up due to biotic and abiotic stresses apart from area diversion to other crops. However, the overall production of foodgrains in the country has shown an increasing trend in the past few years and the estimated production of foodgrains has increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 230.78 million tonnes in 2007-08 and 233.88 million tonnes in 2008-09.

(d) The Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November, 2007 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts.

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

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

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

Purchase of paddy at lower rate by traders

3672. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders are purchasing paddy at the rate of Rs. 650/- per quintal in Jharkhand whereas Food Corporation of India (FCI) has fixed the price at Rs. 900/- per quintal;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the trading community in Jharkhand; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that less amount paid to farmers by the traders is reimbursed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Under the existing policy of foodgrains procurement, FCI and agencies of the State Governments procure paddy conforming to the prescribed specifications at Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. However, farmers are free to sale their produce either to FCI/State Governments agencies or in the open markets as is advantageous to them. FCI has not received any complaint about sale of paddy by farmers in Jharkhand at less than the MSP.

Production and use of organic manure and cow products

†3673. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got the cow-products (milk, dung and cow’s urine) tested in laboratory that are being produced and sold in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Rural Science and Technology Institute, Delhi visited certain villages of Haryana to learn about the economic independence based on organic manure and cow-products and prepared a report;

(c) whether the said reports has been received; and

(d) if so, the salient points of this report?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Milk produced and marketed by dairies in organized sector from cows and buffalos is tested for its fat, SNF (solid not fat) and quality by the respective dairies/collection centres before procurement and selling to the consumers.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization, Wardha (Maharashtra), an institution under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, has conducted testing of samples of cow urine for proposing standards for 'Gomutra'.

(b) The scientists of Centre for Rural Development and Technology, Delhi visit rural areas in different States, including villages of Haryana, for various studies. However, no report on economic independence based on organic manure and cow products has been prepared at the Centre.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Minimum support price of foodgrains

†3674. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum support price is declared by Government from time to time for the selling of foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, whether any arrangements are also made on national level for procurement of foodgrains from the farmers at this price; and

(c) if so, the number of procurement centres setup in each State in the year 2008-09 and the name and quantity of foodgrains procured in each of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
commodities, including foodgrains, every year based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with States and Central Ministries. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government agencies procure the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and incentive bonus, if any. However, farmers are free to sell their produce either to FCI and State Government agencies at MSP or sell the same in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(c) The State-wise number of procurement centers opened by FCI and State agencies in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10 are at Statements-I and II respectively. (See below). Owing to large number of centres, the name and quantity of foodgrains procured in each of these centres are not maintained at the Ministry of level. However, as on 05.08.2009, procurement of rice during KMS 2008-09 has been 32.27 million tonnes while in RMS 2009-10, the procurement of wheat has been 25.29 million tonnes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

State-wise number of procurement centres for Kharif Crops

Region	2007-08			2008-09 (Provisional) (as on 02.07.09)		
	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total
Andhra Pradesh	162	634/782*	796/782*	168	321	489
Assam	20	—	20	11	—	11
Bihar	198	5343	5541	150	3361	3511
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	1533	1533	—	1333	1333
Delhi	2	—	2	2	—	2
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	9	9
Haryana	8/+232\$	273	513	47	132	179
Himachal Pradesh	5	—	5	5	—	5
Jammu and Kashmir	2	—	2	15	—	15
Jharkhand	26	1	27	30	NA	30
Karnataka	—	56*	56*	—	120	120
Kerala	—	200	200	—	420	420
Madhya Pradesh	166	254/189*	420/189*	85	527	612
Maharashtra	—	752	752	—	760	760
Nagaland	—	—	—	NR	NR	NR
Orissa	610	1933	2543	69	1933	2002
Punjab	1+278\$	1264	1543	208	1338	1546
Puducherry	7	—	7	12	—	12
Rajasthan	12	—	12	12	—	12
Tamil Nadu	—	1200	1200	—	1074	1074
Uttar Pradesh	148	1974	2122	302	1974	2276
Uttarakhand	—	53	53	—	52	52
West Bengal	50	1301	1351	38	1371	1409
TOTAL	1927	17742	19669	1154	14725	15879

\$Centres operated jointly,

*Paddy and coarse grains

KMS 2008-09-Punjab- (5 excl + 203 jointly) = 208, Madhya Pradesh—338 + 189 C. grains = 527, Haryana (13 Excl. + 34 jointly) = 47

Statement-II

*State-wise number of procurement centres for Rabi Crops
(Updated on 15.4.2009)*

Region	2008-09 (Rabi Marketing Season)			2009-10 (Rabi Marketing Season)		
	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total
Punjab	221	1379	1600	383 (incl. 93 shared)	1259	1642
Haryana	80 (Incl. 32 shared)	284	364	74 (incl. 34 shared)	291	365
Uttar Pradesh	978	3865	4843	515	4358	4873
Rajasthan	84	206	290	118	177	295
Madhya Pradesh	579	1038	1617	31	1173	1204
Delhi	2	—	2	4	—	4
Bihar	203	4295	4498	115	2692	2807
Himachal Pradesh	7	—	7	7	—	7
Uttarakhand	43	115	158	33	167	200
Gujarat	62	153	215	—	45	45
Chhattisgarh	—	1333#	1333	—	—	—
Jharkhand	13	—	13	15	0	15
Jammu and Kashmir	15	—	15	15	—	15
Maharashtra	—	85	85	0	85	85
TOTAL	2287	12753	15040	1310	10247	11557

#Through Co-Operatives.

**Settlement under crop insurance scheme in Maharashtra and
Andhra Pradesh**

3675. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to review and modify procedures under indemnifying crop losses (Five Years average yield and thresh hold yield etc.);

(b) whether any revised guidelines are issued for settling crop loss claims before due date of loan;

(c) the amount of premium collected under Crop Insurance during Kharif and Rabi 2009 in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(d) out of (c) above, claims settled and amount passed on to policy holders under Crop Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. A Joint Group was constituted by the Government to review the existing crop insurance schemes. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group, a proposal for Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Details of premium collected during Kharif and Rabi 2009 are not yet available as the Kharif 2009 is still in progress and Rabi 2009-10 season has not yet been started.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of fruits and vegetables

3676. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the fresh fruits and vegetables (including onion) are exported to neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of quantity of export of various fruits and vegetables, country-wise;

(c) the details of quantity of exports and imports of fresh fruits and vegetables from European countries to India and *vice versa*;

(d) whether the European Commission has issued any notification approving the procedure of Directorate of Marketing and Inspection for pre procurement inspection for export of fresh fruits and vegetables; and

(e) whether India is also insisting any preshipment inspection before the preship consignment leaves European ports, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) As per data available from DGCI&S the total export of fresh fruits and vegetables during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto January, 2009) along with share of the 6 countries is given below:

(Qty : MTs Val : Rs. lakhs)

Fresh Fruits and Veg.	2007-08		2008-09 (April '08 to January '09)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
A. Total Export Of this:	1724573	243733	2026145	266181
1. Bangladesh	502093	56053	689193	70977
2. UAE	283025	43067	390321	47591
3. Kuwait	20778	3615	32031	5136
4. Saudi Arabia	45426	8072	46854	9620
5. Malaysia	203734	21055	240997	26741
6. Sri Lanka	141940	11713	147756	15645
B. Total (1-6)	1196996	143575	1547152	175710
Share of B in A	69.42%	58.92%	71.92%	66.01%

(c) The details of fruits and vegetables export from India to EU and imports into India from EU during the last two years is as under:

A. Exports to EU:

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

(Quantity in MTs)

Fresh Fruits and Veg.	2007-08		2008-09 (April '08 to January '09)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Fruits	64634	40194	36466	24003
Vegetables	27177	743	22806	6494
TOTAL	91811	40937	59272	30497

Imports : During 2007-08 imports of fruits and vegetables from EU into India was:

	Quantity	Value
Fruits	1165	804
Vegetables	183	162
TOTAL	1348	966

Source : DGCI&S

(d) European Commission *vide* Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1580/2007 dated 21.12.2007 has approved checks on conformity procedures of India for fresh fruits and vegetables. Agricultural Marketing Adviser has been notified as Official Authority and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection as Inspection Body (earlier it was Commission Regulation (EU) No. 761/2003 dated 30.04.2003 which has since been repealed.)

(e) Import of fresh fruits and vegetables is regulated under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act 1914 and Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 issued there under. The purpose and intent of this Act is to prevent the introduction of any insect, fungus or other pest, which is or may be destructive to crops. As per the provision of PQ Order, 2003, the import of plant and plant material into the country is permitted based on the Pest Risk Analysis to conclude the phytosanitary conditions for its safe import. The exporting country is required to inspect and test, as required, the consignment to ensure that the consignment is free from specified pests and meets all the phytosanitary requirements/ conditions prescribed under the Plant Quarantine Order and incorporate this information on the phytosanitary certificate issued by the authorized officers of exporting country, which accompanies the consignment. As such inspection of shipment by the exporting country before export is a must.

Signature campaign by farmers for mercy killing

†3677. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than five thousand farmers of Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh who are reeling under the spate of drought for the last three years, have started a signature campaign for giving permission for mercy killing;

(b) whether Government has received the request letter of these farmers of Chhatarpur;

(c) if so the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to help these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) While the Government of Madhya Pradesh declared drought in parts of the State during 2007-08 and recently for the deficit rainfall during 2008-09, there is no information from the State Government about declaration of drought on account of deficit rainfall during the current South West Monsoon.

No Memorandum signed by the farmers of Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh regarding permission for mercy killing has so far been received.

Proposal for development of Bhadeli-Jagalala fisheries harbour in Gujarat

3678. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of Bhadeli-Jagalala fisheries harbour in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for implementation of the works of development of the said harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has conveyed their intention to develop a fishing harbour at Bhadeli-Jagalala in Valsad District of Gujarat. The Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) in respect of this proposal has been finalized by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries, Bangalore. The Government of Gujarat has been requested to convey the acceptability of TEFR and to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.

New agro-meteorological service

3679. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has launched a new agro-meteorological advisory service to offer more precise advice to farmers with a view to improve agriculture productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the existing agro-meteorological service is being operated from the agro-climatic zones; and

(d) if so, how the new agro-meteorological advisory service is different from the existing one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) No, Sir. However, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing new agro-meteorological advisory service to offer more precise advice to farmers with a view to improve agriculture productivity by involving stakeholders such as Ministry of Earth Science, Ministry of Agriculture, State Agriculture Universities/Departments etc. under a five tier structure with defined roles and responsibilities.

(b) In order to help the farming community to minimize weather and climate induced risks in farming sector, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched Integrated Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (IAAS) since June, 2008. The main objective of the scheme is to provide district level weather forecast in a quantitative form and prepare need based agromet advisories on weather wise farm management. The service is multi-disciplinary, hence, the project is being implemented involving stakeholders such as Ministry of Earth Science, Ministry of Agriculture, State Agriculture Universities/Departments etc. under a five tier structure with defined roles and responsibilities.

IMD is issuing district level weather forecast since 1st June 2008 for rainfall, temperature, wind direction and speed and cloudiness for 5 days with cumulative rainfall. A number of advanced forecasting models are being used to generate district level forecast. The district weather forecast is communicated to 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) in the country on every Tuesdays and Fridays for preparation of the District level farm advisory bulletins. These AMFUs are located at State Agriculture Universities, Institutes of Indian Council of Agriculture Research etc. and are supported and managed by IMD. Agro-meteorological advisories, prepared by these AMFUs, include suggestions on farm management action in view of prognosticated weather conditions for crops and livestock. It helps farmer in selecting the crop/variety, sowing period, irrigation management, fertilizer management, pest/disease management, harvest time and post harvest handling of farm produce.

The advisories are communicated through multi-channel dissemination system including radio, television, newspapers, internet, NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kisan Call Centres, Extension network of State Agriculture Universities etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) (i) In the new service, the temporal range of weather forecast has been increased from 4 days to 5 days.

(ii) The new service has been upgraded and is being operated at district level.

Poaching of intellectual property rights

3680. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large areas has been sown in Pakistan with Pusa-1121 variety and that a similar area was sown there with the same seed last year also;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistani authorities are trying to pass it off as a new variety under the name Kayanat;

(c) if so, the action Government has taken or proposes to take against this poaching of intellectual property rights of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; and

(d) how will this development would affect the dispute on the issue of Basmati rice in progress in WTO?

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

(a) As reports available, it is being grown in Pakistan, but not in a major way.

(b) Pakistan Government has not registered the variety Kayanat so far. However, media reports and traders' advertisements on the Internet suggest the existence of generic/trade names like 1121 (Kayanat), Kianat (1121) and 1121-Kiyat-Pussa etc. in Pakistan.

(c) For protection of intellectual property rights vested in 'Basmati Rice' abroad, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export

Development Authority (APEDA), under the Basmati Development Fund, have appointed a watchdog agency and a law firm to scan all applications in different countries filed for Registration of Certification Trade Mark and Patents etc. with the names including words 'Basmati Rice' or similar phrases; and pursuing legal cases in respective countries. In Pakistan, a case is being pursued by APEDA in the High Court of Sind at Karachi, opposing the grant of Certification Trademark to Basmati Growers' Association of Pakistan.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already filed its application for the protection of this variety under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

(d) The present complaint from India to the WTO is regarding 'Restrictions on Certain Import Duties on Rice' by the European Communities.

As a first step, APEDA has filed application for Registration of Basmati Rice under the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; and is also holding consultations with the trade regarding the registration of Certification Trade Mark.

MSP for onion

3681. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major onion producing States of the country like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat have demanded that the Central Government should fix a minimum support price (MSP) for onion in addition to the 25 commodities for which it fixes the MSP; and

(b) if so, whether any decision is taken by now and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra requested to Government of India to declare MSP for Onion like other agricultural commodities. In this regard, it was intimated to Government of Maharashtra that Government of India fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 25 commodities and onion is not covered within this group. It was also informed to them that for onion and other horticultural commodities of perishable in nature, the Government of India implements another scheme called Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The objective of MIS is to protect the growers of such crops from losses due to distress sale in the event of bumper crop. The MIS is implemented on the request of State/UT Government willing to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on procurement of such commodities, which is restricted to 25% of the procurement cost. No proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat has been received for procurement of onion under MIS.

Indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton seed

3682. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute for Cotton Research has developed an indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, the results relating to the quantum and quality of cotton produced with this indigenous variety; and

(c) the steps taken to promote the use of this new variety of Bt. Cotton seeds this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) Yes, Sir. The 'BN Bt' variety was developed by the University of Agricultural Sciences (US), Dharwad, the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi.

(b) In the multilocation trials on BN Bt. Cotton variety conducted by State Agricultural Universities and CICR, Nagpur showed that the variety can yield up to 4-6 quintals per acre seed cotton under rainfed conditions. This variety has fibre quality of medium staple length and good ginning out-turn.

(c) A total of 11,000 packets of 2kg each of BN Bt. seed have been made available to farmers through the state seed corporations in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat for sowing in 2009-2010 crop season.

Soil testing laboratories in the country

†3683. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to provide information to each farmer of the country regarding the quality of soil of his farming land;

(b) if so, the plan thereof;

(c) whether laboratories for testing the soil of farmers' land are established in each district of the country; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and daily testing capacity of each laboratory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) to (d) The soil samples of farmer's fields are tested by 686 soil testing laboratories (STLs)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

all over the country with total analyzing capacity of 69.68 lakh soil samples per annum in 2007-08. Based on such tests, soil health cards are also issued to farmers by State Governments.

Under the 'National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility' launched during 2008-09, it is planned to set up 500 new STLs and 250 mobile STLs during Eleventh Five Year Plan to enable coverage of all districts of the country. The annual analyzing capacity of each STL is 10,000 samples and that of each mobile STL is, 5,000 samples, generally.

Improvement in the breed of Indian cows and buffaloes

†3684. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that animal husbandry could be made profitable occupation for the farmers of the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that possibility has been explored for improvement in Indian breed of cows and buffaloes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's plan to enhance improved breed of animals?

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

(a) In order to make milk production more profitable and remunerative to small and marginal farmers, the Government is implementing comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) since October, 2000 over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years duration, NPCBB envisages genetic up gradation of bovine population. For promoting Sheep and Goat as a viable economic activity, a new scheme, "Integrated development of small ruminants and rabbits" with an outlay of Rs.134.825 crore has been sanctioned for implementation during Eleventh Plan period.

(b) to (d) It has a focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. During Phase-I of the project an amount of Rs.58 crore has been released exclusively for development and conservation of indigenous breeds. An amount of Rs.356.78 crore has been exclusively earmarked for development and conservation of indigenous breeds under Phase-II of NPCBB. Government is also implementing three central sector schemes, namely Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBFs), Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute (CFSP&TI) and Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS) for production of genetically superior breed of bull calves, good quality frozen semen and identification of location of superior germplasm of cattle and buffaloes to meet the requirement of bulls and frozen semen of some of the important indigenous breeds in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Scientific experiments of water harvesting

†3685. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research scientists of the country have been successful in their scientific experiments for water harvesting and for its use in agriculture;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the details of experiments and the time when the first successful experiment was conducted in the country;

(c) whether any arrangements have been made to help the farmers to access this research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ICAR through its research institutes has been engaged in undertaking research experiments on water harvesting since 1954 with the establishment of a dugout pond at Dehradun. Since then, experiments to develop location specific water harvesting technologies have been undertaken for different agro-climatic, soil and physiographic conditions in the country. The experiments were conducted on:

- *In situ* moisture conservation and harvesting through agronomical measures such as contour farming, strip cropping, tillage practices, mulching, vegetative barriers, etc. and mechanical measures such as contour bunding, graded bunding, bench terracing, conservation bench terracing and conservation ditching etc.
- Surface runoff collection through open areas and storage in ponds and underground tanks.
- Flood water harvesting from ephemeral streams and springs and its storage in sub-surface dams, small earthen dams and on-stream ponds.
- Recharge of runoff into ground water.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Council is engaged in dissemination of water harvesting technologies generated through its institute operational research projects, Institute Village Linkage Programmes, Integrated Wasteland Development Programmes and National Watershed Development Programmes for Rainfed Areas since late 1970's. Water harvesting forms an integral component of all participatory watershed development programmes. For example, the concept of water harvesting was demonstrated successfully by Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun in Sukhomajri watershed project in foothills of Shiwalik. Motivated by its success, the Govt. of India and many State Governments have launched

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

programmes for replicating it in their respective states. The various institutes of Council located in different agro-climatic regions of the country disseminate their research findings to State Governments, through research reports, publications, bulletins and leaflets in local languages.

Impact of climatic change on agriculture

†3686. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'climate change' has started affecting agricultural production of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof of the last three years; and
- (c) the measures being contemplated by Government to tackle this serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
(a) and (b) The agriculture production especially for foodgrains increased in the past three years which is evident from the following.

Year	Target (million tons)	Achievements (million tones)
2006-07	220.00	217.27
2007-08	221.50	230.77
2008-09	233.00	233.87

(c) During Eleventh Plan the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated research project to monitor climate change impacts through a network project entitled National Project on Climate Change (NPCC) involving State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes. Under this project, Climate change impacts on rice, wheat, pulses, horticulture, livestock and fisheries are being studied. The measures contemplated by the Council consist of both (i) Mitigation strategies like advancing dates of sowing of kharif crops, conversion of C3 plants to C4 in rice, methane emission reduction in livestock, shelter management, promotion of resource conservation strategies, and better utilization of weather forecasts in crop production, and (ii) The Adaptation strategies to develop short duration and temperature tolerant crop varieties during rabi.

In addition to the above initiative of ICAR, the Government of India has prepared the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) under which 8 national missions are formed to address the impacts of Climate Change on agriculture, energy and water resources.

Famine situation in country

†3687. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether there is famine like situation in whole country because of less rainfall so far in all parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Central Government to deal with the situation;
- (c) whether Central Government has given any directions to the State Governments also to tackle the situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) to (d) No report on famine like situation has been received from any State so far due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2009.

Impact of shortfall of rains

3688. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether delayed rains have hit kharif onion crop;
- (b) whether after the Meteorological Department projected below normal monsoon this year, Ministry have pointed out that shortfall of rains in June, would affect country's food production;
- (c) whether IARI officials met in the month of July and devised plans to meet this crisis; and
- (d) if so, other steps Government has taken or consider to take in this regard and whether Centre has also asked States to monitor kharif sowing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):
 (a) Yes, Sir. The delayed rains during South-West Monsoon 2009 affected the timely sowing of onion in major Kharif onion growing states namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)'s long range forecast for South-West Monsoon 2009 season (June-September) for the country as a whole was likely to be near normal. Quantitatively, the monsoon season rainfall was likely to be 96% of long period average with a model error of $\pm 5\%$.

(c) Yes, Sir. Research Advisory Council of the Institute under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Paroda, Former DG, ICAR and Secretary, DAER, met in 17-18th July, 2009 and suggested that new projects formulated at the Institute should address such issues like shortfall of rains. In other words emphasis to be laid on drought tolerant varieties, water utilization efficiency and impact of climate change.

(d) It is too early to assess the agriculture production. Ministry of Agriculture has been constantly in touch with the State Governments and agencies like Indian Council of Agricultural

Research (ICAR) to monitor the progress of sowing operations and provide technical advice to the States through periodic telephonic discussions and video-conferences/meetings. Contingency plans suitable to specific agro climatic conditions have been prepared, which include replacement of main crop with alternate crops like millets, oil seeds and pulses, planning for short duration varieties of the main crop, planning for protective irrigation by efficient use of available water and promoting technical package of practices like direct sowing, less plant spacing, more seed rate etc.

Steps to increase production of foodgrains

3689. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country needs to consider all options including genetically modified technology to increase wheat production which has been stagnant at an average 2.7 tonne per hectare for the past 6 years according to renowned agriculture scientist;

(b) if so, whether according to agriculture scientist country may be net importer of wheat by 2020 if the yields of grain remain stagnant; and

(c) how long will Government continue to ban export of wheat and rice and what steps have been taken and proposed to be taken to improve yield growth of wheat and rice in the country?

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

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is intended to increase the wheat production and productivity involving the latest tools and technologies available including those in biotechnology. Genetically modified technology although not used in wheat improvement for the moment, can also be utilized specially for specific trait improvement in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations of the country including those related with bio safety measures.

(b) With the advancement of technology and Government's policy to give emphasis on agricultural growth, the wheat production is not likely to be stagnant.

(c) The decision with regard to export of wheat and rice is taken in accordance with the need of the country and as per relevant rules, regulations and guidelines. Steps to enhance production and productivity of wheat and rice include; broadening of genetic base of varieties/hybrids biotechnological interventions such as gene pyramiding, marker aided selection for biotic, abiotic and quality traits, structural and functional genomics, resource conservation technologies, improving soil health, integrated pest management, use of hybrid rice technology and other policy interventions etc.

Investment in the fertilizer sector

3690. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new investments in the fertilizer sector have been made in the past five years;

(b) whether the proposed nutritional based subsidy regime scores over the prevailing product pricing regime; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) no new investments in fertilizer sector has been made in past five years. However, many of the existing urea units have taken up revamp of their existing units over last 1-2 years in view of the increasing demand-production gap of urea in the country and the pricing policy for new investments in urea sector announced by Government in September, 2008.

(b) and (c) Under the proposed nutrient based subsidy regime, the subsidy on fertilizer will be fixed on the basis of nutrients contained in the subsidized fertilizers. It is expected that nutrient based subsidy regime would encourage production and availability of innovative fertilizer products in the market at reasonable prices, which will lead to better agricultural productivity and consequently increased returns to the farmers. The unshackling of the fertilizer manufacturing sector is expected to attract fresh investments in this sector.

Justice to victims of Bhopal gas tragedy

†3691. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of success achieved in getting justice to the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) whether efforts are being made to clean the land and ground water around the factory;

(c) the status of extradition of Anderson; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) In its judgment dated 14th and 15th February, 1989, the Supreme Court directed the Union Carbide to deposit US \$ 470 millions as a settlement of all past, present and future claims. As a result of Supreme Court Order, Union Carbide Company deposited US \$ 470 millions (420 million in US dollar and approximately Rs.69 crore in Indian rupees) in March, 1989. The process of giving compensation started in November, 1992. 10,29,517 cases were registered for compensation. All the cases have since been settled. Compensation has been awarded in 5,74,370 cases by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. An amount of Rs. 1549.04 crore has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

disbursed as compensation till 30th June, 2009. After deciding all the cases, except appeals and revision petitions, some amount remained unutilized. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 19.7.2004, directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse this unspent amount to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis, having due regard to the number of claims settled, unsettled and pending. The disbursement of pro-rata compensation started from 15.11.2004 and as on 10th July, 2009, 5,62,513 claimants have received additional Rs.1509.49 crores as pro-rata compensation.

(b) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh while hearing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 regarding removal of toxic wastes from the former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) Plant site at Bhopal, constituted a Task Force *vide* Order dated 30th March, 2005 for implementation of toxic waste removal/destruction. *Vide* Order dated 13th May, 2005, the High Court also considered a roadmap submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, prepared in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, for environmental remediation of the former UCIL plant site. The Task Force has been monitoring the implementation of the roadmap. As per the Orders/directions issued by the High Court and in compliance thereof, 40 MT of Lime Sludge was disposed of at the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur, near Indore in the last week of June, 2008. The High Court had directed *vide* Orders dated 15th July, 2008 and 16th December, 2008, that 350 MT of other toxic wastes will be transported to Ankleshwar for incineration in the incinerator of M/s. Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited, at Ankleshwar, Gujarat. However, the Government of Gujarat has filed Special Leave Petitions in the Supreme Court against these orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The matter is sub-judice.

The Task Force has assigned National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur to carry out detailed studies in respect of soil and ground water remediation around the UCIL factory premises. For dismantling the structures of the plant of the UCIL, the study has been assigned to Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) The matter of extradition of Warren Anderson is being followed up by Central Bureau of Investigation and Ministry of External Affairs with the U.S. Authorities. The Ministry of External Affairs had informed that the request for extradition of Warren Anderson had been rejected by the U.S. Authorities on two occasions as the grounds on which the extradition was sought were not acceptable to the U.S. Authorities. The CBI had again sent their request for extradition of Warren Anderson to the Ministry of External Affairs. The matter is still pending with Ministry of External Affairs/U.S. Authorities for execution.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Schemes for Bhopal gas victims

‡3692. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the schemes meant for Bhopal gas victims, participation of Government of India and Madhya Pradesh Government in the ratio of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively, has been ensured;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in keeping with the above agreement on rehabilitation schemes operational for gas victims, funds are being provided to Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India had sanctioned Rs.102.00 crores for relief and rehabilitation and financial assistance to the victims of Gas Tragedy from 1985 to 1989. In 1990, Government of India approved a 5 year Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh with a total outlay of Rs.258.00 crores for Medical, Economic, Social and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims. The major component of the Action Plan was Medical Rehabilitation. It was decided that the expenditure on 5 year Action Plan to be implemented by State Government of Madhya Pradesh would be shared by the Government of India and State Government of Madhya Pradesh in ratio of 75:25 in accordance with the recommendation of 9th Finance Commission. This Action Plan was extended up to July, 1999. This financial assistance has been fully utilized in various relief and rehabilitation programmes of the Gas Victims. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs.193.50 crore and the Action Plan has been completed in the year 1999-2000.

Subsidy on fertilizers

3693. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given on fertilizers for the last three years for Nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers;

(b) the number of farmers who were benefited by this subsidy;

(c) whether there is any ceiling on the quantity of fertilizers for which the subsidy is given;

(d) whether the issue of fertilizer subsidy has been reviewed in the recent past; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The expenditure on fertilizer subsidy in last three years is as below:

(Rs. in crore)

Item	Amount of subsidy (gross) disbursed		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Imported Urea	5071.06	9934.99	12971.18
Indigenous Urea	12650.37	16450.37	20968.74
Imported P&K	3649.95	6600.00	32597.69
Indigenous P&K	6648.16	10333.80	32957.10
TOTAL	28019.54	43319.16	99494.71

(b) and (c) The Fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized MRPs which are much lower than delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farm-gate level. There is no quantitative restrictions on purchase of subsidized fertilizers. All farmers who use subsidized fertilizers benefit by this subsidy.

(d) and (e) The Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current product based pricing regime, in order to ensure balanced application of fertilizers and increase in agricultural productivity, which can consequently lead to better returns to farmers. The entire gamut of issues in fertilizer sector is being currently looked into by the Government including the subsidy regime.

Supply of fertilizers and pesticides to Jharkhand

3694. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been ensuring supply of various fertilizers and pesticides matching the demands of farmers in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the item-wise demand and supply status thereof during the last three years, including the last sowing season;

(c) whether Government has been receiving complaints about scarcity/black marketing of fertilizers in Jharkhand off-late;

(d) the veracity of these complaints indicating reasons, if any, attributable thereto; and

(e) the steps taken to mitigate the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. All other

fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market. Forces of demand and supply. The requirement, availability and sales of Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) during the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 for Jharkhand is given in the Statement (*See* below). As can be seen from the position Annexed, that the availability has been adequate to sustain sales.

(c) to (e) The State Governments are adequately empowered under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 to check malpractices like black marketing. Any violation of the provisions of the FCO, 1985 attracts penal/administrative action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955/FCO, 1985. State Governments have been advised to prevent such malpractices including hoarding/black marketing and ensure that the farmers are provided with proper quality of fertilizers at statutory/indicative price.

Statement

The requirement, availability and sales of Urea, DAP and MOP during last three years for Jharkhand

(Qty. in lakh metric tones)

Year	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP
2006-07	Demand/Assessed requirement	1.74	1.10	0.07
	Supply (Availability)	1.63	0.71	0.01
	Sales	1.60	0.68	0.01
2007-08	Demand/Assessed requirement	2.10	0.90	0.13
	Supply (Availability)	1.67	0.75	0.08
	Sales	1.58	0.74	0.08
2008-09	Demand/Assessed requirement	2.00	1.05	0.13
	Supply (Availability)	1.57	0.80	0.16
	Sales	1.54	0.80	0.14

PCPIR in Orissa

3695. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Chemical and Petro-chemical Investment Region (PCPIR) project in Orissa has been approved by Government and if not, how long it will take to accord the approval; and

(b) the components of the project and the milestones proposed or fixed to achieve completion of the project within a reasonable period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Petroleum Chemical and Petro-chemical Investment Region project in Orissa has not yet been approved. Government of Orissa is expected to submit a revised proposal to Government of India shortly.

(b) The Final project proposal is awaited. Components of the project and Milestones for completion will be arrived at thereafter.

Review of subsidy disbursement method to fertilizers

3696. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good deal of subsidy is given for the use of chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) whether there are cases of misuse of this subsidy and whether there is a case of any major scam;

(c) whether the existing system yield for any misuse or the whole system warrants a review; and

(d) what is the system of transparency and accountability in the process of subsidy given or being given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) It is a fact that a high amount of fertilizer subsidy is released by Government of India on sale of subsidized fertilizers in the country. There have been some cases of misuse of this subsidy especially by the SSP industry in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where cases have been lodged against the manufacturers by the CBI and the matter is under investigation.

The fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) notified by the Government, which are much below the normative delivered cost of these fertilizers. The difference between normative delivered cost and the notified MRPs is released as fertilizer subsidy to manufacturers/importers of these subsidized fertilizers on receipt of fertilizers in the district. The receipt/sale of these fertilizers in the district is confirmed by the State Governments on the online web based "Fertilizer Monitoring System".

On the Fertilizer Monitoring System, the complete production/import of fertilizers in the country along with despatch, distribution and its receipt in the district is monitored on a real time basis. Further, the State Governments are empowered under the Essential Commodities Act to ensure equitable distribution of fertilizers within their States and its sale at MRPs.

100 days programme

3697. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) A statement about 100 days programme is enclosed as Statement-I (See below).

(b) The programmes to be taken up after 100 days have been drawn and enclosed at Statement-II (See below).

(c) Ministry has planned its activities to make sure full utilization of available funds.

Statement-I

The details of 100 Days Programme

Department of Pharmaceuticals

A. Medicines Availability

1. **Affordable medicines for All:** To decide Policy Initiatives and Action Plan to provide all types of medicines at affordable prices used by common people throughout the country.
2. **Formulation of New Pharma Policy:** For holistic development of Pharma industry and ensure availability of essential medicines for major diseases for all.
3. **Revival of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.:** To utilize idle capacity and locked investment in the public sector for production and availability of essential medicines and of mass consumption for all.

B. Research and Development including Human Resources

4. Cabinet clearance for full Operationalisation of 6 new NIPERs.
5. A comprehensive plan for creation of infrastructure facilities for R and D sector and improvement of manpower skills in the Pharma sector.

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

1. World class investment hubs in the Chemicals and Petrochemicals sectors through provision of state of the art infrastructure under the Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region Policy (PCPIR) are proposed to be established in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal. Memorandum of Agreement with each of these States will be signed before 30th August, 2009.

2. CIPET Center at Jaipur will be made functional before 30th August 2009.
3. Plastic waste management center at Guwahati will start functioning.
4. To ensure speedy implementation of the Assam Gas Cracker Project, enhanced financial outlay will be provided.
5. To promote reprocessing of Plastic waste, a note to the COS will be prepared on various facts of plastic waste re-processing.

Department of Fertilizers

1. UPGRADATION OF FERTILIZER MONITORING SYSTEM

Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) will be upgraded to ensure timely availability of fertilizers and quick disbursal of subsidy.

2. REVIVAL OF CLOSED UREA UNITS

Various feasible options for revival of closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India will be generated before 30th August 2009.

3. RESTRUCTURING OF SICK PSUS *i.e.* FACT, MFL etc.

A roadmap to make these units profit making ventures will be prepared through financial restructuring, modernization, conversion of feedstock to gas etc.

4. INVESTMENT POLICY FOR PROMOTING INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION IN UREA AND P&K SECTOR

Investment policy in urea and P&K sectors will be revisited and a comprehensive policy will be drafted to attract investments in these sectors.

5. AMENDMENTS TO NEW PRICING SCHEME STAGE III (NPS-III)

There is a need to amend certain provisions of the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III (NPS-III) for Urea in order to address the concerns of the industry. Accordingly, a proposal will be submitted for consideration of CCEA.

6. MODIFICATION IN CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE CONCESSION SCHEME FOR P & K FERTILIZERS *w.e.f.* 1st APRIL, 2009

Concession Scheme for P & K fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1-4-2008 is continuing. However, in the implementation of the scheme, it has been observed that certain modifications are required to modify methodology of costing and price adjustments. A note for CCEA shall be submitted and finalized.

7. CONTINUATION OF CONCESSION SCHEME FOR SSP *w.e.f.* 1st July, 2009.

Concession scheme for SSP approved by the Government *w.e.f.* 1st May, 2008 is in effect upto 30th June, 2009. The matter of continuation of the scheme of concession for SSP *w.e.f.* 1st July, 2009 onward shall be submitted to CCEA and finalized.

Statement-II

The details of the Programmes to be taken up after 100 days

Department of Pharmaceuticals

Medicines Availability

1. Expand Jan Aushadhi Program to newer regions and States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa and Bihar etc. so as make available all types of essential medicines at affordable prices to all specially the poor people.
2. To enlarge the list of medicines to be made available under the Jan Aushadhi program.

Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings

3. Once the revival package of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited is approved, steps will be taken to implement it.
4. The revival packages of others Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) would be implemented as per programme.

Research and Development including Human Resources

5. Proposal for assistance in setting up of GMP Complied Biological/Bio Pharmaceutical Testing Lab.
6. Proposal for setting up of GLP Complied Chemical Lab.
7. Proposal for setting up of GLP Complied Large Animal Facility.
8. Proposal for conducting Educational Programme for Drug Regulatory/Industry/Lab representatives (560 persons/year)
9. Proposal for assistance to public funded institutions for extra Mural research in Pharmaceutical Sciences.
10. Proposal for National Award for innovation and Research in Pharmaceuticals.
11. Project Proposal for Venture Finance and Incubation Fund for Innovative R and D in Pharmaceuticals.

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

1. Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region Policy (PCPIR):

Three more PCPIR proposals from Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Karnataka will be closely monitored through constant interaction with the concerned State Government, so that they can eventually be placed before and approved by the High Powered Committee/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in accordance with the PCPIR policy.

2. Setting up of CIPET Satellite Centre at Maduari:

Subject to a suitable for provision of land and construction of building being submitted

by the Government of Tamil Nadu, action will be taken for setting up a Satellite Centre at Maduari.

3. Construction of new CIPET Centre at Aurangabad:

Close monitoring of work so as to ensure its timely completion.

4. Re-cycling of Plastic Wastes:

Preparation of a scheme to provide assistance for processing of plastic wastes for consideration to the Government.

Department of Fertilizers

1. Follow up action will be taken on achievements made during the 100 days programme.
2. Correction of MRP of NPK complex fertilizers to enable production and sale of granulated mixture and customized fertilizers.
3. Examination and submission of proposal for considering import of NPK complex fertilizers to supplement indigenous production for meeting requirement for Rabi 2009-10.
4. Department of Fertilizers proposes to conduct Cost Price Study of Ammonium Sulphate and certain NPK complexes for which the Department is announcing the rates of concession.
5. Policy for New Pricing Scheme Stage-IV will be finalized.
6. The supply of fertilizers will be as per assessed requirements projected by the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation.
7. The following modules are under development and will be completed within the year 2009 and beginning of 2010:
 - SSP Claims
 - Indigenous Urea Claims
 - Imported Urea Claims
 - Management and tracking of Port Activities
 - Urea Cost Evaluation Module
8. Pay and Accounts Office will come under Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) so that their processes related to claim processing are captured on the system.
9. Further improvements to be brought about in the payment of subsidy bills so as to ensure speed and quality.
10. Tracking of Movement of Fertilizers till retailer level will be built and implemented.
11. Possibility may be explored for joint ventures abroad.

Import of fertilizers

3698. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fertilizers are being imported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to step up indigenous production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 19 LMTs urea from Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI and OMIFCO. The details of urea imported during the last three years and the current year (upto 31st July 2009) are as under:-

(Quantity in Lakh MT)

Year	Imports from OMIFCO	Imports through STEs	Total
2006-07	18.37	28.82	47.19
2007-08	18.91	50.37	69.28
2008-09	19.06	37.61	56.67
2008-10 upto 31.7.09	7.00	5.97	12.97

Fertilizers, like DAP and MOP, are also imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Fertilizer suppliers import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgement. However, Government is paying subsidy on these fertilizers under Concession Scheme. The details of P and K fertilizers imported during last three years and the current year (upto 31st July 2009) are as under:-

(Quantity in Lakh MT)

Year	Imported DAP*	MOP
2006-07	28.41	34.48
2007-08	29.78	44.31
2008-09	66.31	43.46
2009-10 upto 31.7.09	30.28	5.99

*DAP includes MAP/TSP

(c) Government is always encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September, 2008 to attract the

new investments. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor and ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. The country is almost fully dependent on imports to meet the requirements of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P and K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP. Government has also reduced the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P and K fertilizers to acquire this important input at reasonable price. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P and K sector.

Potash market in India

†3699. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is a major buyer of potash in the international market;
- (b) if so, the average annual share of India in the international market;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a variation upto 25 per cent in the prices of potash in the above market is being seen; and
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the big and small countries selling potash in the international market?

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

(b) Average annual share of India in the international market in the import of potash is 10-11%.

(c) and (d) India is one of the four largest consumers of potash in the world alongwith China, USA and Brazil. Indian entities are importing potash on requirement basis. Noticeable variations have been seen in the prices of Potash in international market during the last three years. The prices of potash imported in India during last three years are given below:

Year	Price (US \$) PMT
2006-07	210.41
2007-08	252.00
2008-09	613.36
2009-10 (April to June)	615.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Agreements for supply of potash for the period July, 2009 to March, 2010 have been finalized by different Indian entities for US\$ 460 per metric ton CFR India. Russia, Germany, Belarus, Canada, Jordan, Israel, United Kingdom and Spain are the countries which are selling potash in the international market.

Indigenous production of urea

3700. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of abundant production of gas in the country, particularly in KG Basin, our country can produce the required quantity of urea to meet the indigenous demand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The total requirement of natural gas for fertilizer sector has been projected at 95.448 MMSCMD by 2011-12, keeping in view the need for natural gas for all the expansion urea projects, revival projects and Greenfield urea plants in the country. It is expected that if sufficient gas as projected above is allocated to fertilizer sector, the country can not only produce the required quantity of urea to meet the indigenous demand but can also become a major exporter of urea in the world. Further, the availability of gas will need to be complemented with scheduled pipeline connectivity to the existing non-gas based urea units including closed urea units in the country.

Currently, the total availability of natural gas for fertilizer sector is 40.388 MMSCMD. Further, it has been decided that the demand emanating beyond 2008-09 from de-bottlenecking of and expansion of fertilizer plants, conversion of naphtha-based and fuel oil-based fertilizer plants, and revival of closed fertilizer plants would be given the highest priority at that stage and will be met from production in subsequent years.

Subsidy cut on fertilizers

3701. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to cut subsidies on fertilizers which are used by the poor farmers;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) how Government will protect the poor people like minorities who are unable to purchase it in the open market on such high rate; and

(d) why Government is failing to provide fertilizers at the rates affordable to the farmers in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized MRPs which are much lower than the delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farm-gate level. Currently, all farmers are getting subsidized fertilizers notified under the subsidy regime at subsidized MRPs.

Non-payment of outstanding amount to sugarcane farmers

†3702. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the outstanding balance to farmers of Uttar Pradesh on sugar mills;

(b) whether Government is taking any concrete measures to have the payment of sugarcane dues made to farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the payments would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the fortnightly report for the fortnight ending 15.07.2009, received from the Cane Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the outstanding cane price arrears payable by the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh to the sugar cane farmers for the current sugar season 2008-09 was Rs. 18.19 crore which is just about 0.29 percent of the total cane price payable for the season. Besides, a sum of Rs.11.04 crore is outstanding as arrears for the last sugar season 2007-08 and a total sum of Rs.80.53 crore pertaining to the sugar seasons prior to 2007-08.

(b) and (c) The position of cane price arrears is monitored on fortnightly basis. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued recovery certificates to 64 sugar mills for the sugar season 2006-07 and 21 sugar mills in private sector for the sugar season 2007-08. For the current sugar season 2008-09, the process of payment is on. As such, it is not possible to pinpoint the time by which such outstanding payments would be made.

Conditions for BPL status

†3703. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons satisfying the 13 conditions prescribed by Government for giving BPL status to a family are getting the facilities meant for BPL families;

(b) whether Government is considering to amend the stipulated conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) For identification of rural Below

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Poverty Line (BPL) households to be assisted under its programmes, Ministry of Rural Development issued guidelines for BPL census 2002 based on 13 socio-economic parameters. For formulation guidelines for next BPL census in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development has constituted an Expert Group in August, 2008. The new methodology is yet to be finalised by that Ministry. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not issued any such guidelines.

The Planning Commission is the nodal agency of Government of India for estimating poverty at National and State Level. For allocation of foodgrains to States and Union Territory (UT) Governments under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

Responsibility for identification of eligible BPL families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops is of the States/UT Governments.

For issuing ration cards under TPDS, The States/UT Governments have to identify the BPL families as per the estimates accepted by the Central Government (6.52 crore) as provided under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001.

Monitoring agency to look after the functioning of PDS

3704. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wadhwa Committee has recommended monitoring agencies to look after the functioning of PDS since the provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 are being violated by some State civil supply departments, as informed by this Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) set up by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the context of Writ Petition No. 196/2001 to study functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), submitted its report on TPDS in Delhi to Supreme Court in August, 2007 containing certain recommendations. This report of CVC was sent to Government of Delhi on 28-09-07 for comments. Delhi Government has informed, in their reply dated 02-05-09, about some of its decisions taken on the CVC report as given in the Statement (See below).

Subsequently the CVC submitted its study reports on TPDS in respect of Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa and Uttarakhand on 25.3.2009. Copies of these reports were obtained from the Website of the Committee and forwarded to the respective State Governments on 15.4.2009 to examine on each of the recommendations, to take necessary action thereon and send action taken reports.

However, as per Supreme Court Order dated 10.01.08, suggestions of the CVC will be considered only after study of TPDS in other States is completed.

Statement

Details of Action Taken Report of the Government of NCT of Delhi on the select recommendations of Central Vigilance Committee (CVC)

Sl. No.	Recommendations of the CVC	Action taken
1	2	3
1.	Abolition of APL category households from TPDS	The Government of Delhi has completed the APL cards and thus excluded 9,38,000 APL cards
2.	Elimination of bogus cards through door to door survey	The department has deleted 29,970 bogus cards so far.
3.	Zero tolerance — strengthening Enforcement wing and Anti-Hoarding Cell.	The Government of NCT of Delhi has approved the proposal of creation 09 posts of Police personnel in Anti Hoarding Cell.
4.	Computerization of PDS operations.	Computerization of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs department is almost complete.
5.	Establishment of help lines under TPDS	The State Government has already formed a Grievance Mechanism and has a full fledged Public Grievance Commission.
6.	Independent agency like Ombudsman/Regulator for TPDS functioning	The Government of NCT of Delhi has not accepted this. As it feels that the compliance of the Citizen Charters can be effectively done by the administrative machinery.
7.	Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) to be taken over by the Department of Food and Supplies.	The Government of NCT of Delhi does not agree with the above suggestion.
8.	Constitution and strengthening of Vigilance committees at State/District level.	A Single Vigilance Committee has been notified on 16.2.2009.

1	2	3
9.	Strengthening the legal regime	The department feels that the existing Legal Regime is sufficient.
10.	To increase public awareness about TPDS Scheme	The department is giving due publicity by organizing street plays and through Periodic advertisements in the leading newspapers.
11.	To increase viability of FPSs	Department has allowed FPS holders to sell 14 consumer usable items in addition to the PDS items.
12.	Putting up banners at prominent places on trucks carrying PDS commodities	The trucks carrying food articles are fitted with boards prominently displaying "ON PDS DUTY" FPS holders are provided display Notice Boards of uniform size.
13.	Implement Model Citizen Charter dated 30th July, 2007	The citizen's charter is being followed.
14.	Amnesty scheme to surrender bogus ration cards	The scheme was launched in the department. However, it was noticed that there was no response from the public.
15.	Repeal of Section 15A of the EC Act, 1955	The Government of NCT of Delhi does not agree with this suggestion.

Import of pulses

†3705. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has imported pulses from abroad;
- (b) if so, the names of the countries from where the pulses have been imported and their quantity;
- (c) the reasons for non-reduction of prices of pulses in wholesale and retail markets despite the import of pulses from abroad; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to check the efforts of black marketeers and hoarders to hike the prices artificially and further action to be taken in this regard?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of pulses by private importers and Public Sector Undertakings at zero duty. Government has also permitted PSUs to import pulses with a reimbursement of their losses if any, to the extent of up to 15% of landed cost and 1.2% of service charge of CIF value in these operations.

(b) The details of countries from where the pulses have been imported by PSUs and private importers along with the quantity are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Domestic prices of pulses have risen mainly on account of a supply demand mismatch. As per 4th Advance Estimates, the domestic production of pulses has declined to 14.66 million tonnes during 2008-09 as compared to 14.76 million tonnes during 2007-08 (Final Estimates). In addition hardening of international prices affected imports of pulses and total domestic availability.

(d) Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. To enable the State Governments/ UT Administrations to continue to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose restrictions like licensing and stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of certain essential commodities such as pulses. The validity of the Central Orders dated 02.04.2009 is extended upto 30.09.2009.

As per information available 14 State Governments have imposed stock holding limits on different commodities and 4 State Governments have imposed restrictions like licensing/stock declaration for the essential commodities.

Statement

The details of import of Pulses during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (Apr. -Feb.) and Countries of Import alongwith the quantity

(Qty. in tonnes)

Countries	2007-08	Apr. 08-Feb. 09
1	2	3
Australia	148841	162837
Canada	1495239	889146
China p Rp	24117	32481
France	93717	58874
Iran	501	132
Malawi	30649	7219
Myanmar	724478	724778
Nepal	4108	3331
Pakistan Ir	275	-

1	2	3
Russia	16518	20065
Tanzania Rep.	92354	68427
Turkey	1763	462
Ukraine	26972	36727
Uzbekistan	427	751
USA	230604	115459
Others	61472	21775
TOTAL	2952035	2142464

100 days programme

3706. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not drawn up any specific programme for implementation of the 100 days programme.

However, the programmes which are being taken up for implementation by this Ministry include making available foodgrains/sugar/edible oil etc. to public, particularly for people below poverty line and also include creation of additional storage capacity, financial assistance to States/UTs for curbing leakage/diversion of foodgrains meant for public distribution system and capacity building of PDS officials, setting up of Village Grain Banks etc.

Besides, consultations with the related Central Ministries and State Governments are also underway in respect of the proposed National Food Security Act.

(c) Appropriate monitoring mechanism has been put in place to monitor the implementation of these programmes through monitoring and quarterly expenditure plan which would ensure full utilization of budget.

Procurement of wheat by FCI in Punjab and Haryana

3707. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the quantity of wheat procured by FCI in Punjab and Haryana this summer;
- (b) whether it is a fact that FCI has started moving out fresh stocks of wheat to consuming States ignoring "first in, first out" norm;
- (c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what is the quantity of old stocks of wheat still lying with FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) In Punjab and Haryana, 107.19 lakh tonnes and 69.12 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies respectively during Rabi Marketing Season 2009.10.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A quantity of 4.05 lakh MT wheat was moved by FCI from Punjab during RMS 2009-10 directly from the mandies in order to clear glut in the mandies. FCI, thus, saved an amount of approximately Rs. 5 crores by avoiding double handling. This movement was also necessitated due to acute shortage of space, otherwise the stocks would have been stored in unscientific storage spaces. Further, a quantity of 1.17 lakh MTs wheat was moved out from covered spaces for creating space for receiving rice in KMS 2009-10. Similarly, during the peak purchase period (1.4.2009 to 10.5.2009), some fresh stocks from mandies were dispatched from Haryana in order to evacuate stocks from mandies due heavy arrivals.

(d) The old wheat stocks held by FCI in Haryana and Punjab as on 30.06.2009 is as below:

(in LMTs)

Year	Haryana	Punjab
2007-08	0.26	0.09
2008-09	4.95	2.38

Stock of wheat and rice

3708. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the available stock of wheat and rice in the country at present;
- (b) the quantity of stock considered to be good enough from the food security point of view;
- (c) the plan of action to achieve the same; and
- (d) if surplus, what Government intends to do with surplus stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 01.07.2009 was 329.22 lakh tons of wheat and 196.16 lakh tons of rice.

(b) to (d) Annual requirement of foodgrains as per existing level of allocations for TPDS, Other Welfare Schemes, calamity relief, etc. is about 52 million tons. In addition, required minimum reserves are also to be maintained as per norms. Stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are formed by the quantities of rice, wheat and coarse grains procured during the Kharif and Rabi procurement years. Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS are made for every month. Inflow and outflow of stocks in the Central Pool is a continuous process all over the year. Government is carrying out procurement of rice, wheat and coarse grains for the Central Pool under MSP based operations during relevant marketing seasons. As stated above, allocations have been issued under Targeted Public Distribution System, Other Welfare Schemes, for calamity relief, etc.

Price rise of essential commodities

3709. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has accepted rise in prices of essential commodities, according to data by Ministry of Finance which shows that prices of cereals, pulses and vegetables have gone up by more than 12 per cent to 20 per cent in the last one year;

(b) whether according to data while overall inflation rate has been consistently coming down since November, 2008 and is currently in negative domain, prices of essential commodities are rising sharply; and

(c) if so, what are main reasons for rise of prices especially cereals and pulses and what steps Government has taken or proposed to take to check rise of prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government is aware of the rise in prices of essential commodities such as Sugar, Pulses and potato.

(b) The overall WPI inflation as on 18.7.2009 was (-) 1.54% (provisional) and the Food Article inflation was reported at 9.19% (provisional).

(c) Rise in domestic prices is owing to the combined effect of different factors such as, growing demand on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, diversion of food grains for fuel, adverse weather and climate change, increase in crude oil prices, hikes in MSP, improvement in income and living standards, increase in freight rates. Delayed Monsoon, hike to petrol and diesel prices on 1st July, 2009, increase in demand owing to rise in prices of pulses as well as seasonal factors have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables.

The Government has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers such as augmenting domestic supplies of foodgrains through imports at zero/reduced rates of duty and ban on exports. As a result of the various steps taken by Government, prices of certain essential commodities such as wheat, edible oils have generally declined or are steady.

Perishing of fruits and vegetables before reaching the customers

3710. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large proportion of fruits and vegetables produced in India perish before reaching the customers;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the extent of such wastage and if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to minimize such wastage; and

(d) the details of the projects and programmes under implementation in Tamil Nadu in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To assess the extent of wastage of fruits and vegetables, an Expert Committee was constituted by the Government of India which estimated the post harvest losses of horticultural produce at about 25-30% of the total production due to lack of adequate post harvest infrastructure facilities.

(c) and (d) With a view to minimize the wastage, the Government is implementing the following three schemes in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu:-

(i) Scheme of National Horticulture Board (NHB) involving development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management.

(ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (TMNE); and

(iii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for the remaining States of the country.

Under these schemes financial assistance is provided for setting up of cold storages, collection centre, pack houses, refrigerated vans, mobile processing unit etc. In Tamil Nadu State, so far an amount of Rs.202.40 lakhs has been provided for cold storage, pack houses, refrigerated vans and mobile processing unit.

Escalation of food prices

3711. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that till September, there will be no crop arrival and the monsoon is also expected below par; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking to reduce the food price inflation which is a major concern for common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Kharif crops are sown from June up to end of July/first week of August and are harvested from September to December/January.

As per the Indian Meteorological Department report on monsoon during the period 1st June to 29th July 2009, the Cumulative rainfall received for the country as whole, was 353.22mm which is 19% below the L.P.A. The monsoon has revived in many parts of the country and has resulted in advancement of agricultural activity in many states.

(b) The Government has taken a number of fiscal and administrative measures to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers such as augmenting domestic supplies of foodgrains through imports at zero / reduced rates of duty, ban on exports and imposition of stock limit orders. As a result of the various steps taken by Government, prices of certain essential commodities such as wheat, edible oils have generally declined or are steady.

Delegated powers to States to keep a check on sugar stocks

3712. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether growing concern over speculative activity in sugar future is the main concern of Government;

(b) whether Government is considering a proposal to delegate more regulatory powers to States to keep a strict tab on sugar stocks and their movement in addition to the existing powers of State to impose stock and turnover limit granted to them in February, 2009; and

(c) if so, to what extent States have been able to keep tab on sugar stocks and what is the latest position and to what extent the State Governments propose to take steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The domestic future trading in sugar has been suspended with effect from 27.05.2009 till 31.12.2009. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to delegate more regulatory powers to States to keep a strict tab on sugar stocks and their movement in addition to the existing power to States to impose stock and turnover limit granted to them.

(c) Does not arise.

Transportation of foodgrains

3713. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foodgrain stocks in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that FCI godowns are almost full with foodgrain stocks;
- (c) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has requested Railways to provide rakes for transportation of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, whether it is also a fact that inspite of Railways consent to provide more rakes for transportation of foodgrains, his Ministry is failing to provide a list of destinations where the foodgrains have to be transported; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the Ministry would transport foodgrains to desired destinations before arrival of fresh stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 30.06.2009 were 196.16 lakh tons and 329.22 lakh tons respectively.

(b) Due to record procurement of wheat and rice in RMS 2009-10 and KMS 2008-09, the stocks of foodgrains held by FCI have increased. Substantially as on 1.07.2009, there was 88% utilization of the storage capacity available with FCI.

(c) to (e) FCI plans the movement of foodgrains on monthly basis on the basis of the demand of the foodgrain by the States under TPDS and other schemes, availability of storage space, and buffer stocks in consuming/procuring region etc.

In case FCI faces problem in getting adequate number of Railway rakes, the issue is taken up with Railway Board.

Bogus ration cards

3714. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bogus ration cards are adding to the woes of PDS system to function normally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the bogus ration cards identified so far during the last three years in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the steps being taken to remove the bogus ration cards completely from each State especially from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated jointly by Central and State/UT Governments. The responsibility for correct identification of eligible BPL families as per poverty estimates of Planning Commission and

effectively distributing the allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) if of the State/UT Governments.

(b) As reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh, based on demographic details and eligibility criteria, the State Government recognizes prevalence of some bogus ration cards.

(c) and (d) To streamline functioning of TPDS in consultation with State Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which *inter-alia* includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate ghost/bogus ration cards. As part of implementation of this Action Plan, 15 State Governments have reported by 14.07.2009 deletion of 148.45 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards as given in the Statement (*See below*).

Further, instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, for issuance of ration cards it uses iris biometric technology. This technology allows the State authorities to identify duplicates and bogus cards. Based on this, the State Government is planning to take up a comprehensive door to door verification in the entire State starting from August, 2009 to weed out bogus cards.

Statement

*The number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Government
with effect from July 2006 onwards*

(Updated on 14.07.2009)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.05
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.74
4.	Delhi	16.32
5.	Gujarat	0.36
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01240
7.	Karnataka	4.54
8.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97

1	2	3
9.	Maharashtra	29.45
10.	Meghalaya	0.00341
11.	Orissa	2.50
12.	Sikkim	0.00914
13.	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
14.	Uttarakhand	0.16
15.	West Bengal	(individual cards) 52.92
TOTAL		148.45

Discrepancies in number of BPL card holders

3715. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of discrepancies in the exact number of BPL card holder families in the country and there is large scale of pilferage of food items provided under the scheme;

(b) what is the exact number of BPL card holders and Antyodaya Anna Yojana beneficiaries in the country; and

(c) whether the available figures are based on the last census report, or any fresh list has been prepared by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and bulk allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, licensing of Fair Price Shops (FPS) as well as supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops are of the State/UT Governments.

For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

However, as reported by end of June, 2009, State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards. A statement showing State-wise

estimated number of BPL families and BPL and AAY cards issued by the State Government/UT Administrations is given as Statement-I (*See below*). While issuing the excess BPL ration cards, most of state governments have used BPL census 2002 in rural areas. The wide variation in number of BPL families accepted by Central Government for allocations and BPL ration cards issued by State Governments is to a large extent because of exclusion and inclusion errors in identifying the BPL families.

Complaints as and when received by government from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports about pilferage/leakages/diversion of TPDS commodities are sent to the concerned State/UT governments for inquiry and action.

Statement-I

*State-wise total No. of BPL Households and Ration cards issued to BPL,
AAY Households*

As reported by 30.06.2009

(figures in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of estimated BPL families as on 1.3.2000 based on 1993-94 poverty estimates	Ration cards issued by State/UT Governments		
			BPL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	175.54	15.58	191.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	0.61	0.38	0.99
3.	Assam	18.36	12.02	7.04	19.06
4.	Bihar	65.23	39.94	24.29	64.23
5.	Chhattisgarh	18.75	11.56	7.19	18.75
6.	Delhi	4.09	2.88	1.5	4.38
7.	Goa	0.48	0.13	0.14	0.27
8.	Gujarat	21.20	25.75	8.1	33.85
9.	Haryana	7.89	9.05	2.92	11.97
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	3.17	1.97	5.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.36	4.80	2.56	7.36
12.	Jharkhand	23.94	14.76	9.18	23.94
13.	Karnataka	31.29	76.77	12	88.77
14.	Kerala	15.54	14.82	5.96	20.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	52.65	15.82	68.47
16.	Maharashtra	65.34	45.13	24.64	69.77
17.	Manipur	1.66	1.02	0.64	1.66
18.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.13	0.7	1.83
19.	Mizoram	0.68	0.42	0.26	0.68
20.	Nagaland	1.24	0.77	0.47	1.24
21.	Orissa	32.98	37.63	12.65	50.28
22.	Punjab	4.68	2.89	1.79	4.68
23.	Rajasthan	24.31	16.53	9.32	25.85
24.	Sikkim	0.43	0.27	0.16	0.43
25.	Tamil Nadu	48.63	181.91	18.65	200.56
26.	Tripura	2.95	1.82	1.13	2.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79	65.84	40.95	106.79
28.	Uttaranchal	4.98	3.46	1.51	4.97
29.	West Bengal	51.79	37.98	14.8	52.78
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.28	0.13	0.04	0.17
31.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.09	0.02	0.11
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.18	0.12	0.05	0.17
33.	Daman and Diu	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.02	0.012	0.03
35.	Puducherry	0.84	1.14	0.32	1.46
TOTAL		652.03	842.78	242.75	1085.53

*Separate figures of APL/BPL cards have not been made available by the Government of Tamil Nadu as there is no distinction between APL and BPL categorization of households.

Decline in the sugar production

3716. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for drastic decline in sugar production in the country;
- (b) the total production of sugar in 2008-09 and what steps are being taken by Government to improve the production;

(c) whether the farmers are diverting from sugarcane cultivation considering it non-profitable; and

(d) if so, the incentives Government plans to give to sugarcane farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 (October – September) is estimated to be lower at 150-155 lac tons, as compared to 263 lac tons in previous sugar season 2007-08. The drastic decline in sugar production in the country is mainly due to decrease in area under sugarcane, reduction in cane yield, higher diversion of sugarcane for the manufacture of jaggery (Gur) and Khandsari and fall in recovery rate. The Government has taken the following steps to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and increase sugar production in the country:-

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

(c) The Government has received no report to the effect that the farmers diverting from Sugarcane cultivation, considering it non profitable.

(d) Does not arise.

Civil supply facilities in Jharkhand

3717. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large portion of population of Jharkhand is not getting two meals a day;

(b) what provision is made by Government for food security of the rural population of Jharkhand;

(c) what is the percentage of villages having proper civil supply facilities in Jharkhand; and

(d) the details of the plan of Government to provide civil supply facilities in the villages of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The State Government of Jharkhand has informed as follows:

- (i) No report has been received from any district about large population not getting two meals a day.
- (ii) Foodgrains are being provided to targeted families under Antyodaya, Mukhyamantri Khadyan Sahayata Yojana (BPL) and APL under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Regular monitoring is being done.
- (iii) All the villages of Jharkhand are covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- (iv) For proper and timely distribution of foodgrains, the State Government has taken a decision for door step delivery of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops.

Complaints in consumer courts of Maharashtra

3718. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by consumer courts in Maharashtra during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during that period, year-wise; and

(c) the total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total number of complaints received by Consumer Fora in Maharashtra during last three years, year-wise as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
2006	3183	10942	14125
2007	4708	11780	16488
2008	4673	16956	21629

(b) The number of cases disposed off during the period, year-wise as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
2006	2063	14614	16677
2007	3153	12830	15983
2008	3935	16375	20310

(c) The total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal at the end of 2008, as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
End of 2008	17755	14181	31936

Stem cell therapy to cure blindness

3719. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British scientists from the Institute of Ophthalmology at University College of London have developed the world's first stem cell therapy to cure the most common cause of blindness; and

(b) if so, the details of the discovery?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry does not maintain information on research underway in United Kingdom.

Shortage of pentavalent vaccine

3720. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to overcome the shortage of pentavalent vaccine in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the shortage of pentavalent vaccine is affecting the immunization programme against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B and HIB?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Government of India is planning to introduce Pentavalent combination vaccine of DPT – Hepatitis B – Hib (Haemophilus influenzae b) in 5 States, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu during 2009-10 to 2011-12. Cabinet approval is being sought for the same. The domestic vaccine industry has assured adequate availability of Pentavalent vaccine.

(b) No. As the vaccine is yet to be introduced, it has no bearing on immunization with Hepatitis B, DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) and Hib vaccines.

Mortality rate in Assam due to cancer

3721. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is increase of mortality due to cancer in Assam;
- (b) whether there is lack of cancer treatment services in districts like Barpeta which require therapy centre, etc., for cancer treatment;
- (c) whether the State Government has approached Government for assistance in this regard;
- (d) whether any Central team will visit Barpeta and other districts of the State to assess the problem and redressal thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the problem of cancer disease in these districts will be covered under NRHM;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the data from Population Based Registries at Assam does not indicate any increase in mortality rate due to cancer in Assam.

Health is a State subject and it is for the State Government to provide the treatment facilities to the patients for diseases including Cancer. This Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 44.00 lakhs as Grant-in-aid to Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati for undertaking District Cancer Control Programme in the districts of Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Kamrup, Marigaon and Nagaon in Assam.

The Central Team is sent for inspection only after proposals complete in all respects are received in this Ministry for financial assistance under scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).

(f) to (h) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) grant-in-aid is provided to various State Governments for upgradation of the district hospitals in their respective States.

Investment in the healthcare system

3722. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

- (a) whether Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE and VC) have invested over \$2 bn. into Healthcare and Life Sciences companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in the industry;
- (b) whether over 42 per cent of PE and VC investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap market for healthcare services in semi-urban and rural areas; and
- (c) if so, to what extent Government has agreed to help and assist these companies in India and what assistance provided to these sectors to improve healthcare investment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Venture Intelligence, a division of India based TSJ Media Pvt. Ltd. carried out a survey of Private Equity and Venture Capital firms and brought out a study report titled "Private Equity Pulse on Healthcare and Life Sciences". According to the study report, Private Equity and Venture Capital investors have invested over \$2 billion into Healthcare and Life Sciences (HLS) companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in this industry. As per the findings of the survey, over 42% of investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap the market for Healthcare services in increasingly prosperous semi-urban and rural areas.

(c) No specific requests have been received.

Food labelling

3723. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether Centre has requested State Governments not to book cases against companies not complying with Health Ministry's recently notified nutritional labelling provisions on packaged foods for next three months more;

(b) whether packaged food manufacturers must declare on their product labels, nutritional information to enable consumers make informed choices while purchasing;

(c) whether Ministry had on September, 2008 notified Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2008 mandating packaged food manufacturers to declare on their product labels, the nutritional information; and

(d) if so, the reasons for asking States not to book cases on erring food companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Central Government issued notification G.S.R. No. 664(E) dated 19.9.2008 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 making it mandatory for the manufacturers of all packaged food items to indicate on the labels of the product the nutritional information, and claims made with regard to the amount or type of fatty acids, the amounts of cholesterol, saturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, claims about the product being free from Trans Fat, etc.

The intention of the notification, which, read with the corrigendum No. G.S.R. 135(E) dated 27.2.09 came into effect on 19.3.2009 was that the food manufacturers ensure that the products are suitable labeled and consumers, are able to make an informed choice for use of these products with the help of the information provided on the label of food packages. After the said labeling provisions were notified, the Government received numerous representations from the industry *inter alia* seeking additional time so that it could prepare itself to accommodate these requirements.

After considering the issues raised in the representations received, especially the constraints faced by the small scale manufacturers, the Government issued advisory to the

States/UT Governments asking them not to book cases for violation these labeling provisions during the initial period of three months of implementation of the provisions of the said notification.

Ready to use therapeutic food

3724. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new branded food in the name 'ready to use therapeutic food' has been imported into the country by international agencies worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the importing agencies and its timing;

(c) whether this has been supplied to different States of the country;

(d) whether this was done within the ambit of national policy and approval of the Union Government; and

(e) what is the action being taken by Government to prevent such commercialization of child malnutrition and to ensure necessary regulation of international aid/assistance in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 'Ready To Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF), costing approximately Rs.11.5 crores, was imported by UNICEF India into the country between August 2008 and January 2009.

RUTF was supplied and used in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to treat children with severe acute malnutrition.

(d) RUTF was used in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh without any request or approval of Government of India. Use of RUTF is not a policy of Government of India.

(e) The whole issue was examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. UNICEF has been directed to discontinue the use of RUTF and ship the stocks out of the country. UNICEF has further been asked not to act on any requests received directly by them, from State Governments. Disbursal of medicines and other health and family welfare related supplies be made under the supervision of the State Health and Family Welfare authorities with the knowledge/concurrence of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Expansion of Government hospitals in Delhi

†3725. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government hospitals in Delhi wherein various departments have been expanded during the last three years alongwith the details of total number of hospitals and the number of beds increased therein; and

(b) the details of total number of Government hospitals in Delhi for treatment of children

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and total number of beds and treatment facilities expanded for sick children in these hospitals during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However, as far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi and its associated hospitals are concerned, there is well equipped Pediatrics Department in each of these hospitals having facilities such as Echo Color Doppler, Pulmonary Function Test Machine, Cardiac Defibrillator, Electronics ICU Beds, Ventilators, Multi Function Monitors, NIBP, Open Care Systems, Laminar Air Flow etc.

Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital which is associated with Lady Harding Medical College under Ministry of Health and FW is a 370 bedded Government Hospital for children which has a number of special clinics such as Child Health Promotion Clinics, Pediatric Orthopedics, Pediatric Dermatology OPD, Pediatric Ophthalmology etc. The facility for Anti-Retroviral Treatment Centre has been added in the last three year.

The expansion and upgradation of various departments including Pediatrics is a continuous dynamic process. Number of beds available in Central Government Hospitals for treatment of children is as under:

Name of Hospital	No. of Beds
LHMC and its associated hospitals	370
Dr. RML Hospital	153
Safdarjung Hospital	368

Swine flu deaths

3726. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths due to 'swine flu' in the country till date;
- (b) the details of steps taken by Government to prevent its further spread;
- (c) the number of persons affected by this virus attack; and
- (d) the remedial action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Till date there have been 574 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A H1N1 (earlier called swine flu') with one death. (as on 04.08.09)

Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers is continuing at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are

testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Training of district level teams is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to allay fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Upgradation of medical equipment

3727. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned and approved, State-wise under the NRHM for upgradation of health facilities through procurement of medical equipment;

(b) the details of projects approved under NRHM for the States of Uttarakhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(c) the total budgetary allocation made under NRHM for these States for the last three years;

(d) the total quantum utilized for the last three years;

(e) whether the steps are being taken to simplify the process of procurement of medical equipment under NRHM;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) NRHM provisions for all health facilities *viz.*, Sub-Centre, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals to reach the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) as per facility specific requirement which *inter alia* includes medical equipment. The IPHS are available on the official website of this Ministry. *i.e.* www.mohfw.nic.in. Funds are sanctioned for health facilities in the state, as per their requirement reflected in the Annual State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP), which is appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM. Records of Proceedings of the NPCC meeting approving State/UT PIPs including the states of Uttarakhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are available on the official website of this Ministry. *i.e.* www.mohfw.nic.in. The information regarding budgetary allocation under NRHM and the expenditure for the last three years is given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise allocation and expenditure under NRHM during the years 2006-07 to 2009-10

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	910.30	914.03	609.14	634.79	1083.22	1094.45	1704.91
2.	Andhra Pradesh	42005.98	44701.62	59783.51	42533.49	59743.47	74283.09	71704.55
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3188.31	3345.87	4339.43	4067.09	4347.02	4858.53	5316.19
4.	Assam	51322.36	26437.11	64227.58	54250.83	57849.38	69691.23	88313.65
5.	Bihar	59921.44	39151.10	68070.16	43530.67	69526.35	76722.96	86651.94
6.	Chandigarh	636.57	418.87	734.93	323.20	776.53	661.30	960.94
7.	Chhattisgarh	17457.98	20086.42	22522.77	17009.34	22361.18	14247.15	30503.56
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	346.20	211.63	377.78	253.34	400.18	336.99	451.39
9.	Daman and Diu	360.35	217.28	343.47	183.60	356.86	236.72	422.77
10.	Delhi	5724.73	4802.34	7920.46	5416.02	8521.06	6264.20	11892.39
11.	Goa	949.11	480.51	1338.47	448.66	1241.78	981.11	1372.59
12.	Gujarat	31847.89	29668.02	38057.86	31510.67	38273.13	54621.50	46888.05
13.	Haryana	11769.25	10721.74	13759.89	10423.45	15184.27	25178.12	17914.59
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5935.93	6296.46	6769.91	3671.46	7102.93	9896.13	9909.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6582.67	6119.52	8676.75	6121.71	9060.64	10817.55	13525.59
16.	Jharkhand	22920.47	12092.90	26292.30	14855.42	27034.34	33994.12	36102.80
17.	Karnataka	29829.03	20784.58	39595.32	22811.83	42465.61	42465.35	50652.95
18.	Kerala	17721.08	17986.91	21857.20	29547.55	23510.80	39243.33	28185.23
19.	Lakshadweep	247.20	83.97	224.53	64.22	248.08	187.90	280.45
20.	Madhya Pradesh	41309.59	41781.64	54404.54	56008.65	57565.15	69052.53	71043.09
21.	Maharashtra	51294.55	38009.64	67114.17	38829.45	70167.49	93098.60	86057.51
22.	Manipur	5375.46	2298.86	6668.09	3142.84	6340.89	5581.58	9116.33
23.	Meghalaya	5287.10	2496.45	6227.19	2568.81	6091.36	4256.86	8768.97
24.	Mizoram	2847.83	3104.67	3669.85	4109.89	3784.29	5025.46	5276.00
25.	Nagaland	4914.02	3964.48	5618.81	4068.59	5427.53	5059.94	7742.96
26.	Orissa	28467.66	24745.31	34520.41	26611.35	33810.24	31192.45	43719.35
27.	Pondicherry	528.63	789.73	998.15	511.15	1038.56	739.33	1172.64
28.	Punjab	12844.46	10514.63	16196.89	10804.54	17324.33	18625.14	20909.32
29.	Rajasthan	40790.74	33749.74	54818.48	51210.88	53532.62	87471.12	63819.10
30.	Sikkim	1450.89	1124.59	1796.27	1156.03	1956.21	4833.58	2677.91
31.	Tamil Nadu	33855.17	35013.47	43315.55	31613.84	46819.50	61297.59	56502.13
32.	Tripura	6634.68	3522.49	8814.36	3037.57	8578.84	6521.60	12390.05
33.	Uttar Pradesh	114270.03	96986.97	145942.48	102878.56	148037.41	160305.34	186189.44
34.	Uttaranchal	7188.80	5336.29	8443.95	12654.94	9236.61	13050.28	11772.36
35.	West Bengal	43326.24	36720.53	54019.71	37539.80	60385.31	44665.64	68722.66
	Grand Total	710062.70	584680.37	898070.36	674404.23	919183.17	1076558.77	1158634.23

Target fixed for Rajasthan under NRHM

3728. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programme being implemented under Rural Health Scheme, in the country;

(b) the targets fixed for 2007-08 and 2008-09, and the achievements thereof, particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) the status of health scenario in India, programme-wise and where does Rajasthan stand; and

(d) how do various national parameters of Rural Health in India compare to developing/developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The programmatic details of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) are available on the website of the Ministry at www.mohfw.nic.in. Though NRHM does not have a target based approach but there are expected outcomes outlined in the Mission relating to health indicators like, MMR, IMR, TFR etc., which for the Country and Rajasthan are as follows:

Indicators	Current Status (National)	Current Status (National)
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) Source: SRS-04-06	254	388
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Source: SRS-07	55	65
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) Source: SRS-07	2.7	3.4
Institutional Deliveries (ID) Source: DLHS-III-2007	47.00	45.5
Crude Birth Rate (CBR) Source: SRS-07	23.1	27.9
Crude Death Rate (CDR) Source: SRS-07	7.4	6.8

(d) There is no national parameter to judge the progress of the rural health scenario in the developed and developing country but the same could be done by analyzing TFR, IMR, MMR, under-5 mortality rate, immunization coverage, contraceptive prevalence rate, births attended by skilled health personnel etc. under Millennium development Goals which are the vital health indicators for assessing the situation between countries around the world. This information is available in the public domain on website (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr> 2007-2008). While significant progress has been made since independence in improving life

expectancy, reducing infant mortality and deaths due to malaria, India has a long way to go in reaching the levels of developed nations in health indicators. The thrust under the National Rural Health Mission is likely to improve the above health indicators further.

RCH programme Phase-I and II

3729. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the objectives of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme Phase-I and Phase-II and how far have they been achieved;

(b) whether NRHM aims to provide rural healthcare services through creation of a cadre of ASHA, usually a local matriculate, getting a monthly pittance only and is a dissatisfied cadre;

(c) whether any survey/feedback has been undertaken to assess utility of ASHA and satisfaction level of villages with their performance;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the present status of ASHA in Rajasthan, how many have been appointed, how many villages covered, how much budget has been sanctioned etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Phase-I of Reproductive and Child health (RCH-I) was launched in the year 1997 with the overall objective of reducing infant, child and maternal mortality.

The second phase of RCH programme (RCH-II) was launched in April 2005 for a period of five years. The main objective of the programme is to bring about a reduction in mainly three critical health indicators, namely, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR). The overall progress achieved on these goals is as follows:

Indicator	RCH-II Goals (2005-10)	Current Status
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	<30/1000	55/1000 (SRS 2007)
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	<100/100000	254/100000 (SRS 2004-06)
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	<2.1	2.7(SRS 2007)

(b) ASHAs do not constitute a cadre of regular healthcare employees. National Rural Health Mission aims to provide accessible and affordable healthcare services to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, through up-gradation of infrastructure, up-gradation of skills, hiring of contractual manpower including doctors, Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wives (ANMs) etc. The Mission aims at bridging the gap in Rural health Care Services through ASHAs, who is an

Accredited Social Health Activist in the community. She creates awareness on health and mobilizes the community towards local health planning, promotes good health practices and provides a minimum package of curative care and make timely referrals. She is a woman volunteer with minimum education up to eighth class and is compensated through performance based payment mechanism built into the programme.

(c) and (d) Yes. Common Review Mission I and II under NRHM and Joint Review Missions and Mid-Term review under RCH-II component of NRHM have been undertaken. The Reviews indicate that people in the villages find that ASHAs are playing a useful role in fulfilling their health care needs.

(e) ASHA sahyogini has been playing a vital role in improving the health status of vulnerable section of population in Rajasthan. Presently there are 42496 ASHA sahyogini in 31988 revenue villages. Total budget sanctioned for ASHA component for the year 2009-10 is Rs.41 crores.

National Urban Health Mission

3730. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to launch National Urban Health Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A proposal in this regard is under consideration. After due deliberations, a decision will be taken in this regard.

Bio-medical waste treatment

3731. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has issued guidelines for disposal of bio-medical waste of health care facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such guidelines provide for common bio-medical waste treatment facilities in close vicinity and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many such common treatment facilities have been established in the country; and
- (d) what are the major constraints in setting up such common treatment facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management were prepared and circulated to States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2002. These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Bio-Medical (Management

and Handling) Rules, 1988 notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste.

(c) and (d) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However as far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi and its associated hospitals are concerned, bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 is strictly adhered to while disposing of Hospital waste materials.

Welfare officers

3732. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Welfare Officers attached to C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Delhi continue on the post even after their retirement and their functioning is never watched and they act mostly in self interest and as pawns of administration;

(b) whether Government propose to review this system for the better;

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done with details of thinking of Government on the issue; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Area Welfare Officers are nominated by Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and are co-opted to the Welfare Committee attached to dispensary. The Area Welfare Officers continue to function till replaced by another officer by DOPT. The CGHS has no role in the appointments of Area Welfare Officer.

Admission to private medical courses

3733. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Supreme Court recently found sufficient reasons to suspect foul play in admissions to professional medical and dental colleges in the country after it came across two identical cases of students being denied admission to college, offered during counseling;

(b) if so, whether sounding critical of DGHS contention of communication gap, Court was unnerved to the functioning of regulatory bodies in the country that facilitate setting up of private professional colleges without recognition;

(c) if so, what is the latest position and whether any directive has been issued by Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The All India Counselling for Postgraduate (PG) Courses are conducted to the 50% of seats of Central/State Government medical/dental colleges. In the extended 2nd round of PG Counselling 2009, there were two cases where the students were offered admission during counseling but later denied admission by the concerned State Government medical/dental colleges on the grounds of non-availability of seats etc. Later on, on correspondence by Dte. General of Health Services (DGHS) with the concerned State Government medical/dental colleges and on the basis of Supreme Court order, both the students were adjusted against other categories of seats etc.

Disposal of bio-medical wastes

3734. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines for disposal of bio-medical waste of health care facilities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such guidelines provide for setting up of incinerators in health care facilities, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of Government run hospitals and medical colleges do not have such incinerators;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to install incinerators in Government run hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management were prepared and circulated to States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2002. These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Bio-Medical (Management and Handling) Rules, 1988 notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste.

As per these guidelines the incinerator should be installed and made operational as per specifications under Bio-Medical Waste Rules, 1998. Specific requirement regarding the incinerator and norms of combustion efficiency and emission levels has been defined in it.

(c) to (e) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However, as far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi and its associated hospitals, are concerned, Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 is strictly adhered to while disposing of hospital waste materials.

Spurious drugs of cancer

3735. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a racket is involved in manufacturing and selling of fake and spurious cancer drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to check it; and
- (c) whether there is any permanent mechanism to prevent such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. As per the information received from the different Zones of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), the central drugs regulatory body in the country, no racket has been found in manufacturing and selling of fake and spurious cancer drugs in the country.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Though the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has enough deterrent provisions, the Government has taken additional measures from time to time to check the menace of spurious drugs. Recently, to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health, through CDSCO, on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad, Under this survey around 24,300 samples of 61 brands of drugs belonging to 9 therapeutic categories of 30 manufacturers from 100 different Pharmacy outlets located in each stratum viz. Metros, big cities, district, towns and villages in different regions of the country have been collected. This would help in identifying geographical areas where spurious drugs are available so that a focused monitoring is done by the concerned authorities in these areas for eliminating the menace of spurious drugs. Other measures taken to check the menace of spurious drugs are as follows:-

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 has been passed by the Parliament on 5th December 2008 for providing stringent penalties for offences relating to spurious and sub-standard drugs and making offences under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act cognizable and non-bailable, etc.
2. In the 39th meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), a statutory body of drug regulators of all States/UTs constituted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, held on 10th December, 2008, the States were requested to play pro-active role in assessing the extent of spurious drugs in the country.
3. In the 40th meeting of DCC held on 29.6.2009, guidelines for taking action on samples of drugs declared spurious or not of standard quality in the light of enhanced penalties under the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 2008 were adopted for the purpose of uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act in the country. The guidelines have also been placed on the web site of CDSCO.

4. Testing facilities at Central and State laboratories have been upgraded and new drug testing laboratories have also been established so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under a Capacity Building Project, 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and provided with State of art equipments.
5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended in 2001 to make it mandatory, and at par with the international standards, for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them. The amended Schedule M was made applicable to existing manufacturers from 1st July 2005.
6. Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Government on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions, etc. has been conducted.
7. Pharma industry and trade has been requested to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. This would help in successfully detecting the cases of spurious drugs by regulatory authorities.
8. A meeting with representative of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Commissioner Customs and all port officers has been held to deliberate on modalities for absolute confiscation and prosecutions in cases of import of spurious drugs.
9. Pharmaceutical Zones, dedicated areas for handling import and export of drugs are being developed at Port offices.
10. A whistle blower policy is being formulated whereby rewards would be given to the informers for detection of spurious drugs.

Food and medical facilities to undernourished population

3736. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that malnutrition is India's crucial problem and about 230 million people in the country are undernourished suffering from diseases and ill health;

(b) whether Government knows the startling fact that the undernourished people in India constitute 27 per cent of the world's undernourished population; and

(c) if so, what measures are being taken to provide adequate nutritious food and medical facilities to the undernourished people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) — 2005-06, about 42.5% children under 5 years, 36% women in the age group 15-49 years and 34% men in the age group 15-49 years are undernourished in the country.

(b) Specific information in this regard is not available.

(c) The Government has initiated various measures to improve the health and nutritional status of vulnerable population including:

1. Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) including Supplementary nutrition.
2. Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.
3. National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid day meal Programme).
4. Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation for Pre-school Children, pregnant and lactating women. Iron and Folic Acid syrup has been added in the programme for children 6 to 59 months.
5. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).
6. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.
7. Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
8. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and malnutrition.
9. Immunization.
10. Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries improved coverage and quality of ANC skilled care to Pregnant women, Post- partum care at community level.
11. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

Vaccination for childhood pneumonia

3737. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is apart beneficiary of the grants made by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation meant for prevention of childhood pneumonia by vaccination;

(b) whether Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is globally monitoring the vaccination programme including India;

(c) whether independent critical appraisal has established low efficacy of the vaccine as reported in lancet journal and also the bulletin of the WHO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Health care facilities for Central Government pensioners

3738. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government pensioners, other than those of Defence and Railways, living in areas not covered by C.G.H.S. are without any healthcare facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate a scheme to provide them adequate health care as has recently been done in the case of ex-servicemen; and

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Central Government pensioners living in non-CGHS areas have an option to have a CGHS Card made in the nearest CGHS covered city by paying the appropriate contribution for availing I.P.D. facilities. In addition, they are entitled to get Rs. 100/- per month as fixed medical allowance for OPD expenses.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has floated an "Expression of Interest" from health insurance agencies and insurance consultants for extending health care facilities to Central Government pensioners not covered by the CGHS, Considering the enormity of the work involved, it is not possible to fix a time limit for introduction of the scheme.

Basic amenities to CGHS dispensary at Kalibari

3739. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of basic amenities like drinking water, toilets, furniture etc. in Homoeopathic dispensary situated at Kalibari due to which patients as well as staff/doctors have to face difficulties;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to sort out them;

(c) whether due to difference between actual postings and sanctioned strength, beneficiaries have to wait for hours;

(d) if so, by when this deficiency would be met;

(e) despite being centrally located, the facility to provide indented medicines the same day is not available; and

(f) if so, whether Government would instruct AYUSH Department suitably?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

(e) and (f) The medicines which are not available in the dispensary are purchased from the Authorised Local Chemist by the Homoeopathic Store with the imprest money, on the same day and issued to the beneficiary on the same day or next day. However, those medicines which are not readily available with the Local Chemist may take a day or two for procurement and issue to the beneficiary.

Trained ASHAs

3740. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ASHAs selected, trained and recruited in India as part of the NRHM, and the number of ASHAs working in Orissa;

(b) the total amount released for ASHAs for the State of Orissa for the years of 2007, 2008 and 2009; and

(c) whether there is any complaint of ASHAs for non-payment of their salary and allowances in time?

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

	All India	Orissa
Total ASHA selected Trained in	6,96,367	34,252
Module 1	6,20,848	34,117
Module 2	4,95,038	32,832
Module 3	4,55,153	32,786
Module 4	4,20,441	32,352

(b)

Year	Amount Received in Lakhs
2007-08	Rs.2114.62
2008-09	Rs.1314.17
2009-10	No amount received so far (Rs.2789.57 is budgeted)

(c) There is no provision of salary for ASHAs. No complaint has been received regarding non payment of their incentives.

Reduction of seats in Veer Surendra Sahay Medical College, Sambalpur

†3741. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of seats meant for the students are being reduced in Veer Surendra Sahay Sambalpur Medical College located in Burla, in district of Orissa;

(b) whether it has resulted in utter discontentment among the people;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has submitted any memorandum or letter of request to the Centre for not reducing the number of seats; and

(e) whether Centre would take any steps for not to reduce the number of seats in this famous college of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The Centre Government has granted permission for the admission of 3rd batch of MBBS students for the increased intake from 107 to 150 for academic year 2009-10 at Veer Surendra Sahay Medical College, Burla, Orissa.

Under five mortality figures

3742. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under five mortality figures are considered critical indicators of children's well being;

(b) if so, what is India's rating in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's ranking slid this year from 52 in 2006 to 72 deaths per 1000 live births?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Globally the under - 5 mortality rate is a leading indicator of the level of child health and overall development in a country.

(b) and (c) According to UNICEF's State of World's Children, 2009 Report, the under five mortality for India for the year 2007 is 72 per 1000 live births and is placed at rank 49. According to the UNICEF's Report 2008, its under five mortality was 76 per 1000 live births for the year 2006 and was placed at rank 49 in descending order with reference to the under five mortality rate.

Neo-natal deaths

3743. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current rate of neo-natal deaths in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of the children die in the first week itself; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the reasons for (a) and (b) above and the steps taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The reported Neo-natal Mortality Rate as per Sample Registrar Survey (SRS), Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2007 for India, is 36 per thousand live births. There is no independent data available for early neo-natal deaths.

(c) The primary causes of neo-natal deaths are

- Sepsis,
- Low birth weight and
- Asphyxia.

The Reproductive and Child Health programme (RCH) II [2005-10] under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) [2005-12], comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and addresses factors contributing to mortality amongst children.

The Components of child health programme which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows:

- (i) Essential newborn care
- (ii) Immunization
- (iii) Infant and young child feeding
- (iv) Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
- (v) Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea and other infections
- (vi) Integrated Management of Neo-natal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service IMNCI.
- (vii) Facility Based New Born Care.

Increase in one-time payment for Health Card

3744. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the one-time payment for Health Card for ex-Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether increase of one-time payment of more than 500 per cent is justified as compared to pension received by MPs; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to reduce the payment with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Subsequent to implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay

Commission, CGHS subscription rates have been revised for all categories of CGHS card holders, including ex-MPs. The increase in subscription is commensurate with increase in salary/pension of Central Government Employees, and pensioners and pension of ex-MPs. There is no proposal to reduce the rates of subscription.

Medical reimbursement of CGHS beneficiaries

3745. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS offices in Delhi while heavily pruning medical reimbursement claims of ordinary beneficiaries do not communicate the extent and reasons for deducting the various items of claims;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CGHS while passing the claims acts arbitrarily by allowing higher percentage of VIPs while making heavy deduction in cases of others; and

(d) whether Government would evolve a uniform policy for all beneficiaries, if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A copy of calculation sheet indicating details of admissible amount, as per CGHS rates and deduction, if any are provided to individual beneficiaries if requested for by the beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) All Medical Reimbursement claims are examined in the background of the existing CGHS Rules and bills are cleared as per the CGHS rates in force.

Over-charging by private empanelled hospitals

3746. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that private multi-speciality hospitals in Delhi and NCR which were earlier in C.G.H.S. panel, are indulging in over-charging such as charging for two days room rent and services for only one day hospitalization as also more than one consultation in such cases;

(b) whether Government ensures that such hospitals like Indraprastha Apollo hospital in Delhi, do not indulge in such mal-practices;

(c) if so, how and if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would evolve mechanism to curb such practices?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No such complaint has been received in respect of hospitals empanelled under CGHS. CGHS has no power to regulate charges, etc. of hospitals not empanelled under S.No. 121 it. All private hospitals empanelled under CGHS are required to sign Memorandum of Association with the CGHS at the time of empanelment. One of the conditions of MoA is that the hospital will

charge from CGHS beneficiaries only as per prescribed package rate. Indraprastha Apollo Hospital is not empanelled under CGHS and as such are not bound by MoA.

Health care infrastructure in Assam

3747. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the rural health care infrastructure is lagging in Assam;

(b) whether Government is also aware that there are lack of doctors and there are frequent complaint of sub-standard medicines supplied in the Government rural health care centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Supreme Court has expressed concern over functioning of such rural health care centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the Bulletin on Rural Health Statistics in India, 2008 (updated to March, 2008), there are a total of 4592 Sub Centres [SC], 844 Primary Health Centres and 103 Community Health Centres [CHC] functioning in Assam. As per the summary of facility survey conducted by the Government of Assam, there is a considerable improvement in key indicators of health infrastructure *i.e.* man power, infrastructure, equipment, drugs, furniture etc. There are 18 surplus Primary Health Centres [PHC] in Assam. However, there is a shortage of 471 SCs and 103 CHCs in Assam.

(b) and (c) There is a shortfall of 47 Specialists at CHCs and 436 Doctors at PHCs in Assam. No such complaint of sub standard medicines supplied by the Government has been received so far by the Government of Assam.

(d) No observation has come to the notice of the Government over the functioning of Rural Health care System in any order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There was, however, coverage in the Newspapers regarding remarks of learned judges.

(e) The endeavor of the Government through NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, and quality health care to rural population, especially to the vulnerable section wherein upgradation/strengthening/establishment of new SCs PHCs and CHC is an ongoing process depending upon the need on the basis of population, case load and distance. The need is projected by the State/UT Governments in their annual Programme Implementation Plan [PIP]. Funds are released to them as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee [NPCC].

Infant mortality in Jharkhand

3748. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Jharkhand has a very high infant mortality ratio;
- (b) what steps are proposed for reducing the infant mortality and also death of mothers at the time of delivery; and
- (c) what actions have been taken and what are the plans of Government for immunization of children below 12 years of age?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2008, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for Jharkhand is 48 per 1000 live births as compared to the national average of 55 per 1000 live births.

(b) A Statement is given as Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Under the Universal Immunisation programme all vaccines for TB, Diphtheria, Pertusis and Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles are administered to children under the age of 5 years and tetanus booster does to children below 16 years.

Statement-I

Steps proposed for reducing the infant mortality and death of mothers at the time of delivery

The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) II [2005-10] under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) [2005-12], comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health as well as maternal health and addresses factors contributing to morbidity and mortality.

- (I) The key components of child health care which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows:
 - Essential newborn care
 - Immunization
 - Infant and young child feeding
 - Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
 - Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea and other infections
 - Integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service IMNCI
 - Facility Based New Born Care.
- (II) The key components of maternal health care which help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality are as follows:
 - Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;

- Operationalising Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24x7 services;
- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance;
- Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section;
- Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services; prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation;
- Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers;
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women;
- Strengthening of Health Facilities.

Early warning system for outbreak of epidemics

3749. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

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

(a) whether there is a need to transform the integrated disease surveillance programme into an early warning system for outbreak of epidemics;

(b) if so, whether Government has since taken any steps to introduce early warning system of any such diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to seek the help of foreign countries in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) In National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) is a decentralized state based disease surveillance programme, intended to detect and respond to early warning signals of impending disease outbreaks and identify new emerging diseases. Information on disease outbreaks is collected on SOS, daily and weekly basis under IDSP.

(d) and (e) IDSP seeks technical collaboration and support from the Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta (USA), as and when necessary, in the areas of disease surveillance and outbreak investigations, health informatics and laboratory-based surveillance.

National Institute of Biologicals

3750. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

- (a) whether CAG has recently pointed out several discrepancies in the functioning of the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB);
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether NIB has been found testing of biological products of Chinese drugs and issuing batch release certificates without conducting all compliance tests; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The CAG has pointed out *inter alia* the following discrepancies with regard to the functioning of the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB):

- (i) Lapses in Scientific activities, including the batch release certification of biologicals without testing critical parameters prescribed by Pharmacopoeia.
- (ii) Non deployment of commensurate manpower despite completion of infrastructure.
- (iii) Lapses in equipment purchase and their non/under utilization.

Clinical trial of drugs

3751. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to regulate clinical trial of drugs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including norms/guidelines for such trials;
- (c) whether Government is aware that certain drug manufacturers have been found violating norms/guidelines on clinical trials of drugs on human beings; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Clinical trials are already regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945 made there under. Clinical trials are required to be carried out in accordance with requirements and guidelines specified in Rule 122DA, 122DAA, 122DB, 122E and Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. Schedule Y also mandates that clinical trial is conducted as per Good Clinical Practices (GCP) Guidelines issued by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

(c) and (d) There was a report of serious adverse events regarding death of a subject involved in a clinical trial of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine at one of the site in the country. A team was constituted to investigate the matter. The team conducted the inspection at

the said site. The inspections started on 13th December 2008 and continued till 14th December 2008 revealed various Good Clinical Practices (GCP) violations. Therefore the concerned investigator, sponsor and monitor were issued warning letters asking corrective actions to be taken by them to prevent such violations in future. The clinical trial remained suspended at all the twelve sites from 06.11.08 to 22.04.09. The sponsor submitted various corrective actions taken to ensure GCP compliance. CDSCO scrutinized the same and decided to revoke the suspension on 23.04.2009 from all the sites except the inspected site. Further monitor and investigator of the inspected site also submitted details of corrective action taken by them, based on which the suspension from the inspected site was also revoked on 2.06.09.

Government guidelines on private medical colleges

‡3752. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the risk undertaking format to be taken by Government/private hospital/lab centres is in accordance with Government guidelines and approval;
- (b) if so, the details of Government approval in this regard;
- (c) the rights that remain safe for patients following signing of the format;
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the right of patients against management and surgeon in the case of any untoward incident during or after operation; and
- (e) the vital decisions taken during the last three years in the process of safeguarding the rights of patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Health is a State subject. However, in so far as the Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi are concerned, all procedures including operations/surgery are performed after obtaining the consent from patients/patient's relatives/representatives informing about the procedures and risk involved as well as the benefits of the procedures to be undertaken. Committees like Patients safety committee, Infection Control Committee and Blood Transfusion Committee are in existence, in these hospitals to monitor the safety of the patients.

Population policy

3753. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to achieve the Medium Term Goals identified in the National Population Policy 2000 for the year 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes. The medium term objective of National Population Policy 2000 is to bring the TFR to replacement levels by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operation strategies. TFR which was 3.2 in 2000 i.e. at the time of adoption of National Population Policy has declined to 2.7 in 2007 (as per Sample Registration Survey-SRS). 14 States/UTs out of 35 states have already achieved the replacement level TFR of 2.1 viz., Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Sikkim. 5 States namely Assam, Gujarat, J&K, Haryana and Orissa, are quite close to achieving the replacement level as they have attained TFR between 2.3 to 2.7. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, may not be able to achieve the replacement level in the near future as these states have TFR ranging from 3.1 to 3.9 as per SRS 2007.

Efforts on Population stabilization very much require strengthening of the primary health care system as there is a very strong correlation between health indicators like Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate to the population stabilization. As such in line with the National Population Policy, 2000 the Government has launched the National Rural health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 throughout the country to address the strengthening of primary health care system. The approach to population stabilization under NRHM is providing through quality health services in remote rural areas along with a wide range of contraceptive choices to meet the unmet demands for these services which includes delivery, safe abortions, treatment of reproductive tract infections and Family Planning Services while ensuring full reproductive choices to women.

Improving CGHS scheme

†3754. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that wide improvements are required in CGHS;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether Government has prepared any outline for the improvement in the scheme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of cities in the country where this medical facility is available at present?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) At present CGHS facilities are available in 25 cities. Improvement of CGHS is a continuous process, however, the following initiatives have been taken by the CGHS to make its services more user friendly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Commencement of computerisation of CGHS. It has been completed in Delhi and will be extended in other cities in a phased manner.
- (ii) In order to provide more options for treatment in private hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries, CGHS introduced the scheme of "Continuous Empanelment Scheme" whereby private hospitals and diagnostic centres which fulfilled the terms and conditions for empanelment and accepted the rates fixed for that city were empanelled under CGHS after being recommended by the Quality Council of India. This scheme has now been discontinued.
- (iii) It has been decided that private hospitals/diagnostic centres to be empanelled under CGHS should have NABH/NABL accreditation.
- (iv) As there was hardly any hospital in the list of empanelled hospitals providing treatment to CGHS beneficiaries who are cancer patients, instructions have been issued to authorities to give permission to cancer patients in any hospital providing treatment for cancer patients and reimbursement made as per rates for year 2001-02.
- (v) As no private hospital/diagnostic centre was willing to be empanelled under CGHS, in Mumbai, Shillong and Thiruvananthapuram, instructions have been issued to permit CGHS beneficiaries, in these three cities, to get treatment in any hospital and get reimbursement as per the rates fixed for that city.
- (vi) A pilot project has been introduced in CGHS Delhi to place indents directly on manufactures for supply of drugs on rate contract basis. This has resulted in most of the beneficiaries in these dispensaries getting medicines on the same day.
- (vii) To tide over the shortage of medical officers in dispensaries, approval of the Government was conveyed to CGHS for recruiting retired medical officers on contract basis for a period of 2 years.
- (viii) CGHS has been holding claims adalats every year to settle any old pending unsettled claims.
- (ix) As part of computerisation process, it has been decided to issue plastic cards individually to each beneficiary of the CGHS. This will enable beneficiaries to avail CGHS facilities in any CGHS city after the process of computerisation and networking of cities is completed.
- (x) Ministries/Departments have been delegated powers to handle all medical reimbursement cases if no relaxation of rules is involved.
- (xi) As there is perennial shortage of Group D staff in the CGHS, it has been decided on a pilot project basis to outsource cleaning work for mechanised cleaning. The existing Group D staff in these dispensaries have been relocated in other dispensaries where vacancies exist.

- (xii) Due to paucity of funds, settlement of bills of private hospitals and diagnostic centres get delayed with the result that many private hospitals and diagnostic centres refused to extend credit facility to pensioner CGHS beneficiaries. To overcome the problem, it has been decided to engage Third Party Administrators (TPA) to processing of bills and release of payments electronically through a bank within a fortnight. After the bank makes the payment through electronic medium, it will lodge its claim in the CGHS to recoupment of the payments made. CGHS will then carry out medical audit of the bills passed for payment by the TPA.
- (xiii) Two geriatric centres for CGHS beneficiaries have been set up at Timarpur and Janakpuri in Delhi.
- (xiv) Instructions have been issued for CGHS beneficiaries to claim reimbursement of expenses from two sources, first from the insurance agency if the beneficiary had obtained mediclaim policy and then from the CGHS for the balance amount subject to the condition that the reimbursement from the two sources did not exceed the actual expenditure and also that reimbursement from CGHS will be limited to package rate fixed for the treatment.

Swine flu in school children

‡3755. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether school children in Delhi are falling victim to Swine Flu/H1N1 virus and Government has failed to check the spread of infection;
- (b) whether cases of infection of this virus in St. Columba's School in Delhi have reportedly been confirmed;
- (c) if so, the details of schedule for sanitizing and quarantising the school complex/children respectively as per rules;
- (d) the details of action taken in case of negligence; and
- (e) by when the school was to be closed and the details of action taken in case of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. Government has taken all steps to check the spread of infection among the school children in Delhi.

(b) One case of Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 infection has been confirmed in St Columba's School.

(c) The building was sanitized by the school with the assistance of local health authorities, the class section and its teachers/attendants were home quarantined for the remaining seven days period of incubation and provided preventive treatment etc. as per the guidelines.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) The class section in which the confirmed case studies, was closed for a period of five days. There is no act of negligence involved.

Recommendations of Valiathan Committee

3756. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to establish more AIIMS like institution in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Health Minister would be presiding functionary of all AIIMS, instead of being President of individual AIIMS Institute Body;
- (c) what are the recommendations of Valiathan Committee in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government considers to accept the recommendations of this Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. Under the first phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), six AIIMS-like institutions are being set up, one each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). In addition, Cabinet has approved the proposal in February, 2009 for setting up two AIIMS-like institutions, one each in the State of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, in the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

(b) The Governing structure for new AIIMS-like institutions has not yet been finalized.

(c) and (d) The Valiathan Committee with regard to AIIMS, New Delhi is under consideration of the Government.

Fundings for AIDS related programmes

3757. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether district awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS, 'Jiban Jindabad', 'the village resources centre' and the 'Red Ribbon Express Project' are successful in all States and who is funding these programmes, Central Government or State Governments; and

(b) the total budget allocation of the Union Government for prevention of HIV/ AIDS for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. National AIDS Control Organization, Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and FW, New Delhi is funding "Jiban Jindabad" and "Red Ribbon Express" campaigns. The Village Resource Centres (VRCs) are being funded by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The VRCs have been set up by ISRO in 22 States in association with partner agencies including NGOs, Trusts and few State Government agencies.

(b) The information is available in the Statement.

Statement

*Total budget allocation under National AIDS Control Programme
for three years*

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.48	2.66	1.86
2.	Andhra Pradesh	90.81	64.90	67.66
3.	Bihar	28.87	19.66	23.01
4.	Chandigarh	4.32	4.73	4.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	9.81	5.04	11.86
6.	D & D	2.09	1.50	1.19
7.	Delhi	22.25	23.52	24.89
8.	DNH	1.17	1.16	1.19
9.	Goa	5	4.81	6.04
10.	Gujarat (including Ahmedabad)	43.95	32.67	40.45
11.	Haryana	6.95	6.79	10.73
12.	Himachal Pradesh	6.49	8.42	8.70
13.	J&K	6.2	4.74	6.55
14.	Jharkhand	7.59	5.99	14.54
15.	Karnataka	48.62	47.27	52.16
16.	Kerala	23.98	18.44	23.42
17.	Lakshadweep	0.93	0.50	0.40
18.	Madhya Pradesh	18.46	13.60	24.58
19.	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	71.59	70.44	79.56
20.	Orissa	19.46	14.91	23.66
21.	Pondicherry	3.19	3.67	3.59
22.	Punjab	9.37	7.96	13.42

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Rajasthan	13.47	10.63	22.37
24.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	69.57	73.88	82.37
25.	UP	38.85	33.94	37.92
26.	Uttarakhand	8.35	5.81	7.63
27.	West Bengal	56.87	48.65	37.88
SUB TOTAL :		620.69	536.28	632.57
NE States				
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.06	5.44	7.07
29.	Assam	20.53	16.24	19.12
30.	Manipur	20.75	27.00	26.27
31.	Meghalaya	6	1.52	4.76
32.	Mizoram	12.72	11.43	13.53
33.	Nagaland	21.08	24.44	20.93
34.	Sikkim	3.66	3.58	3.10
35.	Tripura	4.83	4.51	5.69
SUB TOTAL :		94.63	94.15	100.47
Total Allocation to States		715.32	630.43	733.05
Total Allocation including Expenditure at the central level and commodity assistance (R.E. Figures)		705.67	953.89	1123.36

Malaria eradication programme

3758. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Malaria Eradication Programme in the country and how many type of malaria are still in our country and whether the detailed statistics of people affected and died is available, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether still people are dying in Kalahandi, Koraput, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sonepur, Bolangir and Malkangiri due to Malaria, if so, the detailed statistics of 2007, 2008 and 2009; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NRHM in Orissa has completely failed to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At present the control and not eradication strategies are being adopted under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for effective containment of malaria incidence in the country. Out of four species, in India only two, namely, the *P. Vivax* and *P. falciparum* are prevalent in almost equal proportion. However, the species of *P. malariae* is also found sporadically in some States like Orissa. The incidence and death due to malaria is being continuously monitored. The malaria situation in the country during the last three years and current year is given below:

Year	Total positive cases reported	Total <i>P. Vivax</i> Cases reported	Total <i>P. falciparum</i> cases reported	Deaths reported
2006	1785129	944769	840360	1707
2007	1508927	767851	741076	1311
2008	1524939	769357	755582	935
2009 (Upto May)	374490	151408	223082	235

(b) Deaths are being reported in these districts. The District-wise malaria deaths reported in these districts during 2007, 2008 and 2009 are given below:

Sl. No.	District	2007	2008	2009 (upto July)
1.	Kalahandi	2	4	1
2.	Koraput	30	15	26
3.	Nuapada	23	21	3
4.	Rayagada	27	23	9
5.	Sonepur	7	16	2
6.	Bolangir	0	0	0
7.	Malkangiri	11	7	4

(c) It is incorrect to say that National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Orissa has completely failed to achieve the targets. In fact, the activities under National Rural Health Mission have shown overall improvement in terms of improved performance under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), better community mobilization by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) as witnessed by increase in number of institutional deliveries, increased attendance in Out Patient Departments (OPDs) and improvement in bed occupancy. Brief information on the progress under NRHM is given below:

- 34252 ASHAs have been selected and 25654 have been trained up to 4th Module. 34188 ASHAs have been provided with drug kits.

- 5927 sub-centres are functional with an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). 1138 contractual AYUSH Doctors have been appointed. 366 Staff Nurse and 703 ANMs have been appointed under National Rural Health Mission.
- Village Health Sanitation Committees have been constituted in the State and 23302 Joint Accounts at sub-centre level are operational. Rogi Kalyan Samiti is operational at 32 District Hospitals, 231 Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 117 Primary Health Centres (PHCs).
- 131 Community Health Centres are functioning on 24x7 basis. 25 District Hospitals, 9 Sub-District Hospitals, 4 Community Health Centres and other level are functioning as First Referral Units (FRUs).

The above shows that National Rural Health Mission is working successfully.

Trans Fatty acids in edible oils

‡3759. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 607 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20 February, 2009 and state:

(a) the companies whose samples were collected and the number of samples out of this found as per the standards;

(b) whether Government keeping in view the bad impact of trans fatty acid on the health of people would prescribe the quantity of trans fatty acid in edible oil and fats as per international norms;

(c) if so, by when the desired steps would be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the report titled "Fatty acid profile of edible oils and fats in India" brought out by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), in January, 2009, the companies from whom the 30 samples of edible oil and fats were drawn are M/s Adani Wilmer Ltd., M/s Cargil India Pvt. Ltd., M/s Bungee India Ltd., M/s Marico Ltd., M/s Agrotech Foods Ltd., M/s RR Oomerbhoy Pvt. Ltd., M/s Dhara Vegetable Oils and Foods Company Ltd., M/s Jindal Oils and Fats Ltd., M/s Milk Food Ltd., M/s Seil Edible Oils Ltd., M/s Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., M/s Amrit Banaspati Company Ltd., M/s Consumer Marketing India Pvt. Ltd., M/s Recon Oil Industries Pvt. Ltd., M/s Shalimar Agrotech Pvt. Ltd., M/s Sarda Agro Oil Ltd. and M/s Ruchi Infrastructure Ltd.

(b) to (d) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 do not prescribe any limit of Trans Fatty Acid in edible oils and fats. Issues like fixing of limits of harmful substances in food

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

items, including Trans Fatty Acids, are, however, reviewed from time to time based on the scientific research and findings. In this regard, the Government has, *vide* notification GRS 664(E) dated 19.09.2008 (effective from 19.03.2009), made it compulsory:-

- to declare that the products containing Hydrogenated vegetable fat or bakery shortening shall declare on the label that it contains trans fatty acid.
- that in case it is claimed on the label of the product that it is free from Trans Fatty Acids then the amount of Trans Fatty Acids shall not be more than 0.2g per serving.

Closure of small scale industries

3760. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any statistics regarding closure of small scale industries during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to help the sick units under this category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on the Third All India Census of SSIs with reference year 2001-02, out of 22,62,401 SSI units registered up to 31.03.2001, 8,87,427 units were found closed. The State/UT-wise distribution of These closed units is given in the Statement enclosed (*See* below). The information on year-wise closure of small scale industries (SSIs) is not maintained centrally.

(c) The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has announced several measures for reviving MSMEs which, *inter alia*, includes: (i) As a one time measure, the second restructuring done by banks of exposures up to June 30, 2009, will also be eligible for exceptional regulatory treatment; and (ii) While sanctioning/renewing credit limits to their large corporate borrowers, banks have been advised to fix separate sub-limits, within the overall limits, specifically for meeting payment obligations in respect of purchases from MSEs. Recently, the RBI has advised the banks to apply the Reserve Bank's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and to put in place a non-discretionary one-time settlement scheme for the MSMEs. The Government has also issued an advisory to central public sector enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs.

In addition, the Government has promulgated the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs and to enhance their competitiveness. The Act, *inter alia*, provides for rigorous provisions to counter the problems of delayed payments to the micro and small enterprises.

Statement

State-UT-wise distribution of closed SSI units as per third all India census of registered SSIs, 2001-02

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Total No. of closed units
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	22709
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6509
3.	Punjab	82731
4.	Chandigarh	1405
5.	Uttaranchal	12100
6.	Haryana	27546
7.	Delhi	8357
8.	Rajasthan	36847
9.	Uttar Pradesh	122282
10.	Bihar	20525
11.	Sikkim	155
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	248
13.	Nagaland	129
14.	Manipur	1226
15.	Mizoram	1313
16.	Tripura	1077
17.	Meghalaya	1908
18.	Assam	10338
19.	West Bengal	26080
20.	Jharkhand	13822
21.	Orissa	9708
22.	Chhattisgarh	27830
23.	Madhya Pradesh	65649
24.	Gujarat	39159
25.	Daman and Diu	454
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	423

1	2	3
27.	Maharashtra	54243
28.	Andhra Pradesh	38582
29.	Karnataka	46611
30.	Goa	2327
31.	Lakshadweep	16
32.	Kerala	74832
33.	Tamil Nadu	127185
34.	Pondicherry	2586
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	515
ALL INDIA:		8,87,427

100 days programme of Ministry

3761. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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

- what is the 100 days programme of the Ministry;
- what other programmes would be taken up after 100 days period; and
- the steps being taken to ensure full utilisation of current year's budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) continues to focus on the promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancing their competitiveness through implementation of various schemes/programmes across the country. The major schemes, *inter alia*, include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Cluster Development Programme, Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme and Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(c) The expenditures under all the Plan schemes are being monitored/reviewed on regular basis to ensure full utilization of the current year's budget.

Agro-based industries in Orissa

3762. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- the number of agro-based industries set up in Orissa as on 31 March, 2009;

(b) whether any proposals to set up such units in that State have been pending for Government's consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to consider those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Village industries, including agro-based industries throughout the country, including those in Orissa, are promoted by the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) through two credit-linked subsidy schemes, namely, (i) the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Government from 01.04.1995 to 31.03.2008 through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), and (ii) the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), being implemented from 2008-09 through KVIC as the single nodal agency at the national level and through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industries Centres (DICs) at the State/Union Territories level, with involvement of banks. 8745 projects (6769 under REGP and 1976 under PMEGP) have been set up/sanctioned in Orissa till 31 March, 2009.

(b) to (d) Applications for setting up 'micro enterprises' including agro-based rural industries under PMEGP are not received directly by the Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Under PMEGP, an eligible entrepreneur can establish a 'micro enterprise' by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks. For this purpose, proposals are invited from potential entrepreneurs at district level through advertisements in press and other media by KVIC, KVIBs and DICs at periodic intervals depending on the target allocated under PMEGP. The project proposals so received are scrutinized by the District Task Force Committees (DTFCs) constituted for the purpose headed by the concerned District Magistrate and based on the experience, technical qualifications, skill of the applicant, viability of the project, etc., the applications/project proposals are short-listed and the applicants are called for interview to assess their knowledge about the proposed project, skill and entrepreneurship abilities to make the proposed project a success. Banks take final credit decision on the basis of DTFC recommendation and sanction the credit.

Hassle-free access to finance for development of industries

3763. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is hassle-free access to finance from public sector banks or other financial institutions for the development of industries, especially in micro, cottage sector;

(b) whether any alternative arrangement exist on institutional basis to meet the power requirements of micro, small sector industries in view of the continuous power outages, either due to fixed duration of power shut-down or due to random fault-oriented reasons; and

(c) what is the perspective planning for development of micro, cottage, small sector industries for the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Years Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The constraints faced by the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in accessing the required credit facilities from institutional sources, *inter alia*, relate to elaborate procedural requirements, inadequate exposure to banks/financial institutions and collateral requirements. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks on lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector which, *inter alia*, provide for a time frame for disposal of loan application, loan limit for dispensing the collateral requirement and sub-targets for micro enterprises within the MSE lending. Further, the Government is implementing schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Credit Guarantee Scheme, etc., to facilitate enhanced flow of credit to the sector, particularly the micro enterprises.

(b) While there is no alternative arrangement existing on institutional basis to meet the power requirements of MSEs across the country, MSEs are encouraged to install own diesel generator sets and use non-conventional energy sources. For the purpose, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has introduced Diesel Generator (DG) Set Financing Scheme and the public sector banks provide finance for purchase of gensets on soft terms. In some States, separate feeder connections have been provided to industrial areas to reduce outages and provide more reliable power supply.

(c) The Eleventh Plan period extends from 2007-08 to 2011-12. The Plan recognises the MSE sector as an important segment of industry and emphasises on the need for meeting their credit, technology, marketing, skill development and infrastructural needs. Further, the Plan envisages increasing the production (at current price) and employment in the MSE sector from Rs.6,82,613 crore and 322.28 lakh persons in 2007-08 to Rs.13,98,803 crore and 391.73 lakh persons in the terminal year (2011-12) of the Plan period respectively.

Establishing SMEs in North Gujarat

3764. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware about scope to establish small and medium industrial units in North Gujarat *i.e.* Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Patan districts of Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed by his Ministry to commence such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to assess the scope and potential to establish micro, small and medium industrial units, the Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises – Development Institutes (MSME-DIs) conduct District Industrial Potential Surveys in various districts once in five years. The potential surveys in respect of Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Patan districts in Gujarat were conducted in the year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2003-04 and 2006-07, respectively. As per the surveys, these districts have scope to establish agro based, livestock based, local demand based, forest based and mineral based enterprises.

The development and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is primarily the responsibility of States/Union Territories. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Government/Union Territories for development and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through various schemes/programmes implemented across the country including the State of Gujarat. In addition, the Government announced the “Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises” on 27.02.2007, which *inter-alia*, provides for credit support, fiscal support, support for cluster based development, technology and quality upgradation, marketing entrepreneurial and managerial development, empowerment of women owned enterprises and strengthening of data base for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector.

Creation of fund for slow down hit unorganized sector

3765. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any development bank or a fund for slowdown-hit unorganized sector which is bearing the brunt of slowdown like National Fund for the Unorganized Sector (NAFUS) to disburse credit as low as Rs. 10,000 at subsidized interest rates to small entrepreneurs, like paanwallahs, ‘kirana store owners’ or ‘dhaba owners’;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such fund would be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Fund for the Unorganised sector with a corpus of Rs.1,000 crore is under consideration of the Government.

Effect of economic slowdown on small scale industries

3766. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many small scale industries in the State have been affected due to economic slowdown in the country, State-wise;

(b) what steps have been taken by the State/Central Government to boost up the moral support of such affected industries; and

(c) how many employees have been thrown out in this sector during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) While there is no State-wise information on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) affected by the economic slowdown, some of the most affected sectors are textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, etc. Keeping in view the impact of global/domestic economic slowdown on MSMEs, the Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Public Sector banks have taken several measures for protecting and 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 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 micro and small enterprises (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 in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent. The information on number of persons rendered jobless in the MSME sector is not maintained centrally.

Revision of criteria for season tickets

3767. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the earning income criteria to Rs. 3,000/- a month for availing the facility of the season ticket;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such proposal would be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi

3768. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware that Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi running thrice a week has very old coaches;

(b) whether she is looking to the need of connecting Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand with New Delhi for six days a week and also replacing the old coaches with new rakes/ compartments;

(c) whether the direct train between Ranchi and Mumbai runs only twice a week; and

(d) whether there is any provision for running it on daily basis and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The codal life of passenger carrying coaches is 25 years. The age profile of coaches running presently in three rakes of Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi is as under:

Age (in years)	No. of coaches
0-5	0
6-10	8
11-15	19
16-20	9
21-25	0

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the frequency of Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi.

The acquisition of new coaches for replacement of over-aged stock is an on-going activity for Indian Railways.

(c) Train Nos.2811/2812 Hatia (Ranchi)-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai) Express (Bi-weekly) and 8609/8610 Ranchi-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai) Express (Weekly) provide direct service for Ranchi-Mumbai passengers.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal.

Three laning of Virar-Vadodara rail line

3769. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether time limit was fixed for three laning of Virar-Vadodara section of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, the current status of the project; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no sanctioned for work 3rd line between Virar and Vadodara. An updating survey for construction of 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad was completed during 2004-05. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 504 km. railway line was assessed as Rs. 1851 crore with rate of return of 3.57%. The line capacity on this route is being augmented by adopting Automatic Signalling. The construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor on the Western route will also provide additional capacity on this route.

Ghanauli-Baddi railway line

3770. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ghanauli-Baddi railway line has been approved by Government and the scheme could not be taken up due to the problem of land acquisition in the UT of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal to provide a link from Ghanauli to Baddi from the existing Sirhind-Nangal railway line;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to undertake technical feasibility and financial viability survey; and

(e) if so, by when this survey is likely to be completed and the work on Ghanauli-Baddi railway line would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, problem of land acquisition in the Union Territory of Chandigarh has been faced in the Chandigarh-Baddi new line project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ghanauli-Baddi new line survey has been completed and the survey report is under preparation. Since Ghanauli-Baddi new line project has not been sanctioned, no time frame for completion of the same can be given at this stage.

Nadikudi-Bibinagar rail line

3771. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a new line between Nadikudi and Bibinagar in Andhra Pradesh was laid about 20 years ago thereby shortening the distance between Chennai and Hyderabad by about 70 kms. linking vital installations;

(b) whether because of single line there is scope for running about 7 to 10 pairs of trains;

(c) whether this is causing lot of inconvenience and avoidable strain to travelling public and increasing traffic provided track consisting length of 280 kms. is electrified and doubling work taken up; and

(d) if so, whether long felt need of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu would be fulfilled and what are the proposals on hand?

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

(b) to (d) A survey for doubling of track between Bibinagar-Nallapadu covering Bibinagar-Nadikudi section has been included in Budget 2009-10. The work can be taken after it is sanctioned.

Nanur railway station

3772. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when the Nanur railway station started its operation; and
- (b) how many trains pass through that station daily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. There is no Station by the name of 'Nanur' on the Indian Railway Network.

- (b) Does not arise.

Opening of new halt station at Maharaja Nagar in Tamil Nadu

3773. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any distance restriction guideline from the nearest available station for opening of a new halt station;

(b) if not, under what circumstances the demand for a new halt station at Maharaja Nagar on Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur railway line in south Tamil Nadu was declined even though adequate land available for construction of the new station was identified; and

(c) with the policy of developing Tier III Capitol, in this case district headquarters, whether the Ministry would have a relook of the matter and sanction the new halt station?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal for opening of a new halt station at Maharaja Nagar has not been found feasible from engineering point of view as the land available near the proposed halt is not adequate to construct station building, circulating area, approach road and other amenities.

Extension of reservation time

3774. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the reservation time of Namakkal railway reservation office from the present half-a-day to full working day *i.e.* 8.00 A.M. to 8.00 P.M.;

- (b) if so, the details and the time by when it is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The daily average number of reservation requisition slips being handled at Namakkal does not justify provision of reservation facility in two shifts.

Change in unreserved ticket system

3775. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has made any change in the unreserved train ticket system;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether passengers have been denied the facility to take ticket earlier than the travelling date;
- (d) whether there is any ban to take ticket from a station other than the boarding station; and
- (e) if so, whether Railways would get financial benefit from this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per recent instructions, unreserved tickets involving journey upto 200 Kilometers are issued upto three days in advance excluding the day of journey.

This change has been made after observing the trend of booking as well as to avoid misuse of short distance unreserved tickets booked much in advance.

(d) No, Sir. Through UTS, passengers can purchase unreserved tickets from the cluster of station in that area for journey commencing from any of these cluster stations to any destination.

(e) No, Sir.

Absence of basic amenities at Gurgaon railway station

3776. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the annual earnings from the Gurgaon railway station in Haryana;
- (b) whether it is a fact that about 20,000 passengers use railway station everyday which contributes more than Rs. 60 crores every year; and
- (c) if so, what are the reasons that basic amenities have not been provided at this station including the ones promised years back, for *e.g.*, provision for coolies, installation of camera facilities, adequate halt time and state of the art restaurant etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The total earning collected from Gurgaon station in Haryana during 2008-09 is Rs.50.98 crores.

(b) About 14,000 passengers (non PRS) on an average use the railway station every day.

- (c) (i) This station has all the minimum essential amenities as per yardstick.
- (ii) The process on engagement of new licensed porters and provision of close circuit TV at Gurgaon station is in process.

- (iii) At present 14 pairs of Mail/Express and 9 pairs of passenger trains are stopping at Gurgaon station. The duration of halt is 2 and 1 minutes respectively.
- (iv) There is no proposal for the present to construct state of art restaurant (Food Plaza) at Gurgaon railway station. However, there are 4 catering stalls and 7 catering trollies functioning at Gurgaon railway station which meet the catering requirements of the passenger.

Attacks on candidates appearing for railway board examinations

3777. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent attacks on the candidates appearing for railway board examinations at a few places;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the candidates and prevent such happenings in the future;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to give priority to local candidates in group 'C' and other lower level posts in Railways; and
- (d) whether there is a proposal to conduct such recruitment exams on all India basis instead of through regional boards?

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

(b) It is law and order issue. Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to provide adequate security through RPF and local police authorities.

(c) and (d) Recruitment system is under review.

Upgradation of rail track and stations in Jharkhand

3778. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to upgrade single rail track to double rail track in the State of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of Government's plan to upgrade the existing railway stations in Jharkhand and how much amount has been earmarked for this during the next one year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are following 7 doubling projects in various stages of progress falling fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand:-

1. Barharwa-Tinpahar
2. Chandrapura-Rajabera-Chandrapura-Bhanaridaj
3. Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda section)

4. Muri North Outer Cabin-Muri (Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over Subarnarekha).
5. Padapahar-Banspani
6. Rajkharsawan-Sini 3rd line
7. Tinpahar-Sahibganj as Phase-I of doubling of Tinpahar-Bhagalpur.

(c) Twenty four stations in the State of Jharkhand have been identified for upgradation. The allocation of funds under 'Passenger Amenities' for 2009-10 for Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and East Central Railway, in whose jurisdiction railway stations in the State of Jharkhand are located is Rs.319.83 crore.

Construction of new Railway Station in Chhattisgarh's capital

‡3779. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has requested for construction of a new railway station etc. in its new capital; and

(b) if so, the latest information in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A letter has been received from Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh requesting Railways to consider providing rail connectivity to its proposed new capital at 'Naya Raipur'.

Coach factory to manufacture ICF design fabricated bogies

3780. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the establishment of a coach factory to manufacture ICF design fabricated bogies for passenger coach was announced in the railway budget 2007-08;

(b) if so, what is the progress made, so far, in the implementation of the proposal; and

(c) what is the total cost of the project and the budget allocations made, so far, and by when the project is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Setting up of a Rail Coach Factory in Kerala was announced in Railway Budget 2008-09.

(b) Government of Kerala has promised to make 1000 acres of land available, free of cost, for this project. RITES have prepared the Detailed Project Report after inspecting the land earmarked by the State Government. Requisite approvals are under process.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The abstract cost of the project is estimated to be Rs.1215.76 crores. No budget provision is required at this stage. The target date will be declared after the project is sanctioned.

Wagon repair/periodical overhauling workshop in Kerala

3781. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to set up a wagon repair/periodical overhauling workshop at Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, considering the fact that on an average 130 coaches are being taken for overhauling every month from Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station to Chennai causing considerable delay in the completion of the work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) A reference was received from Hon'ble Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Railways, and Government of Kerala. The matter is under examination.

Persons authorized for PH, FT and Defence quota

3782. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 39 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3 July, 2009 and state:

(a) who is authorized for Parliament House, Foreign Tourist and Defence quota for waitlisted reservation;

(b) whether there has been any deviation in these quotas since 3 July, 2009 till date;

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

(d) how preference is decided by Railways when none of the MPs mention it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Unutilised Defence Department, Foreign Tourist and Parliament House quotas can be used for wait-listed passengers with the permission of the Chief Commercial Managers/Divisional Railway Managers of the Zonal Railways as per extant instructions.

(b) No such case has been reported.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) While deciding the allotment, requisitions received are considered taking into account factors like status of passenger, nature of urgency e.g. bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, etc.

Parking facility at Tughlakabad station

†3783. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that parking facility at Tughlakabad railway station in Delhi has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be restored;

(c) whether Government is aware that illegal parking is done there in the premises built for Government accommodation and arbitrary parking fees is charged from passengers; and

(d) if so, the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The facility could not be continued due to low earnings and repeated no response for the tender. The process for awarding tender afresh has been initiated and restoration of the facility would be incumbent on the response to it.

(c) and (d) No complaints in this regard has been received so far. However, surprise checks are being conducted and suitable action will be taken against persons found guilty.

Extortion of money in collusion with RPF staff at New Delhi station

3784. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of extortion of money in collusion with RPF staff at New Delhi railway station before departure of trains from workers/labourers, who catch trains for Bihar, Bengal and Assam;

(b) if so, whether there is any action/inquiry conducted at New Delhi railway station by Government; and

(c) if not, whether Government has any plan to look into the matter in near future to ensure the protection of these workers whose hard earned money is getting snatched by the anti-social elements at the New Delhi railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No such case involving RPF staff has been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) The following measures are being taken to prevent such incidents:-
- (i) Surprise checks are being conducted by supervisory officers and senior officers.
 - (ii) Queues are made for passengers boarding in General Compartments of trains going towards Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh.
 - (iii) Surveillance is made through CCTV.
 - (iv) Co-ordination with GRP is maintained and such issues are discussed during co-ordination meetings.

Modernization of stations in backward and rural areas

3785. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the modernization of railway stations particularly in backward and rural areas in the country during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated for these projects;
- (c) the details of the expenditure incurred on these projects; and
- (d) the target set for the modernization work of railway stations where the work is in progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Modernisation of railway stations is done under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities. Zone-wise details of allocation of funds and expenditure for the last 3 years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and proposed allocation for the current year *i.e.* 2009-10 under plan head — Passenger Amenities are given in the Statement (*See* below). Stations are identified for modernization on need basis irrespective of whether it is in backward or rural area. As such, details are not maintained on backward and rural area basis.

Modernization work at railway stations, wherever in progress, is planned for completion by March, 2010.

Statement

Zone-wise details of final allocation and expenditure under plan head – Passenger Amenities for the last three years

(Fig. in thousands of Rs.)

Year 2006-07	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		
Railway	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure (Approx)	Proposed allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central	327529	346300	496885	510900	533400	683900	527876
Eastern	446048	379400	607950	600800	588800	682500	2558445
Northern	375437	407700	766438	693300	790900	1033200	1776025
North Eastern	222606	233000	130670	265500	151500	199800	257805
North-east Frontier	322173	338300	519758	478000	333600	309100	666508
Southern	351080	444600	503898	761000	769700	873900	753640
South Central	347425	398800	939795	1167800	1479500	1707800	1185333
South Eastern	104395	99300	149700	136000	192300	212300	263561
Western	284854	287700	554952	434400	626500	754900	567482
East Central Railway	331549	223500	305376	275300	315600	227900	376335

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
East Coast	134395	114300	245721	194200	235400	287200	199357
North Central	130873	80400	228493	183400	279700	264200	424763
North Western	172281	213300	286879	231800	265800	218400	275414
South-east Central	193644	169800	200653	157200	150500	119500	363206
South Western	124016	192300	249594	406200	309000	426000	304866
West Central	129500	140500	121733	169200	225900	209100	295962
Metro	12500	9900	29121	19900	39600	21200	138422
TOTAL :	4011033	4079100	6337616	6684900	7314700	8230900	11025000

Maintenance of reservation requisition

†3786. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the details of reservation requisitions are kept in divisional and zonal offices by the Railways for six months;
- (b) if so, whether any order was issued by the earlier Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, when and under which order; and
- (d) the total number of reservation requisitions received by different divisions and zones from 3 July, 2009 to 6 August, 2009 and the number of reservations confirmed against those reservation requisitions alongwith the details thereof zone-wise, division-wise and date-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per instructions issued *vide* letter No.94/TG-1/20/P/8 dated 02.08.1994, the period of preservation of all records pertaining to reservation is six months, except in those cases where some action is under process.

(d) Because of the large number of reservation requisitions received and the voluminous work involved, details of such data are not compiled.

Kanpur-Mathura line not being used as alternative route

3787. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Kanpur-Mathura line *via* Farrukhabad was developed as an alternative route, however, it is not being used as alternative route;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that there is paucity of trains between Kanpur and Delhi *via* Farrukhabad;
- (d) if so, whether Government would introduce AC compartments on this route; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Kanpur-Mathura *via* Farrukhabad line has been planned to be developed as an alternative route. Full benefit will accrue after interlinking at Mathura Junction, which is planned with Mathura-Achnera gauge conversion.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) Kanpur and Delhi *via* Farrukhabad is linked by one pair of express train.
- (d) and (e) Attachment of Air — Conditioned Coach has not been found feasible at present.

Renewal of rail track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad

3788. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest position with regard to the renovation and renewal of the railway track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad; and
- (b) the steps being taken to expedite the work and complete it early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Track Renewal Works for entire 105.69 kms. in Shikohabad-Farrukhabad section have been sanctioned and most of the works have been completed.

- (b) All efforts are being made to complete the remaining work shortly.

Laying of new railway lines in Vidarbha and North Eastern States

3789. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) that as funding of rail-link with Kashmir valley is being done from the Consolidated Fund of India, whether similar consideration would also be shown to laying new railway lines in tribal and backward regions of Vidarbha, or inhospitable terrain in remote North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the nature of considerations kept in view for laying of such new railway lines; and
- (c) by when the new railway line projects approved in 2008-09 railway budget would be completed and the priority fixed project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The projects undertaken for the development of Jammu and Kashmir and North East Region resulting in greater integration with the rest of the country have been categorized as 'National Projects' having different funding pattern.

- (c) The completion of projects would depend upon availability of resources and allied factors.

Construction of new railway line between Berhampur and Bolangir

3790. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a new railway line from Berhampur to Bolangir *via* Phulabani and Gopalpur to Daspalla *via* Aska and Bhanjanagar in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any budgetary allocation has been made for it in this year's budget;

(c) whether there is any proposal to run a direct express train from Berhampur to New Delhi; and

(d) if so, by when it is expected and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, survey for new line from Sambalpur to Behrampur has been included in Budget 2009-10.

(c) There is no proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Express/passenger/Rajdhani trains for Orissa

3791. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of express/passenger/Rajdhani trains which are destined to or originate from Orissa;

(b) the amount of revenue earned by the East Coast Railway from Orissa in the last three years, year-wise in comparison with other States of the railway zone;

(c) how much investment was made for the passenger amenities and the modernization of the railway stations in the State, station-wise in last three years; and

(d) how many new routes are under survey by the railway in Orissa alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) At present, 92 Mail/Express, 4 Rajdhani Express and 92 passenger trains are destined to or originate from Orissa.

(b) The year-wise revenue earned (*i.e.* total earnings) by East Coast Railway during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Earnings (Rs. in Crore)
2006-07	4424.76
2007-08	5457.37
2008-09	6638.21

State-wise contribution of revenue is not maintained.

(c) The information is not maintained station-wise. Allocation of funds for provision of passenger amenities and modernization of railway stations is made under Plan Head-Passenger

Amenities. Stations in the state of Orissa are situated in the jurisdiction of three zonal railway viz. Southeast Central Railway, South Eastern Railway and East Coast Railway. The information regarding allocation of funds for passenger amenities etc. is being collected.

- (d) Following surveys for new lines falling fully/partly in Orissa have been taken up.
- (i) Extension of Naupada-Gunupur line up to Theruvali.
 - (ii) Junagarh-Ambaguda.
 - (iii) Kantabanji-Rajkhariar-Ampani-Navarangpur-Jeyore.
 - (iv) Khurda Road-Rajatgarh bye-passing Bhubaneswar.
 - (v) Rayagada-Gopalpur.
 - (vi) Raigarh-Mand Colliery to Bhupdeopur.
 - (vii) Banspani-Barbil.
 - (viii) Keonjhar-Badampahar.
 - (ix) Digha-Jaleswar-Puri.
 - (x) Malkangiri-Dantewara.

Survey of railway lines in Chhattisgarh

†3792. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has given information to conduct a survey of some railway lines;
- (b) whether Ambikapur-Garwa route connecting Jharkhand is also included in it; and
- (c) the details of the target fixed for conducting a survey of these railway lines, route-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

Railway safety fund

†3793. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of Railway safety fund;
- (b) the year in which the Railway safety fund was introduced;
- (c) the total amount collected, so far, in the Railway safety fund;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the types of activity on which amount from the Railway safety fund was utilized during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(e) the total amount collected on passengers ticket under Railway safety fund from the year 2001 to 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Railway Safety Fund has been set up primarily to channelise the Railways' share of the diesel cess and petrol cess, receivable under the Central Road Fund, for road related railway safety works such as construction of road over/under bridges, subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking etc.

(b) The Railway Safety Fund was created in the year 2001-02.

(c) The total amount received from Ministry of Finance till March 2009 and appropriated to Railway Safety Fund is Rs. 4542.09 crore.

(d) The Fund was utilised for construction of Road Over Bridges, Road Under Bridges, Subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking etc.

(e) No amount has been collected from passengers ticket for Railway Safety Fund.

Vacancies in Railways

3794. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of admission by the Ministry that there were 1,72,444 vacancies in Group A, B, C and D as on 31 March, 2008, whether the Ministry explain the steps taken so far to fill up all these vacancies;

(b) how many such vacancies were filled during 1 April, 2008 to 31 March, 2009; and

(c) who is responsible for such serious lapse of not resorting to recruitment inspite of sanctioned strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In a large organization like Indian Railways, vacancies are likely to exist at any point of time. The policy of the government is to fill up these vacancies promptly. General Managers have been instructed to place indents with Railway Recruitment Boards to fill up Group 'C' vacancies and Railway Recruitment Cells to fill up Group 'D' vacancies.

(b) As per figures available in Ministry of Railways, a total number of 47,068 vacancies were filled on the Indian Railways from 1 April, 2008 to 31 March, 2009.

(c) Creation and filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Action has been taken by the Railways as necessary from time to time.

Construction of double track railway line

3795. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the construction of double track line between Maldah and New Bongaigaon through New Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether it is a fact that the double track line between Mugalsarai and New Jalpaiguri is yet to be completed;

(c) what is the reason for the delay of the work; and

(d) what is the time set for completion of double track line between Guwahati and New Bongaigaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is double line from Malda to New Jalpaiguri except very short stretch of 0.40 km. on Mahananda bridge between Malda-Old Malda. Doubling of track on Mahananda bridge is sanctioned and targeted for completion by March, 2010.

Double line exists between Samuktala Road and New Bongaigaon. Between Samuktala Road and New Jalpaiguri, there are two single lines on different alignment. With the present level of traffic, doubling is not considered necessary between New Jalpaiguri and Samuktala.

(b) and (c) Between Mugalsarai-New Jalpaiguri, there are two routes, one *via* Malda and other *via* Barauni-Katihar. Mostly the routes are double line except certain single line patches on both these routes. The doubling of remaining single line sections between Barauni-Katihar have been taken up and is likely to be completed by March, 2011. With this, double line will be available on this entire route *via* Barauni-Katihar except between Katihar-Barsoi where two routes on different alignment are already available.

On the other route *via* Malda, there are single line patches between Kiul-Barharwa and doubling of certain sections have been taken up. There is also a single line patch between Malda-Old Malda, of which doubling is already in progress and targeted for completion during 2009-10.

(d) Between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati, there are two single lines on different alignment *via* Jogighopa and *via* Rangia. The conventional doubling is not considered necessary for the present from traffic considerations.

Gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai line

3796. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of survey of extension and gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai line of Western Railway up to Dhond; and

(b) the target for survey report of the said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai with extension upto Manmad has been taken up and is likely to be completed in the year 2010-11. Further, from Manmad to Daund, a broad gauge line already exists.

Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nagpur rail line

†3797. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 856 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10 July, 2009 and state:

(a) whether granting approval to detailed estimate and granting approval to the amount is one and same thing, or two distinct processes;

(b) if both are distinct processes, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not fixing target for completion of Chhindwara-Nagpur gauge conversion project in tribal areas; and

(d) whether Government would consider finishing this project early since this project is related to development of tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Detailed estimate is sanctioned for a particular amount.

(c) and (d) The completion of project would depend upon availability of resources and other factors. In absence of assured funding, target could not be fixed.

Upgradation of stations in South Central Railway

3798. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need for a face lift of many railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise especially in South Central Railway;

(c) the amount spent on each zone during the last three years compared to South Central Railway; and

(d) the future programmes identified therefor for South Central Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Improvement to stations including face-lifting is an on-going activity and works in this regard are undertaken as and when required through Annual Works Programme. Zone-wise details in this regard, including South Central Railway, are as under :

Sl. No.	Railway	No. of Stations identified	Expenditure (Fig. in thousands of Rupees)		
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Central Railway	47	346300	510900	683900
2.	Eastern Railway	38	379400	600800	682500
3.	Northern Railway	49	407700	693300	1033200
4.	North Eastern Railway	29	233000	265500	199800
5.	Northeast Frontier Railway	45	338300	478000	309100
6.	Southern Railway	47	444600	761000	873900
7.	South Central Railway	56	398800	1167800	1707800
8.	South Eastern Railway	37	99300	136000	212300
9.	Western Railway	56	287700	434400	754900
10.	East Central Railway	50	223500	275300	227900
11.	East Coast Railway	29	114300	194200	287200
12.	North Central Railway	29	80400	183400	264200
13.	North Western Railway	38	213300	231800	218400
14.	Southeast Central Railway	29	169800	157200	119500
15.	South Western Railway	29	192300	406200	426000
16.	West Central Railway	29	140500	169200	209100
17.	Metro Railway		9900	19900	21200
TOTAL:		637	4079100	6684900	8230900

Charging of superfast surcharge on non-superfast trains

3799. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several superfast trains clock less than 55 km. per hour average whereas passengers are charged superfast surcharges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to stop this unfair practice; and

(d) if so, by when?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Fast speed trains

3800. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce fast speed trains in the country;
- (b) whether any surveys have been made in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways has decided to conduct pre-feasibility studies on six selected high speed passenger corridors. Out of these, study for Pune — Mumbai — Ahmedabad is in progress. Outcome of the study will be available after its completion.

Speed of goods trains

†3801. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the speed of goods trains is estimated between 19 kilometres to 30 kilometres in the country;
- (b) if not, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether by enhancing the speed limit of these trains, the quantity of goods transported can be increased; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Quantity of goods transported by rail primarily depends upon demand. However, increase in speeds will effect an improvement in turn round of wagons which will, to some extent, enable carriage of more quantity with the same fleet of rolling stock.
- (d) Speed of freight trains depends upon the line capacity, trailing load carried, the wagon design and track parameters. Improvement in wagon design, track parameters etc. is a continuous process.

Problems faced by passengers due to milkmen

†3802. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that milkmen around Delhi enter into general bogies;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that train passengers have to face a lot of problems because of their activity and they have also complained many times in this regard; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Milkmen holding monthly milk vender tickets are authorized to travel in nominated coaches/trains only. However, some cases of milk vendors travelling in other than these specified coaches/trains, causing inconvenience to *bona fide* passengers, have come to notice.

(c) Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police are deputed to conduct regular checks to apprehend milkmen travelling in contravention of the specified instructions and charge them as per rules.

Repair and expansion of stations in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

†3803. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations identified for repair and expansion in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during financial year 2008-09;

(b) the details of amount allocated to each station for this purpose, station-wise; and

(c) by when repair and expansion works of identified stations are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Names of railway stations identified for repairs and expansion in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during financial year 2008-09 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Repairs and expansion of railway stations are undertaken under Plan Head- Passenger Amenities. Station-wise allocation of funds for this purpose is not maintained. However, allocation of funds under this Plan Head, during 2008-09, for the Railways which cover stations in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh is as under:

Sl. No.	Railways	Allocation of funds during 2008-09 (Figures in crore of Rs.)
1.	Central Railway	53.34
2.	North Central Railway	27.97
3.	Southeast Central Railway	15.05
4.	West Central Railway	22.59
5.	Western Railway	62.65

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Works of repairs and expansion of facilities at stations is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities.

Statement

*Details of railway stations in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh
identified during 2008-09 for repairs and expansion*

1. Chhattisgarh

Southeast Central Railway (23 nos.) — Raigarh, Baraduar, Korba, Champa, Kotarlia, Naila, Bilaspur, Bema, Bhatapara, Tilda, Raipur, Bhilai Power House, Durg, Dallirajhara, Uslapur, Ambikapur, Bishrampur, Rasmara, Murhipar, Bakal, Musra, Rajnandgaon, Jatkanhar.

2. Madhya Pradesh

Southeast Central Railway (14 nos.) — Anuppur, Shahdol, Nowrojabad, Umaria, Rupound, Mandla Fort, Seoni, Balaghta, Howbagh, Gowarighat, Shikara, Binaikai, Ghunsore, Pendrai.

West Central Railway (53 nos.) — Barkhera, Dewanganj, Salamatpur, Sanchi, Vidisha, Gulabganj, Mandi Bamora, Ganjbasoda, Mungaoli, Pipraigaon, Ashoknagar, Guna, Kumbhraj, Chachora Binaganj, Biora Rajgarh, Pachor Road, Samarpur, Shajapur, Miyana, Shivpuri, Hoshangabad, Habibganj, Itarsi, Bina, Bhopal, Banapura, Katni Mudwara, Jabalpur, Madan Mahal, Satna, Katni, Maihar, Rewa, Nurshingpur, Sihora, Salichoka Road, Amdra, Salemnabad, Majhgawan, Mandideep, Powarkheda, Dhunkheri, Bagaratawa, Suhagpur, Pipariya, Bhankhedi, Gadarwara, Kareli, Shridham, Jukehi, Jaitwara.

Central Railway (7 nos.) — Ghoradongari, Pandhurna, Parasia, Khandwa, Neapanagar, Kohadad, Bagmar.

North Central Railway (8 nos.) — Gwalior, Antri, Datia, Sonagir, Motijheel, Kailaras, Sabalgarh, Sheopurkalan.

Western Railway (20 nos.) — Ratlam, Indore, Ujjain, Mhow, Nagda, Meghnagar, Shujanpur, Dewas, Neemuch, Mandsor, Jhora, Bamnia, Thadlaroad, Kachrod, Bairagarh, Kalisindh, Kalapiapl, Raoti, Mangliagaon, Berchha.

Construction of overbridge at Similia level crossing

‡3804. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the long standing demand for construction of an overbridge at Similia level crossing between Shyama Charanpur passenger halt and Dhenkanal station under Khordha Road division of East Coast Railway;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that Chief Minister of the State has recently laid the foundation of this railway overbridge there; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the time by when the railway overbridge would be ready?

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

(b) It is learnt that foundation stone laying ceremony was held by State authorities.

(c) Diversion of road for construction of Road over bridge (Railway portion) is in progress. Target date for completion of Railway portion of work is December, 2010.

Joint venture of Indian steel industry with overseas partners

3805. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian steel industry, cautious in current economic scenario, have preferred joint ventures and acquisition deals while getting into tie up with partners overseas;

(b) if so, whether Japan, the third largest steel maker is reportedly looking for a venture with India's Bhushan Steel to set up a \$1.8 bn. steel factory in West Bengal;

(c) whether the demand of steel is going to be stabilised in the latter part of 2009 as per the expectation of World Steel Association Industry; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will help the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Joint venture and acquisition overseas are commercial activities of the concerned companies are not normally made public until their finalization and approval. The details regarding proposals of steel companies for joint ventures and acquisition overseas are not available in the Ministry of Steel. However, on a specific query, M/s. Bhushan Steel Limited has informed that, the company is currently having preliminary discussion on the issue of joint venture with some of the Japanese companies for their projects in India.

(c) In the "Worldsteel Short Range Outlook" published on 27th April, 2009 the World Steel Association (worldsteel) had made a forecast that worldwide apparent steel use is expected to decline by - 14.9% to 1,018.6 million metric tonnes (mmt) in 2009 after declining by (-) 1.4% (1,197 mmt) in 2008. However, World Steel Association has predicted that world steel demand is expected to stabilize in the latter part of 2009 leading to a mild recovery in 2010.

(d) A stability in world steel market is expected to cause a steady demand - supply situation, thereby, helping the industry to plan for its future business growth.

Diversification of activities of NMDC and MECON Ltd.

3806. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSUs like National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., MECON Ltd. Have

diversified their activities towards consultancy and similar disciplines to share their expertise with private or other non-steel public sector units;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of their earning from consultancy activities, PSU-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the Research and Development activities in the steel sector and the annual funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) MECON Ltd. and Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL), Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel are providing consultancy services primarily in the field of iron and steel.

(b) The percentage of earnings of MECON & SIIL from consulting activities during the last three years are given below:

Year	Percentage of earnings of MECON from consulting activities	Percentage of earnings of SIIL from consulting activities
2006-07	41.5%	1.70%
2007-08	58.6%	0.67%
2008-09	63%	0.40%

(c) Research and Development (R&D) in steel sector is pursued mainly at the in-house R&D Centers of SAIL and Tata Steel Ltd. (TSL). Other companies like RINL, NMDC, MECON, MOIL, SIIL, Essar Steel, Ispat Industries Ltd., JSW Steel etc. have also started making efforts in this direction. Indian steel companies have taken up a large number of R&D projects which primarily focus on the areas of Productivity improvements, Energy conservation, Beneficiation of raw material, Product development, Quality improvement etc.

Financial assistance for R&D activities in steel sector is provided by the Government from the Steel Development Fund. The fund released during last three years is as under:

Year	Fund released
2006-07	19.31
2007-08	10.12
2008-09	7.27

Further to supplement R&D efforts, the Government has made a budgetary allocation of Rs.118 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period for the first time for promoting R&D activities which *inter-alia* includes quality upgradation also.

Expansion plan of SAIL

3807. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has drawn up plans to borrow nearly Rs. 5000 crores in the current fiscal year to increase the expansion capacity of its plants;
- (b) if so, how SAIL would borrow such huge amount and repay the same; and
- (c) the details of steel plants in which such investments are likely to be made and to what extent the expansion capacity of the SAIL plants are to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plans to borrow upto Rs.6500 crores in the current financial year for expansion and modernization of its plants. The funds are proposed to be borrowed in combination of bonds and term loans for a period of 5 to 15 years from banks and other institutions. The repayment of loans on maturity would be out internal resources of the company.

(c) SAIL has undertaken the Modernization and expansion of its integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur, Burnpur (IISCO Steel Plant) and the special Steel Plant at Salem. SAIL proposes to increase the production of hot metal from the present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 23.46 MTPA in the present phase.

Privatization/Disinvestment of PSUs

3808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the undertakings under the Ministry which have been privatized or where disinvestment has taken place till date;
- (b) the undertaking-wise amount of funds received by Government through such move;
- (c) whether any irregularity has taken place in the course of privatization or disinvestment of these undertakings;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Disinvestment has taken place in the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in the years 1992-95 and KIOCL Limited in the Year 1995-96.

(b) The Government received Rs.1036.33 crores and Rs.11.40 crores from such disinvestments in SAIL and KIOCL Ltd. respectively.

(c) The Government is not aware of any irregularities in respect of these disinvestments.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Hike in price of foodgrain

†3809. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report, 'Agricultural Outlook 2009-2018' has been published as a result of concerned efforts made by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that according to this report the prices of cereals have declined in the rich countries while the situation is quite contrary in poor countries;

(c) if so, the facts thereof, and whether there will be a rise in the number of poor people in poor countries due to price-rise; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the Agricultural Outlook 2008-2017, food price inflation (not just foodgrain prices but all food prices) was generally higher in a sample of 15 developing countries as compared to 10 developed countries over the period from February, 2007 to February 2008, though food price inflation in India, at 5.8% was the lowest in the group of developing countries.

According to the above report, there was a marked slowing in food price inflation during the period February, 2008 to February, 2009 most developing and developed countries but not in India where the rate of food price inflation accelerated sharply. However, there is substantial variation among countries and generalizations are not possible.

As per the FAO estimates, the number of malnourished people in the world increased to 1.02 billion in 2009 as a result of higher food prices and the financial crisis. Whether this number will rise still further depends on how quickly the world economy recovers from the crisis, trend in food prices in future and how soon wages catch up with higher food prices.

In order to increase availability of foodgrains and to have a check on their prices, the Government is implementing a number of schemes such as the National Food Security Mission, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Hundred Days Programme

3810. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) A copy of the Programme is annexed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Ministry of Steel performs an on-going role for facilitating the development of the Indian steel industry. The Ministry is also responsible for nurturing the various public sector undertakings functioning under its ambit. The Ministry would consequently adopt and implement various policies and programmes from time to time in pursuit of its mandate, even after the 100-day period.

(c) The progress of utilization of the budget provisions in respect of both the Ministry and its Public Sector Undertakings is periodically reviewed by the Ministry from time to time.

Statement

Details of the agenda for hundred days' programme of the Ministry

Accelerated Investment in Steel Sector Projects

One of our first priorities is to accelerate the pace of steel capacity addition projects in the country, both in the Public and Private sectors. We will make all endeavours to see that the 124 million tonne steel capacity, projected by the year 2011-12, is realized by way of policy facilitation and vigorous coordination efforts with the concerned State Governments and the Central Ministries. A key priority in the current year will be to expedite greenfield and brownfield capacity expansion, already in various stages of progress.

During the current year the three Public Sector Units: SAIL, RINL and NMDC have planned to invest nearly Rs.13,000 crore in their ongoing capex and modernisation projects. **We intend to put in place a proactive mechanism for ensuring time bound progress for all these PSU projects. It will be our endeavour to ensure that all PSU steel projects are completed as per their targeted plans, without delays.**

A concerted effort will similarly be made for facilitating the completion of all major Private sector steel projects, so that these capacities are commissioned, as targeted.

Integrated Steel Plant (ISP) of NMDC at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh

NMDC has already decided in-principle to set up a **3 million tonne per annum (MTPA)** Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh with a capital investment of **Rs. 16,000 crore.**

995 Acres of land is already in possession of NMDC for this plant. The matter of acquisition of additional land for this project is being taken up. We will endeavour to obtain environment clearance as well as allotment of water for the project within the next 100 days. Short listing of technology providers and finalization of appropriate technology specifications for ISP will also be completed during the next 100 days, **which will enable start of work for this plant within this financial year.**

Restructuring the smaller PSUs of the Steel Ministry

There is a critical need to review the structure, functioning and objectives of some of the smaller PSUs of the Ministry with a view to maximising efficiency, synergies and the benefits of scale. A Committee set up by the Ministry has already begun a detailed study of MSTC Ltd., KIOCL Ltd., Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. (FSNL) and Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL) with a view to undertake restructuring/mergers, as warranted.

The Committee will submit its recommendations to the Ministry within the next 50 days. The Ministry proposes to finalise its strategy for restructuring these companies within the next 100 days.

Reopening of Panna Diamond Mine

Panna Diamond Mine of NMDC, a Navratna PSU of Ministry of Steel, is located at Village Majhgawan, District Panna, Madhya Pradesh. This mine was commissioned in 1968-69 with an initial capacity of 12,500 carats per annum, which was expanded to 1 lakh carats per annum in 2001-02. This mine has a special importance as it is the first mechanized diamond mine in Asia. The project was providing direct employment for about 250 people. This mine has been lying closed since August, 2005 due to problems relating to environment clearance and permission from Wild Life Sanctuary, as the mine falls in the Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary. As a result of persistent efforts, the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been obtained recently, paving the way for reopening of these mines. Hon'ble Supreme Court has imposed certain conditions, including payment of an amount of Rs. 10.69 crore to Madhya Pradesh Government as Net Present Value (NPV) for reopening this mine, which are being complied with at the earliest. **We will endeavour to reopen this mine within the next three months. This will not only result in additional revenue for NMDC, but will also provide direct as well indirect employment to a number of people around the project site.**

Merger of Sponge Iron India Limited with NMDC Limited

Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL), a PSU of this Ministry, was established in 1975. SIIL has its sponge iron plant in Paloncha in Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh with a production capacity of 60,000 tonne sponge iron per annum. The company has not been able to show optimum performance for a number of years due to operational and financial constraints. Ministry of Steel has therefore initiated the process for merging this unit with NMDC, a Navratna PSU of this Ministry, for ensuring improved synergy and growth for both the companies. **The**

merger process will be completed within next three months. NMDC has planned capital investment of more than Rs. 1000 crore for the capacity expansion of sponge iron production of this unit to 2.6 lakh tonne per annum and also for forward integration into manufacturing steel (long products) with a capacity of 0.3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) at the plant of SAIL at Paloncha after merger.

Merger of Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) with SAIL

BRL produces assorted type of refractories used primarily in iron and steel making. BRL has its corporate headquarters at Bokaro Steel City in Jharkhand. It has four plants:

- (i) Bhandaridah Refractories Plant (BHRP), Bhandaridah, Jharkhand
- (ii) Ranchi Road Refractories Plant (RRRP), Marar, Jharkhand
- (iii) Bhilai Refractories Plant (BRP), Maroda, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh
- (iv) IFICO Refractories Plant (IFICO RP), Marar, Jharkhand

The Government has already decided that BRL will merge with SAIL. Efforts will be made to complete the merger procedure and to issue the final orders for merger so that the *de facto* and *de jure* merger of BRL with SAIL is effected within 100 days. After the merger an investment of Rs. 77.13 crore is proposed to be made by SAIL for modernising the production facilities in the BRL units.

Merger of Maharashtra Elektros melt (MEL) with SAIL

Maharashtra Elektros melt Limited located at Chandarpur in Maharashtra is the largest producer of Manganese based Ferro Alloys in the country and has been engaged in the business of Ferro Alloys since April, 1947. It was taken over by Steel Authority of India Limited in 1986 as a subsidiary, with SAIL holding 99.12% of shares.

The process of merger of MEL with SAIL is being completed. Efforts will be made to ensure that all the approvals are obtained in the next three months and the merger process completed by the end of the financial year 2009-10. After the merger, a capital investment of Rs. 250 crore is proposed to be made to enhance the capacity of the plant.

Conferment of Navratna status to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), a Miniratna company, is one of the most modern integrated steel plants in India with an annual production capacity of 3 million tonne per annum. An expansion plan is underway to double the capacity to 6.3 MTPA by 2010-11. It may be recalled that during 1990s, RINL had made accumulated losses and was reported to BIFR as a sick company in the Year 2000. However, the company has managed to turn around since and has been consistently making profits since 2002-03. RINL has also attained techno-economic production parameters that are among the best in the country. A proposal to declare RINL as a

Navratna company is under consideration of the Government which will give it greater autonomy in making investment and commercial decisions. **We would endeavour to see that Navranta status is conferred to RINL within 100 days.**

Allocation of Chiria mines to SAIL

Out of the ten mining leases of SAIL in the Chiria-Gua belt of Jharkhand, six are under deemed extension and the balance are under dispute. Recently the Govt. of Jharkhand has finally responded positively to a long standing request of this Ministry and has issued orders for accepting the change in the ownership of the Chiria leases from IISCO to SAIL.

Further concerted efforts will be made in the next 100 days for ensuring that the requisite formalities are completed for settling all the pending issues in favour of SAIL.

Allotment of Sansangda Iron Ore Mine to NMDC

Government of Jharkhand has recommended to Ministry of Mines, Government of India for grant of mining lease for Sansangda NE Iron Ore Block with iron ore reserve of about 45 million tonne over an area of 115.46 Hectare in West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand to a Joint Venture Company of NMDC Limited and Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC) in June 2008. **We will take up the matter with the Ministry of Mines for expediting prior approval of Ministry of Mines for allotment of this Iron Ore Mine to JV Company of NMDC Limited.**

Forestry Clearance for the Rowghat mines in Chhattisgarh

Development of the Rowghat mines in the State of Chhattisgarh is critical for meeting the expanded iron ore requirement of the Bhilai Steel Plant. The Government of India has granted in-principle approval for diversion of forest land for the Rowghat leases in Nov '08. SAIL has deposited about Rs.418 crore on account of the net present value of forest land and for compensatory afforestation. The proposal for final forestry clearance is likely to be recommended by the State Government shortly for the approval of Government of India.

We will endeavour to get the final forestry clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in the next 100 days, which will pave the way for the work to commence on developing the Rowghat mines.

Restructuring of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Company Ltd. (HSCL)

HSCL, a Kolkata based company, was established in 1964. HSCL is engaged in the construction of integrated steel plants and other infrastructure development activities. The company has accumulated losses to the tune of Rs. 1379 crore due to heavy interest burden and excessive manpower in the past. However, the company has shown operational profits for the last several years. A revival/restructuring package is being evolved by the Government aiming at expediting the process of modernization of Steel Plants and infrastructure projects by HSCL.

HSCCL would be in a position to take up fresh infrastructure projects and earn profit after the implementation of the revival package. The Ministry will endeavour to seek approval of the Government for restructuring of HSCCL within next three months.

Restructuring of the Bird Group of Companies

A proposal for restructuring the Government owned companies collectively called the Bird Group of Companies (BGC) for ensuring their revival is under active consideration of the Ministry. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has been identified as the strategic partner for acquiring controlling stakes in the Bird Group. The organizational structure proposed is for Orissa Mineral Development Corporation (OMDC) and Bisra Stone Lime Company (BSLC) and Eastern Investments Limited (EIL) to be subsidiaries of RINL, which would be the holding company. This arrangement would be beneficial to both the companies as it is expected that while RINL would have greater access to raw material, the Bird Group of Companies would benefit from the infusion of funds by RINL for mechanization and development of mines besides benefiting from the managerial and technical expertise available in RINL. **Efforts will be made to procure approval of Government within 3 months for restructuring of Bird Group of Companies.**

Commencement of work of Steel Melting Shop – SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant

The SMS Complex of 4.0 million tonne (MT) per annum capacity, with latest state of the art technology and modern quality control systems, has been envisaged in the modernisation and expansion plan of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP). The new Steel Melting Shop Complex comprises of the following main packages:

- (a) Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Shop Complex with 3 converters of 160 tonne capacity each and annual capacity of 4.11 million tonne.
- (b) Continuous casting plant with 4 casters of total annual capacity of 4.0 million tonne.

Orders for both the packages have been placed and the total estimated cost of the entire Steel Melting Shop Complex is expected to be around Rs. 3,500 crore. The major benefits of the projects are that BSP shall be producing 4.0 million tonne of clean steel of superior quality with an environment friendly and energy efficient technology.

The work on executing this major project would commence within the next three months.

Strategic Partnership between Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) and RINL

The proposal for induction of a strategic partner for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) a PSU under Department of Commerce has been under consideration. Ministry of Steel has

proposed for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) to be the holding company of NINL. This move would impart synergy to both the companies as it would satisfy RINL's basic requirement of raw material from the mines owned by NINL and simultaneously allow investment by RINL in NINL's future modernization and expansion plans. **The Ministry of Steel has already taken the matter up with Ministry of Commerce and would endeavour to have a consensual decision on the matter and seek clearances from concerned authorities for the proposed partnership.**

Joint Venture of SAIL with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)

SAIL and SCI have joined hands to sign an MOU to form a joint venture company which will essentially take care of SAIL's shipping needs. This is a step towards backward integration as SAIL is dependent on imported coking coal. Around 10 million tonne of coking coal is being imported at the moment which with expansion of SAIL will continue to increase. SCI, which is the biggest shipping company in India, has the expertise to complement SAIL's requirements in this field.

We will endeavour to set up this Joint Venture Company in the next 100 days.

Joint venture of MOIL and SAIL for setting up Ferro Alloy Plant

MOIL as a part of its diversification and expansion plans has decided to set up a Ferro Alloy plant comprising of 1x16.5 MVA capacity furnace for production of high carbon Ferro Manganese and 2x27.0 MVA capacity furnace for production of Silico Manganese at village Nandini, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh). This project envisages a total investment of Rs. 400 crore under the joint venture participation with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) on an equal partnership basis. MOIL and SAIL have formed a Joint Venture company namely "SAIL MOIL Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd." which has been incorporated on 31st July 2008. **Work on setting up this plant is expected to commence within 100 days.**

Joint venture of MOIL and RINL for setting up Ferro Alloy Plant

Considering the enhanced demand of Ferro Alloys, MOIL has purchased 100 acres land in Growth Centre, Bobbili, Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Ferro Alloys plant and also to utilize the same as a stockyard for importing Manganese Ore by creating blending facilities incorporating crushing, screening, sintering process/project. MOIL has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with RINL for setting up of the Ferro alloys plant. **We will endeavour to have the JV company with partnership of RINL and MOIL incorporated within 100 days.**

Wiping out accumulated losses in MECON by September 2009

MECON Limited is an engineering, consultancy and contracting PSU under the Ministry of Steel. As a consequence of economic downturn during the period between 2001-02 to 2003-04, the company had suffered an accumulated loss of Rs. 210.04 crore until 2003-04. Government of India had approved a Restructuring and Revival Plan for MECO in February 2007, at a total

12.00 Noon.

for MECON in February 2007, at a total cost of Rs. 100.72 crore. At that point of time, the networth of the company was negative at (-) Rs. 132.30 crore and it had an accumulated loss of Rs. 162.81 crore.

The Company has since performed very well during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. As on 31.03.2009, the networth of MECON has turned positive at Rs. (+) 34.85 crore. However the company still has an accumulated loss of Rs. 68.13 crore in its books.

We will take all efforts now to see that the entire accumulated loss of MECON is wiped out by September 2009.

Strategic partnership between KIOCL and NMDC Ltd.

KIOCL, a Mini Ratna PSU, is facing problems in the operations of its Pellet Plant and Blast Furnace due to closure of mining operations since 2006 and also due to the global downturn. It is proposed that NMDC, a Nav Ratna Company under the Ministry, will acquire majority stakes in KIOCL and KIOCL will acquire the stake in NMDC. There is a perfect synergy between NMDC and KIOCL as both are mining companies. The partnership acquisition will ensure continuous supply of iron ore to KIOCL from NMDC. In addition, NMDC will have the benefit of the experience of KIOCL in operating the pellet plant and mining.

We will endeavour to seek approval of the Government for giving final shape to this strategic alliance within this period.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रदीप जैन) : महोदय, मैं 'भारत निर्माण योजना' के संबंध में 14 जुलाई, 2009 को राज्य सभा में दिए गए अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 1157 के उत्तर के संशोधनार्थ एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Report (2007-08) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India),
New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990:-
- (a) Annual Report of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 647/15/09]

Notifications of the Ministry of Rural Development

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) under sub-section (2) of Section 29 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:—

(1) S.O. 2999 (E), dated the 31st December, 2008, amending Schedule II of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

(2) S.O. 513 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, amending Schedule II of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 673/15/09]

(3) G.S.R. 162 (E), dated the 12th March, 2009, regarding nomination of members to the Central Employment Guarantee Council.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 675/15/09]

(4) G.S.R. 309 (E), dated the 5th May, 2009, publishing the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Central Council) Amendment Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 674/15/09]

(5) S.O. 1387 (E), dated the 1st January, 2009, amending Notification S.O. 1 (E), dated 1st January, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

(6) S.O. 1824 (E), dated the 24th July, 2009, amending Schedule I of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. For (5) and (7) See No.L.T. 673/15/09]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) Notification G.S.R. 134 (E), dated the 27th February, 2009, publishing the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Central Council) Amendment Rules, 2009, under sub-section (1) of Section 33 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 674/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of Section 396 of the

Companies Act, 1956, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notification S.O.1847 (E), dated the 28th July, 2009, publishing the M/S. Bharat Refractories Limited and the M/S. Steel Authority of India Limited Amalgamation Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 666/15/09]

- I. **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh and related papers.**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon and related papers.**
- III. **MOU (2009-10) between the Government of India and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir,
I beg to lay on the Table

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (4) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
 - (c) 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. 667/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
 - (a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Gurgaon, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 668/15/09]

- III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), for the year 2009-10.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 580/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of External Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 53 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of External Affairs (Legal and Treaties Division) Notification S.O. 1661 (E), dated the 8th July, 2009, publishing the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism (Implementation of Security Council Resolutions) Amendment Order, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 686/15/09]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture

II. Report and Accounts (2006-07 and 2007-08) of various organisation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Notification G.S.R. 534 (E), dated the 18th July, 2009, publishing the Organic Agricultural Produce Grading and Marking Rules, 2009, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 687/15/09]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Notification G.S.R 452 (E), dated the 30th June, 2009, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (Criteria for Distinctiveness Uniformity and Stability for Registration) Regulations, 2009, under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 655/15/09]

- II. (i) 1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 674/15/09]

- (ii) (a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on

the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 653/15/09]

(iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Consumer Coordination Council, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 732/15/09]

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the VOICE Society, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 733/15/09]

(v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 734/15/09]

I. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Statements giving reasons for not laying the Reports and related papers (2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08) of various institutions.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 18 and Section 19 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956:—

(a) Fifty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 690/15/09]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Statements giving reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited statement of Accounts of the following Institutions within stipulated period:—

(i) Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, for the year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(ii) Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(iii) Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2007-08.

(iv) National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(v) Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2007-2008.

(vi) Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, Uttarakhand, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (vi). See No.L.T. 735/15/09]

**Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the Central Council for Research in
Unani Medicine, New Delhi and related papers**

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 656/15/09]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-ninth and
Thirty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, on behalf of SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fortieth and Forty-first
Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Railways**

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fortieth and Forty-first Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

**Failure of check the spread of swine flu in the country and death of
a young girl due to swine flu in Pune**

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति महोदय, स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यहां मौजूद हैं। चूंकि मैं पुणे से आता हूँ, इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि स्वाइन फ्लू की जो चर्चा हुई है, उसमें वास्तविकता अलग है। पुणे में जो रीडा शेख की मृत्यु हुई है, उसमें माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह कहा है कि गलती दोनों तरफ से हुई है, लेकिन वास्तविकता यह नहीं है। वास्तविकता यह है कि पहले वह जहांगीर हॉस्पिटल में गई, वहां से उसके स्वेब टेस्ट के लिए रुबी हॉस्पिटल में भेजा गया। उनके द्वारा नेगेटिव रिपोर्ट देने के बाद इसको discharge किया गया और discharge होने के बाद जब फिर तकलीफ बढ़ी, चूंकि वह टेस्ट सही नहीं हुआ था, इसलिए वह फिर अस्पताल में आई। उसके बाद National Institute of Virology में टेस्ट हुआ, तो वहां positive निकला, लेकिन तब तक बहुत देर हो चुकी थी और बेचारी लड़की मर गई। उनके parent ने FIR दर्ज किया है। इसलिए मंत्री जी द्वारा यह कहना कि गलती दोनों तरफ से हुई है, यह सही नहीं है। यह जख्म पर नमक छिड़कने जैसा है। शायद मंत्री जी अपने बयान से गलती करने वाले हॉस्पिटल को बचाना चाहेंगे। मेरा मुद्दा यह है कि आज पुणे में स्थिति क्या है? एक शहर में यानी पुणे में 114 cases positive हैं और पूरे देश भर में 540 cases हैं। पुणे में 114 cases positive हैं, जिनमें सौ से ज्यादा स्कूल चिल्ले हैं। चौदह स्कूल बंद हैं और टेस्टिंग के लिए कतारें लगी हुई हैं। शहर में घबराहट इस कदर है कि एक लाख लोग मास्क पहन कर जा रहे हैं और एक दूसरा आदमी जिसको आज ससुन अस्पताल में वेंटीलेटर पर रखा गया है, क्योंकि वह भी positive साबित हुआ है। अगर स्थिति यहां तक है, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं?

सर, आपको ताज्जुब होगा कि रीडा शेख की मृत्यु होने तक राज्य सरकार की तरफ से एक भी काम नहीं हुआ था। राज्य सरकार पूरी तरह से लापरवाह थी और तब तक केन्द्र सरकार को उसमें आने की जरूरत भी नहीं थी, लेकिन राज्य सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया। लोकल प्रशासन कुछ करता रहा। आज मुख्य चीज यह है कि अगर एक ही शहर में इतना इन्फेक्शन हो रहा है, तो यह ट्रेल क्यों नहीं हो रहा है कि यह इन्फेक्शन कहां

से आया है? एक-एक मरीज का जो ट्रेल होना चाहिए, वह नहीं हुआ है। मेरी सरकार से विशेष रूप से दो मांगे हैं। एक, पुणे शहर में यह जो epidemic जैसी बात हुई है, केन्द्र को उसकी जांच करने के लिए विशेषज्ञों का एक दल भेजना चाहिए। दूसरा, ट्रेल करने का जो काम आज तक नहीं हुआ है, उसके लिए राज्य सरकार को उचित निर्देश देना चाहिए। साथ ही मंत्री जी को अपना यह बयान, कि गलती दोनों तरफ से हुई है, वापस लेना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, यह जो स्वाइन फ्लू का विषय है, यह देश के लिए बहुत ही चिंता का विषय है। देश में यह इन्फेक्शन इतने बड़े लेवल पर spread हुआ है। आदरणीय मंत्री जी यहां हैं, इन्होंने आज एक सवाल के जवाब में यह बोला है कि 30 जून, 2009 तक 109 पैसेंट डिटेक्ट हुए थे, जिनके अंदर इन्फेक्शन positive पाई गई थी, लेकिन आज के जो हालात हैं, उसमें यह आंकड़ा बढ़ रहा है। अब यह संख्या करीब छः सौ तक पहुंच चुकी है और इनमें से एक लड़की की मृत्यु भी हो चुकी है, जो कि बहुत ही दुखदायक है और बहुत ही चिंता का विषय है। मैं आपके माध्यम से आदरणीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी इन्होंने बोला कि हम सात हजार पैसेंट को एयरपोर्ट पर डिटेक्ट किए हैं और उनका ट्रीटमेंट किए हैं, तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि 30 जून को यह जो 109 पैसेंट थे और अब यह आंकड़ा छः सौ तक हो गया है। इसमें छः गुणा वृद्धि हुई है, तो यह चिंता का विषय है कि हम कह रहे हैं कि हमारे प्रबंध ठीक हैं, हमारे पास जरूरत के मुताबिक laboratories हैं, लेकिन जो पुणे में, मुंबई में और पूरे देश में हुआ है, वह चिंता का विषय है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी को यह कहना चाहूंगा कि ग्रास रुट लेवल तक इसका diagnose का प्रबंध होना चाहिए और दूसरा, जो specially NRI एरिया है, उसको खास तौर पर टारगेट करना चाहिए।

और तीसरा, जो प्राइवेट हॉस्पिटल्स हैं, उनके साथ भी कुछ tie-up करना चाहिए ताकि जो इतनी बड़ी गिनती में patients आ रहे हैं, उनका इलाज वहां हो सके। साथ ही medicines, जो सिर्फ सरकारी हॉस्पिटल्स में कुछ हद तक available हैं, उनका प्रबंध अगर प्राइवेट लेवल पर भी हो सके, तो उसको भी सरकार कराने की कोशिश करे।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, आपको बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है और प्रश्न-काल में माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी ने इससे जुड़े हुए मसलों पर बहुत ही विस्तृत बात की थी। मैं सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर disease को test करने के लिए नेटवर्क हो तो लोगों के मन में दहशत नहीं होगी। पुणे में जिस तरह से एक बच्ची की मृत्यु के बाद अगले दिन लोग test कराने के लिए पहुंचे, जिस तरह की तसवीरें टेलीविजन चैनलों पर दिखाई गईं, वह लोगों के मन में दहशत पैदा करने वाली थीं। संयोग से माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, मेरा उनसे एक ही अनुरोध है कि बड़े पैमाने पर देश में इस रोग को test करने की facility लोगों को मिले, क्योंकि वह प्राइवेट अस्पतालों में नहीं है, वह केवल सरकारी अस्पतालों में है। महोदय, प्रसन्नता की बात यह है कि कल मैं टी.वी. पर देख रहा था कि पहले यह दिल्ली में एक ही जगह था, पर अब आपने उसे बहुत जगहों पर कर दिया है। पता लगा कि यहां भी test हो रहा है, यहां भी हो रहा है, यहां भी हो रहा है। तो यह और जगहों पर भी होना चाहिए और future के लिए भी, क्योंकि तमाम ऐसी communicable diseases हैं, जो आती रहेंगी, लेकिन इस तरह की laboratories होनी चाहिए जो इसके लिए vaccine भी तैयार कर सकें, क्योंकि तमाम ऐसे रोग हैं जो animals के through आते हैं, चाहे वह Avian Flu रहा हो, चाहे SARS रहा हो, Swine Flu भी उनमें से एक है। जब वह आदमी से आदमी में communicate होने लगता है, तो एक गंभीर स्थिति हो जाती है और आपने ठीक कहा था कि इतने बड़े पैमाने पर वह जब geometrically multiply करता है, तो यह फिर कहना, किसी पर दोषारोपण करना कि फलां राज्य सरकार ने काम नहीं किया या केंद्र सरकार काम नहीं कर पा रही है, तो positive thinking की जरूरत यह है कि हम किस तरह से लोगों को उपचार दे सकें, test की व्यवस्था कर सकें और लोगों को दवा दे सकें।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, a lot has been spoken about the swine flu in Pune and other surrounding areas. I would not like to the 'flu' part of it. My worry is about the panic that has been spread in Pune and surrounding areas. Yes, there is an outburst of epidemic, but, at the same time, there is another outburst of panic and, more than that, rumours. The rumours are so much that everybody in Pune and surrounding areas are scared and afraid about themselves and, more than that, about their children. I appreciate the efforts and the explanation of the Minister. But, apart from controlling the actual epidemic, it is also the responsibility of the Government to control the panic situation and the rumours mills because these have long-standing effect. If you remember, Sir, twelve years ago, there was an epidemic of plague in Surat. More than the disease, it was the rumour that had created a lot of panic all over the country. So, it is the responsibility of both, the State Government as well as the Central Government, to ensure that panic is not created because panic can also pose similar problem like the epidemic. So, I would like to suggest, as the hon. Member has said, use private television, use Government television, radio, public hoarding, railway station announcements to tell the people that they should not get scared and there are enough medicines; there are sufficient number of doctors, and there is a cure to this. If you are able to create that kind of trust and confidence in the minds of people, they will not be worried. Yes, epidemic is there. God forbid, it has happened. But we have to be ready to fight against it. And, if all people, with conscience, come together only then it can happen. My suggestion is that the Government should take the help of the other Ministries also — the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting is sitting here, take her help — and create an atmosphere of confidence among the people. Thank you very much.

Reported construction of Atomic Reactor in Myanmar

श्री वृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, इधर समाचार पत्रों में, विशेषकर आस्ट्रेलियाई समाचार पत्रों में यह प्रकाशित हुआ है कि उत्तर कोरिया के सहयोग से म्यांमार में atomic reactor का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। वहां पर तानाशाही सरकार है। पिछले बीस वर्षों से वहां की लोकतांत्रिक कार्य पद्धति को खत्म कर दिया गया है और वहां की नेता Aung San Suu Kyi को जेल में डाल दिया गया है। पाकिस्तान के जो बदनामशुदा परमाणु वैज्ञानिक हैं, उनके सहयोग से इस atomic reactor का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। उससे दक्षिण एशिया ही नहीं, भारत को भी खतरा है और पूरे एशिया में शांति को खतरा है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस गंभीर घटनाक्रम पर ध्यान दे और इसके संदर्भ में उचित कार्यवाही करे। धन्यवाद।

Strike by the employees of the Nationalised Banks in the country

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण सवाल सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारे भारतीय बैंकों में कल से हड़ताल चल रही है। सारे कर्मचारी और अफसर, United Forum of Bank Union, हड़ताल पर हैं। वे कल भी हड़ताल पर थे और आज भी हड़ताल पर हैं। वे अपने वेतन समझौते की मांग कर रहे हैं कि हमारे वेतन में improvement हो। इसके अलावा वे अपनी pension में improvement की भी मांग कर रहे हैं। महोदय, IBA ने आश्वासन दिया था कि उनके वेतन में 17.9 परसेंट की बढ़ोत्तरी की जाएगी, लेकिन वे इससे पीछे हट रहे हैं, जबकि दूसरे पब्लिक सेक्टर में 24 परसेंट से

लेकर 40 परसेंट तक वेतन की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है। ये बैंक, जो हमारे देश की economy को बचाने में सक्षम रहे हैं, उनके कर्मचारियों के वेतन की बढ़ोत्तरी में आनाकानी की जा रही है। ये सारे बैंक मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं इसलिए जो बढ़ोत्तरी होगी, ये उसको वहन करने में सक्षम है। इसके लिए सरकार को अलग से कुछ भी नहीं देना पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि वह इस संबंध में intervene करे। आज तीन बजे CLC में मीटिंग होने वाली है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि सरकार इसमें पहल करे और उनमें समझौता कराए ताकि उनके वेतन में समुचित बढ़ोत्तरी हो सके। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, while joining my colleague, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the two day's strike which has been forced upon 11,00,000 bank employees and officers working in 26 nationalised banks and 8 private banks, because of an immature arrogance being demonstrated by the management and the Government. For the last two years, they have been negotiating for the second option to the existing pension scheme, but there is no improvement. They have also agreed to bear the cost partially. They have also been negotiating for improving the scheme of compassionate appointment or *ex-gratia* in lieu that scheme circulated by the management. On both the issues, an understanding was also arrived at. But when talks about the wage revision started, the IBA and the Government went back arrogantly from the understanding arrived at. They had offered 17.5 per cent wage rise, but on the eve of strike they went back to 13 per cent. Now, again, they have come back to 17.5 per cent. I think it is a demonstration of the most irresponsible handling of the industrial relations. In a sector like bank, involving 11 lakh employees and officers, playing a very crucial role in country's economic management, this kind of immature handling is totally unwarranted. At the last moment, again to sabotage the process, they have put some new conditions, imposing a new Pension Scheme for the future employees. They want to make the unions commit what is going to be in future. So, through you, Sir, I request the Government — the negotiation has been slated for today before the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) — that the Government must take a serious attitude, appreciate the yeoman role played by the employees and officers of the banking sector, particularly, in this global crisis situation, and intervene effectively so that their just demand, without any preconditionality, are met. I also request that the understanding earlier arrived at is implemented without any precondition and a respectable wage package is given to them in comparison to other public sector organizations. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, these nationalised banks have saved the national economy in the period of global meltdown and recession. Currently, the nationalised banks have given a profit of Rs. 67000 crores and are hardly demanding an amount of about Rs. 5500 crores to Rs. 5600 crores. If you look at the comparative wages of clerks and peons of the Central Government after Sixth Pay Commission vis-a-vis Bank clerks and peons, you will see that the Clerk in the Central Government is getting Rs. 15,000, whereas, a Bank Clerk is getting only Rs. 7600; and a Peon is getting Rs. 11,000 in the Central Government,

whereas, the Bank Peon is getting only Rs. 6,300. So, I think, demanding 20 per cent wage rise is not an injustice.

Sir, as has been already said, the IBA, which had agreed earlier for 17.5 per cent wage high, is now again asking for only 13 per cent wage high, which has created this resentment.

Sir, out of Rs. 6000 crores for pension, the IBA was to contribute around Rs. 4200 crores and Bank employees and officers were to contribute Rs. 1800 crores, which is 6.25 per cent, as 1 per cent works out to Rs. 275 crores. Rs. 1800 crores, which is 6.25 per cent, will be deducted from the current increased wages. Therefore, if 17.5 per cent wage hike is offered and pension cost of employees and officers, *i.e.*, 6.25 per cent is deducted, then wage hike will be only 11.25 per cent, which is less than all earlier settlements, hence not meeting the demands of UFBU.

So, Sir, I request the Government to intervene immediately and make a settlement which is better for the country, better for the employees and which will also send a correct message across the country.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with it.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अवनि राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

Cross-border infiltration despite heightened vigil along the international border

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the illegal infiltration continues through the international border despite heightened vigil throughout the border.

In connection with the killing of eight terrorists at separate places in Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday by the Indian soldiers, I want to draw the attention of the Government that these incidents indicate that if a cross-border infiltration is can take place despite heightened vigil and high-tech fencing of the LoC, the Indo-Bangladesh Border is not a problem for cross-border infiltration! Because the border fencing, floodlight and high watching tower works are yet to completed by the authorities, which may also take another three-four years.

Sir, illegal infiltration through the Indo-Bangladesh Border is not only a threat to the identity of the Assamese people but is also a grave threat to our national security. Sir, a few days back a number of members of fundamentalist terror organisation Huji were killed by the BSF along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Coupled with the illegal migration, the cattle smuggling, from various States like Bihar and West Bengal, and arms smuggling are regular features on the Indo-Bangladesh border. There is also an allegation by the local people that there could be involvement of the BSF in such activities. A proper and thorough departmental inquiry should be made in this regard. It is, therefore, urged upon the Government to complete the border fencing on a war-footing. BSF battalions deployed on the Indo-Bangla border should not be given the responsibility to hold unduly extended frontages. All country boats plying in the river near the border should be registered and adequate speed boats and other necessary arrangements should be made to strengthen the riverine border. Diversion of BSF battalions from the border for other tasks must be stopped. Above all, I urge upon the Government to implement the Assam Accord in letter and spirit. Sir, on 15th August, 2009, it would complete 25 years; non-implementation of this Accord would celebrate its silver jubilee!

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to implement the Assam Accord in letter and spirit in order to stop illegal infiltration and identify illegal migrants to the State, delete their names from the Voters List and deport them for the sake of maintaining the sovereignty of the Constitution of India.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Meance caused by monkeys in South Avenue in New Delhi endangering human lives

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is a matter of grave concern, not only for the public, but also for the Members of Parliament living in South Avenue. Sir, this is about the menace of the monkeys in South Avenue. As a regular morning walker in South Avenue, I know pretty well about the ordeals one has to face there. I have mentioned in the Special Mention that I made some time ago about the long-standing and serious problem caused by the monkeys. The monkeys come from elsewhere.

Sir, I am pretty serious about what I am saying.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, you are talking about this for the second or third time.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would not like to explain the ordeals faced in detail. Several MPs reside in South Avenue. You may ask them about this. Many people have asked me to raise the matter in the House and, that is why, I am raising it here. I am managing with it and that is a different matter. But several people are suffering because of this. The menace is grave and things are pretty serious. I would like to say that in spite of making a Special Mention regarding this issue earlier, nothing has been done. The Minister of Environment and Forests was present here till now; he is quite serious about his work. Now, I would like to bring this to his notice. In my opinion, this matter has not been considered with all seriousness. Due priority has not been given. Very importantly, there is no will or skill shown by the Department that is handling it. As a temporary measure, a special squad may be deployed from the Forestry Department and they can put their strategies into use to scare away the monkeys. This is a temporary solution. As a permanent solution, the Minister may consider convening a meeting with some of the MPs and all concerned officers. I can assure them of my support in trying to find a way out in dealing with this problem. We are all out to protect wild animals, but at the same time, human lives are more precious. Lastly, Sir, if the Government does not take any serious action, the passers-by will have to resort to self-defence by using their guns and pistols. This is the ultimate choice available. I don't think the Government would drive things to that extent. This is the point I wished to make.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

Corruption in mining activities in Orissa and request for a CBI Enquiry

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): धन्यवाद, उपसभापति महोदय। उड़ीसा की शान होती है खान, धान और पान। महोदय, इस देश में जितनी खनिज सम्पदा है, उसमें से सर्वाधिक हिस्सा उड़ीसा में है, किन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि वहां पर अब सरकारी प्रोत्साहन से खान और खनिज द्रव्यों में भयंकर * हो रहा है। महोदय, मेरा सौभाग्य है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के जो उड़ीसा मामलों के प्रभारी हैं, हमारे स्वास्थ्य मंत्री श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी यहां पर बैठे हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा): उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है वह**(व्यवधान)**....

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठ जाइए!**(व्यवधान)**... यह जीरो ऑवर है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: यहां पर हमारे श्री तारिक अनवर साहब बैठे हैं, जिनकी एन0सी0पी0 पार्टी का उड़ीसा में सरकारी दल के साथ प्री-पोल सीट ऐडजेस्टमेंट रहा है। माननीय सीताराम येचुरी जी भी यहां पर मौजूद थे।...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, उड़ीसा सरकार * कर रही है। वहां पर आरबीटीएल नामक एक कम्पनी है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठ जाइए। इनकी आवाज के सामने आपकी आवाज सुनाई नहीं देगी।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, ये क्या आवाज देंगे। मैंने इनको पिछले पांच सालों में सिखाया है कि कैसे केन्द्र से पैसा लिया जाता है। ये उनका क्या विरोध करेंगे? इनकी सरकार * करती है। सर, जो RBTL करके एक कम्पनी है, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप लोग बैठिए, बैठिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : वह मैगनीज का काम करती है। वहां पर Keonjhar जिला है। उस Keonjhar जिले में रुडकेला और कटासाई है, जो माइनिंग का एरिया है। उस RBTL ने उड़ीसा सरकार से माइनिंग लीज के लिए apply किया था। उड़ीसा माइनिंग कारपोरेशन ने भी लीज के लिए apply किया था, किन्तु OMC को अभी तक माइनिंग लीज नहीं दी गई है और वे इस चक्कर में थे कि शायद RBTL को लीज दें। अभी तो RBTL को गाडियों का काम दे दिया। RBTL को माइनिंग की लीज देने से पहले guarding का काम दिया है। वह वहां पर लाखों ट्रकों से मैगनीज को ट्रांसपोर्ट कर रहा है। सर, शुरुआत में यह चार हजार करोड़ का घोटाला या भ्रष्टाचार लगता था, लेकिन इसके बाद का सारा मामला उजागर हो रहा है और यह कहा जाता है कि पूरे प्रदेश में नियमगिरी, जो वेदांत को सप्लाई करता है और आपके सुन्दरगढ़ जिले में जो आयरनओर की माइनिंग हो रही है, ऐसा कहा जा रहा है कि सारे प्रदेश में एक लाख करोड़ का माइनिंग घोटाला हो रहा है। अभी सीताराम येचुरी जी यहां बैठे हैं, वह उनका new-found friend है। वह मुख्य मंत्री को कहे कि वे कम से कम इस प्रकार के घोटाले से दूर रहें। मैं निवेदन करता हूं कि इसकी सीबीआई से इन्क्वायरी कराई जाए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : उनको ऑन्सर नहीं देंगे।...(व्यवधान).. नहीं, नहीं नाम निकाल दीजिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, मैं इसकी पुरजोर मांग करता हूं।...(व्यवधान)..सर, उड़ीसा में इस प्रकार का घोटाला है(व्यवधान)..

श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिया (उड़ीसा) : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे समबद्ध करता हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : श्री मोइनुल हसन ।

श्री सीताराम येचुरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : यह भी एक आरोप है। पहले जिक्र किया कि सीताराम थे और बाद में बोले सीताराम हैं।...(व्यवधान)... हमें क्यों बीच में घसीट रहे हैं?(व्यवधान)..

SHRI MANGALA KISAN: It is their Government...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Punj, what is this? In Zero Hour, nobody can raise anything...(Interruptions). आप बोलिए, जाएगा।...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए।...(व्यवधान).. This is not possible...(Interruptions). Mr. Pany I cannot allow...(Interruptions). Because Mr. Yechury's name was taken, I allowed him...(Interruptions). ये क्या हो रहा है? ..(व्यवधान).. मिस्टर पाणि, यह क्या हो रहा है? ...(व्यवधान).. I will have to name both of you...(Interruptions). आप बैठिए, आप बैठिए।...(व्यवधान)... आपका नहीं है। श्री मोइनुल हसन ।...(व्यवधान).. यह हाउस है। यहां आपका कोई personal मामला नहीं है। आपने उठाया था, आपको जवाब दे दिया जाएगा, लेकिन जीरो ऑवर में कुछ नहीं होगा।

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair .

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Orissa): Sir, I want to say something.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot take it. Mr. Punj, you are a senior Member. I need not tell you. I cannot allow.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, just one minute.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that you want to say?

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, it is not just a matter of corruption...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will go on record. Now, Shri Moinul Hassan... (*Interruptions*). It is not going on record.

**Situation arising out of the Maoist attacks in different parts
of the country**

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I remember the hon. Prime Minister of the country saying on two occasions, "The Maoists activities as well as the Left-Wing Extremism is a great threat to the internal security of our nation." But, Sir, the incidents are increasing day by day. The common people are losing their lives, and, the affected area is extending. Sir, during the last two weeks, in Jharkhand, twenty police people have been killed by the Maoists activists.

Sir, in a specific area in my State, in the last five months, more than seventy workers of my party have been killed. The Maoists are attacking at one place and are taking shelter in other areas. Sir, in Lalgarh in West Bengal, joint action by the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal is being taken. But, Sir, I have seen that they have shifted to Jharkhand. After some time, they come back and destabilise the normal situation. Sir, normalcy is not being restored in this process. So, my first demand is that effective coordination with the adjoining States of West Bengal and Jharkhand should be established by the Government of India through its officers and Ministers.

Sir, while this joint action was going on, I have seen in the media some Ministers belonging to the Union Cabinet going to Lalgarh, breaking Rule 144, speaking and giving *bhashan* in meetings, instigating the people, and, also encouraging Maoists. Sir, it is absolutely perplex situation. So, I would like to know whether these Ministers know the guidelines of the Government of India with respect to what to do and what not to do. The Government should come out with a fresh vision in this regard. Sir, in this regard, with your kind permission... (*Time-bell rings*) Sir, forty seconds were lost.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. The clock was restarted. Please conclude.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, in this regard, with your kind permission, I would like to quote only one sentence of the Home Minister, which he said in this very House. "All sections of the House must recognize that if we must remain a democratic republic ruled by law, we must collectively rise and face the challenge of Left-Wing Extremism." Sir, the Home Minister is saying, "collectively rise", but the Members of the Union are not doing this. I would like to

request the Government of India to come out with a clear vision in so far as Lalgargh case is concerned.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with this important matter and add that the Government must explain as to how the Ministers of the Union Cabinet are instigating the Maoists. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has mentioned it. ...*(Interruptions)*... You just associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by my colleague. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please associate only. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. Now, Shri P. Rajeeve.

Discrimination against women candidates in the recruitment process of the State Bank of India

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the barbaric discrimination against women candidates in the recruitment process of State Bank of India. Sir, in the medical fitness test, which is the last stage of recruitment, the women candidates are compelled to undergo a pregnancy test, which has been introduced for the first time in the State Bank of India. Now, the LIC is also thinking of introducing this pregnancy test in their recruitment process.

Sir, as per the directions, in case of a female candidate, if it is found that she is pregnant, she should be rendered 'temporarily unfit', and, after three months of delivery, she should also be compelled to undergo another pregnancy test. In the guidelines, clause (a) states, for females, pregnancy is a bar for immediate appointment. Only after three months of the delivery, a fresh examination should be undertaken.

This compulsory pregnancy test in the recruitment process does not find place in any other bank including private banks in this country. It is shameful for the country. Therefore, I urge upon the Finance Minister to intervene in this matter and amend these guidelines immediately. Thank you.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Supply of spurious milk in Maharashtra

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, मैं एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बात सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारे देश में हजारों, लाखों मिठाई की दुकानें हैं, लेकिन न्यूज आया है कि 5 लाख लीटर सिंथेटिक दूध पूरे सतारा, महाराष्ट्र में सप्लाई किया गया। वह दूध न गाय का है और न भैंस का, बल्कि उसे कैमिकल्स से

बनाया गया है, तो ऐसा पांच लाख लीटर दूध वहां सप्लाई किया गया था। मेरी चिंता यह है कि हम जो दूध से बनी हुई मिठाइयां खाते हैं, उनकी शुद्धता का मापदंड क्या है? सर, मेरा सवाल बहुत छोटा सा है। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि दूध का बना हुआ जो सामान हम दिल्ली एवं अन्य स्थानों पर खाते हैं, उसकी जांच होनी चाहिए कि वास्तव में वह दूध का ही बना हुआ है या फिर यूरिया से बने दूध का बना हुआ है। पांच-पांच लाख लीटर नकली दूध एक ही एरिया में सप्लाई किया जा रहा है। आप सब लोग भी चाय पीते हैं, मिठाई खाते हैं, तो कृपा करके आप पहले उस दूध और उस मिठाई के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त कर लीजिए कि उसमें इस्तेमाल होने वाला दूध असली है या फिर यूरिया का बना हुआ है। इस नकली दूध से किडनी खराब होती है और हमारी हेल्थ पर इसका बहुत बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है।

हमारे हेल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब भी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, मेरी उनसे प्रार्थना है कि वह इसके बारे में जरा ध्यान दें ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मैं आपको कह रहा हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, मैं आप ही को कह रहा हूँ कि यह जो दूध का बना हुआ सामान जैसे रसगुल्ला इत्यादि है, यह वास्तव में दूध का बनता है या यूरिया निर्मित दूध का बनता है, आप जरा इसके बारे में भी पता लगवाइए। मुझे केवल इतना ही कहना है। यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है। इसके बारे में कई बार अखबार और टीवी में भी आ चुका है और इस मामले में एक डॉक्टर भी पकड़ा जा चुका है। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि वह डॉक्टर शायद इसके कारण तुरन्त होने वाले प्रभाव को रोकता होगा और आहिस्ते आहिस्ते मौत की तरफ ले जाता होगा। इसलिए सर, चूंकि यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है, इसलिए आपको इसके बारे में जरूर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): सर, मैं भी इनको एसोसिएट करती हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Special Mentions. Shrimati Maya Singh.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, स्पेशल मैन्शनस आप बाद में ले लीजिए ...**(व्यवधान)** सर, प्लीज, प्लीज ...**(व्यवधान)**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, what is the issue? There is no issue. ...**(Interruptions)**..

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: प्लीज, सर। उनका स्पेशल मैन्शन आप बाद में ले लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have completed the list. There is no issue.

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, यह आपका इश्यू नहीं है, यह हमारा इश्यू है। यह महिलाओं का इश्यू है ...**(व्यवधान)**।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं-नहीं, वह हाउस का इश्यू होना चाहिए न ...**(व्यवधान)**

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, यह इनका इश्यू है, उनका इश्यू है, मेरा इश्यू है। सर, यह आप लोगों का इश्यू है। ...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री उपसभापति: वह मेरा या आपका नहीं, हाउस का इश्यू होना चाहिए।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, आज हमें हाउस में यह मैटर उठाना ही है ...**(व्यवधान)** सरकार ने महिला रिज़र्वेशन बिल के लिए प्रॉमिस किया था कि वे इसे 100 डेज़ में लाएंगे, मगर सरकार उसे नहीं लेकर आई है। इसलिए यह हमारा इश्यू है...**(व्यवधान)**

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: सर, इसके लिए हमने नोटिस दिया था ...**(व्यवधान)**।

श्री उपसभापति: देखिए, नोटिस देने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि आप हर चीज़ हाउस में उठा सकते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, नोटिस हो या न हो, यह सवाल नोटिस का नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)** ...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं-नहीं, नोटिस देने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि आप हर चीज उठा सकते हैं, उसको एडमिट भी तो होना चाहिए।

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, यह सवाल नोटिस का है ही नहीं, महिलाओं के बिल का सवाल नोटिस में नहीं आता है ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह किसी भी कानून में नहीं आए, तो भी हमें कानून बनाना है ...**(व्यवधान)**...। We want the very 33 per cent reservation Bill should be brought. ..**(Interruptions)**.. It should have been brought in this Session. ..**(Interruptions)**.. Sir, I have never made noise in the House. ..**(Interruptions)**.. But today, I am going to make noise. ..**(Interruptions)**.. Sir, I am definitely going to raise my voice. ..**(Interruptions)**...

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, हम सारे लोग इस बात को उठाना चाहते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I stand to...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री उपसभापति: अरे, आप बैठिए, आप क्यों उठ रहे हैं?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, आप कितने भी खफा क्यों न हों, कितने भी नाराज क्यों न हों, but, I am going to raise my voice.

श्रीमती माया सिंह: सर, हमें 33 प्रतिशत महिला आरक्षण बिल का इंतजार है कि उसका क्या हुआ? ...**(व्यवधान)**... वह कैसी स्थिति में है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसका लाभ महिलाओं को कब मिलेगा? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है।

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): I am supporting her, Sir. ...**(Interruptions)**...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, we want 33 per cent reservation Bill to be brought in the next Session. ..**(Interruptions)**.. All of you should support me. ..**(Interruptions)**.. सर, इसके लिए जेंट्स को भी खड़ा होना चाहिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप सब भी खड़े होकर बोलिए न, आप लोग बैठे क्यों हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: अरे, यह क्या हो रहा है?

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला: सर, देखिए सब सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। पुरुष भी सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... मंत्री जी जा रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you have expressed your views and sentiments. ..**(Interruptions)**.. Please ...**(Interruptions)**... बस अब हो गया ...**(व्यवधान)**... Now, Shrimati Maya Singh. ..**(Interruptions)**.. अभी तक मैंने कुछ नहीं कहा न ...**(व्यवधान)**...।

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: सर, महिलाओं के लिए 33 प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन बिल ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: प्रभा जी, देखिए, All of you have expressed your sentiments. अब इसमें और बोलने की क्या बात है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए, प्लीज, कोऑपरेट कीजिए ...**(व्यवधान)**... यहां पूरे हाउस ने अपना सेंटिमेंट एक्सप्रेस किया है, उससे ज्यादा अब और क्या बोल सकते हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठिए, प्लीज ...**(व्यवधान)**... नहीं-नहीं, नोटिस एक्सप्रेस नहीं हुआ है, आप जानती हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज ...**(व्यवधान)**...।

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर: सर, हमारी रिक्वेस्ट को क्यों नहीं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: देखिए, अभी मैंने एलाऊ किया था न, अब बात हो गई ...**(व्यवधान)**... अब स्पेशल मैन्शन, श्रीमती माया सिंह।

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need for Presidential assent to the organized crime laws relating to the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I wish to raise a matter of public importance. Yesterday, the Special Court in Mumbai convicted and sentenced three terrorists for having engineered twin blasts in 2003. I firmly believe that conviction and punitive and deterrent punishment to terrorists, who were responsible for killing 58 people in Mumbai and injuring several and destroying public and private property, was possible only because in the year 2003 a stringent law, Prevention of Terrorism Act, was in force. But for the application and existence of this law, collection of evidence, special procedure for trial and deterrent punishment may not have been possible.

It is a matter of deep regret that this law was repealed when the UPA first came to power and, today, no such deterrent law is in force. Even though Maharashtra has the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, similar legislation for Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have not been given approval by the Central Government. The enactment of these laws will empower the police and judicial system in these States to have an effective investigation, a special procedure for both investigation and trial, and a deterrent punishment to those committing acts of organised crime and terrorism. It is the enactment of an effective law which will terrorise the potential terrorists from committing violence against humanity and society. I demand that the Organised Crime Laws of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh should be forthwith given Presidential assent.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Need to resolve the issue of wage revision of bank employees

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, bank employees throughout the country are waiting for their wage revision since 2007. Many rounds of talks have taken place between the Indian Bank Association and various unions. All of a sudden, the Indian Bank Association went back from its earlier offer of 17.5 per cent wage revision and declared that it can now offer only 13 per cent. Sir, this is unheard of. In any negotiation, the management never takes such a u-turn. The Indian Bank Association not only came down from its earlier offer on wage revision

but also denied another option to PF optees and denied to work out the Compassionate Appointment Scheme.

The sudden change of stance by the Indian Bank Association is highly provocative, insulting and humiliating to millions of bank employees. More worrisome is the fact that the Indian Bank Association has informed that all the issues have been resting with the Government and without its direction, matter cannot proceed further. In the light of this total volte face by the Indian Bank Association, the bank employees are left with no option but to take the path of agitation.

At the last moment, the Indian Bank Association has offered entirely new formulas on pension and compassionate appointments. This is not the way to conduct negotiations. When the Government has accepted the Sixth Pay Commission Report, it cannot treat PSU bank employees with a different yardstick. There cannot be double standards for two sets of employees.

I demand that the Government should take proactive steps and ensure justified wage revision, second pension option, and compassionate appointment scheme, and avoid unnecessary friction.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): महोदय, मैं अपने को इस स्पेशल मेंशन से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा): महोदय, मैं भी अपने को इस स्पेशल मेंशन से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं इस स्पेशल मेंशन से अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

**Need to take steps to give reservation to the Limboo and Tamang Tribes in
Legislative Assembly of Sikkim**

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to an urgent need for reservation of Limboo and Tamang Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim.

Way back in September 2004, the State Legislature of Sikkim passed a Resolution for increasing the strength of the Legislature from 32 to 40 and reservation for Limboo and Tamang Tribes in the Assembly. In view of the Resolution, a proposal in this regard was sent to the Government of India by the Government of Sikkim in January 2005. The matter was lying with the Central Government till September 2008 when the Government of India requested the Government of Sikkim to furnish another Resolution clearly outlining the category-wise reservation of seats being proposed by the State Government. The State Government furnished another Resolution in December 2008 *inter alia* reiterating the increase in the total number of seats in the Sikkim Assembly from 32 to 40. Article 371 of the Constitution gives power to the Parliament to make provisions for reservation of seats for different sections of the State of Sikkim. The seats for Limboo and Tamag are to be reserved as per the proportion of their

population, which is not available at present. The next census which will be taken in 2011 is far away. I, therefore, propose that a special census of these tribes may be carried out in the State so that seats in the Assembly can be reserved for Limboo and Tamang. In the meanwhile, I also urge upon the Government to move a legislation in the Parliament to increase the number of seats from 32 to 40 as a special case. Thank you.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri O.T. Lepcha.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri O.T. Lepcha.

**Need to redress the grievances of the Loco running staff of
Indian Railways**

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to the grievances of loco running staff of Indian Railways. They have staged almost all the trade unions but in vain. Their demands are: (1) reduce the duty hours at a stretch to eight hours for loco running staff, train driver; (2) upgrade the grade pay of assistant loco pilot to Rs.2800; (3) distinct grade pay for different categories of loco pilots; (4) revised running allowance according to RAC-80 formula.

The duty hours, at a stretch, of loco running staff is an issue from the inception of the Railways. Many Commissions such as Justice Rajadhyaksha Committee, Railway Labours Tribunal of 1969, etc. submitted their recommendations. Now, the duty hours of loco running staff is 13 hours. They are not demanding reduction of duty hours per week which stands at 52 hours. They request that a stretch of duty should not go beyond eight hours a day. The Assistant Loco Pilots are recruited through Recruitment Board. Their responsibility is to run the train safely and punctually. They are paid grade pay of Rs.1900 which is Rs.100 more than the lowest class of Government employee. This grievance is to be redressed soon. The loco pilots are working in goods, passenger, mail and superfast trains. Motormen have distinct responsibility and require different skill. They all are being paid one and the same grade pay of Rs.4200. I sincerely urge upon the Government to persuade the Railway Ministry to settle the long pending demands. Thank you.

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri N. Balaganga.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri N. Balaganga.

**Need to have consensus at national level before making any law regarding
homosexuality in the country**

डा० राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : महोदय, स्त्री पुरुष का ही मेल प्रकृति की स्वीकृति है। अप्राकृतिक यौनाचार सृष्टि और समाज के लिए घातक है। आईपीसी की धारा 377 का संशोधन अनावश्यक है क्योंकि हमारी संस्कृति, विरासत और जीवन-दर्शन, पश्चिम की सोच और दर्शन से भिन्न है। अतः यहाँ की

संस्कृति, धार्मिक मान्यताओं और जन-साधारण की सामाजिक सोच के अनुरूप ही निर्णय समाज को स्वीकार्य होते हैं।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो पी०जे० कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

महोदय, जनता अपने निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों के माध्यम से संसद में अपने विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति करती है। अतः सांसदों का जन-भावना के विपरीत निर्णय लेना अप्रजातांत्रिक है। जन-भावना के विपरीत कानून बनाने या न्यायालय में बयान/शपथ-पत्र देने से जनक्रोध पैदा होता है, जोकि प्रजातंत्र में महंगा पड़ता है। ऐसे निर्णय कानून-व्यवस्था को बिगाड़ते हैं। अतः यह ध्यान रखना जरूरी है कि इस का भावी पीढ़ियों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा? जिन देशों ने इसे मान्यता दी है, उन्हें क्या लाभ/हानि हुई है? क्या इस से child abuse तो नहीं बढ़ेगा? क्या विदेशी समलैंगिकों का भारत अड्डा तो नहीं बन जाएगा? पारिवारिक और ग्रामीण जीवन तहस-नहस तो नहीं हो जाएगा? क्या सरकार का ऐसे विषय पर पक्ष लेना जरूरी है? अतः मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों, धर्मों, के आचार्यों/नेताओं, प्रदेश सरकारों, पंचायती राज की इकाइयों आदि से राय प्राप्त कर आम सहमति बनाए बिना न कोई कानूनी संशोधन करे, न किसी न्यायालय में बयान/शपथ पत्र दे। महोदय, सदियों का चिंतन कानून द्वारा बदलना अनुचित होगा।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं स्वयं को डा० राम प्रकाश के इस विशेष उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं भी सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नन्द कुमार साय (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं भी सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री बी०एस० ज्ञानादिशिखन (तमिलनाडु) : सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

Need to fill up the vacancies at National Library in Kolkata

DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, the National Library in Kolkata is the biggest library under the Gol system and the premier institution of the country. It is the seat of century old library tradition of India connecting its pre- and post-independence era. It is, therefore, necessary to maintain its glorious image by developing it further as a most modern library of international standard. But, unfortunately, it is now suffering due to its inadequate staff strength. Many of its sanctioned posts, numbering over 250, are lying vacant for long. A full-time Director for the library is also to be appointed. To continue its wide-spread routine work and users' service, as well as, to introduce many much-needed modern techniques of library services, it is urgently needed to fill up the vacant posts immediately. The situation and condition of the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, the second largest under the Gol system, is also the same, if not worse. I urge upon the Union Ministry of Culture to consider it seriously and take necessary steps immediately. Thank you.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Barun Mukherjee.

1.00 P.M.

Need for proper implementation of the provisions of protection of women from Domestic Violence Act

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान घरेलू हिंसा कानून के तहत उत्पन्न महिलाओं की स्थिति की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

घरेलू हिंसा रोकने के उद्देश्य से घरेलू हिंसा से महिला संरक्षण विधेयक संसद द्वारा 2005 में पारित किया गया तथा अक्टूबर 2006 में इसे प्रभावी बनाया गया। इस कानून के पास होते ही घरेलू हिंसा से ग्रस्त महिलाओं में एक आशा की किरण दिखी। परन्तु जमीनी हकीकत इसके बिल्कुल विपरीत है। इस कानून के प्रावधान बहुत अच्छे हैं, परन्तु इनका कार्यान्वयन इतना ढीला है कि स्थिति ज्यों-की-त्यों बनी हुई है। कार्यान्वयन का खराब ढांचा, फंड की कमी और सरकार के विभागों और न्यायपालिका में समन्वय की कमी, ऐसी कुछ कमियाँ हैं, जिनके कारण यह कानून सिर्फ कागजी जीनत बना हुआ है।

हकीकत यह है कि बहुत से राज्यों ने Protection Officer ही appoint नहीं किये हैं। अगर किये हैं तो किसी एक अधिकारी को अतिरिक्त भार दे दिया है, जिसके पास समय ही नहीं है। इस कानून में Protection Officer एक ऐसी कड़ी है, जिसका बहुत महत्वपूर्ण कार्य है, उसे अनदेखा किया जा रहा है। राज्यों ने इस कानून के लिए कोई पैसा अलग से निर्धारित नहीं किया है। इस कानून के लिए जरूरी ढांचा राज्यों ने तैयार नहीं किया है। पुलिस का रवैया भी कानून के प्रति उदासीन है, क्योंकि यह एक Civil Law है। ज्यादातर केसों में बहुत विलंब हो रहा है। अतः इन सब को देख कर लगता है कि हमें सिर्फ कानून बनाने की जल्दी है। इसके लिए आवश्यक ढांचा या कार्यान्वयन की किसी को कोई चिन्ता नहीं है। ज्यादातर केसों में महिलायें उतनी ही परेशान हैं, जितनी कि कानून बनने से पहले थीं।

अतः मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि जिस भावना और उद्देश्य को लेकर यह कानून बनाया गया है, उसे ध्यान में रख कर इसके कार्यान्वयन में हो रही उक्त और अन्य कमियों को दूर किया जाये।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अनिल दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Need to bring out the Hindi and English translated versions of Ritu Samhar written by Kalidas

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, भारत सरकार के अनुदान से चलने वाली ललित कला अकादमी ने महान कवि कालिदास की कृति *ऋतु समहार* के हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में किए गए अनुवाद को पिछले दो दशकों से ठंडे बस्ते में रखा है, जबकि अकादमी के सचिव द्वारा अनुवादक को यह आश्वस्त किया गया था कि उसे सचित्र प्रकाशित किया जाएगा। यह महाकाव्य भूमंडलीय तापमान एवं पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए अति महत्व का है, परन्तु अकादमी के अधिकारियों द्वारा पाण्डुलिपि को ठंडे बस्ते में रखा जाना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण एवं चिंतनीय है।

अतः सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह ललित कला अकादमी को इस महाकाव्य के अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में किए गए अनुवाद को सचित्र प्रकाशित करने का निर्देश दे।

Need to provide the facility of electric trains in Madurai

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the long pending demand for establishing electric train facility in the Madurai Metropolitan City connecting its allied sub-urban areas and neighbouring towns. Madurai, an ancient city located on the banks of the Vaigai River, is one of the thickly populated metropolitan

cities in Tamil Nadu. The number of people migrating from other areas for getting employment and education is increasing day by day. According to the last Census 2001, the total population of this city was nearly 30 lakh, but the number has become double within the current decade. The people living in extension areas solely depend on the bus service. Even though adequate bus service has been provided by increasing the number of buses, it has caused traffic congestion, rather than providing amicable transport facility to the people. The Madurai district, being one of the most important Hindu pilgrimage sites of India attracting a large number of tourists, offers ample scope for textiles, readymade garments, agro and herbal products, rubber and plastic industries. Therefore, I request the Central Government, through the House, to initiate measures for establishing electric train facility in this city. The trains can be operated between Madurai and Dindigal, Madurai and Virudhunagar, Madurai and Melur with necessary stopping, as such activity will provide amicable transport facility to the people of this area and will also reduce traffic congestion on roads. Thank you.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**Need to withdraw the rules pertaining to new L.I.C. agents allegedly
threatening their job security**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious threat faced by more than six lakh LIC agents in the country. As per the new Agents Rules 2009, which was circulated on 24 July, 2009, the minimum required first year premium is Rs. 1 lakh. As per the 1972 rule, there were classifications such as rural and urban areas and different rates of first year premium had been fixed.

But the new rule directs flat first year premium of Rs. 1 lakh. If the new rules are implemented, these agents would lose their jobs. This would reduce the presence of LIC agents across the country, especially in rural and hilly areas. LIC agency has good scope for employment and additional income. Lakhs of unemployed youth in the country earn better through LIC agencies. This rule also affects the Development Officers of LIC who are supposed to meet the target by a number of agents.

LIC will also face serious problems because of this new rule. The contribution of these agents is 1.25 crore policies and Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 15,000 crore first year premium.

Actually, this is against the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance in regard to the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2001. It had stated that the Government should provide necessary safeguards to protect the LIC agents. The new rules are totally against these recommendations.

Therefore, I urge the Finance Minister to intervene in this matter and give proper direction to withdraw the new rules and protect the six lakh LIC agents in particular and LIC as a whole. Thank you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

Need to take preventive measures to check adulteration in edible oil ghee and other food items in the country

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): Sir, the Government, no doubt, is aware of widespread practices being followed by unscrupulous and anti-social elements in the country to adulterate edible oil including the making of spurious *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs. Though there is a strict law to prevent such malpractices *i.e.* the Essential Commodities Act 1955 under which action is required to be taken by the States, for obvious reasons, the machinery in States to check this menace is at a standstill.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to impress upon the State Governments to activate the machinery so as to collect samples of edible oil, *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs including sweetmeat, etc. and an overall mechanism under the control of the Central Government be evolved.

Need to take measures to check the circulation of fake currency in the country

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, the Naik Committee, set up to assess the menace of fake currency, has said that counterfeit money in the range of Rs.1,69,000 crores is in circulation in the country. Fake notes of Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000 are affecting the economy of the country. As per reports, such notes are coming out even from ATMs and banks. Making, keeping, distributing or using fake currency is the handiwork of anti-national and anti-social elements and should be curbed by combined efforts of all concerned agencies of the Government.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

**Need to give more powers to the Central Vigilance Commission to exercise
check on corruption in Government and Public Sector**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): During March, 2009, one of the Vigilance Commissioners of the CVC had mentioned that no difference had been made by the Commission in curtailing corruption primarily due to inherent flaws in the system. The main thrust of his argument was the limitation of CVC's mandate and he had urged that without a proactive view taken by the Ministries and departments, corruption could not be eliminated. CVC does not conduct field investigations and do not have a proper system or the capability to test the authenticity of complaints received by the Commission. He suggested Government using its prerogative to provide more teeth to the CVC and the investigating agencies.

Recent happenings indicate that the Indian judiciary has found itself mired in accusations, scams, pointing to the venality of judges despite having enjoyed the trust, confidence and faith of the Indian masses for a fairly long period. I would, therefore, request that the Government must take initiatives to conduct a deep and holistic study of the prevailing systems of governance, extent of transparency and the level of accountability for those spending crores of rupees from the national exchequer on developmental activities so that benefits of planning and implementation become more inclusive to redeem the vision of this Government for percolation of benefits to the target segments in the coming hundred days of governance.

Need to withhold the proposal of disinvestment in BHEL

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, through newspapers I came to know that the Government is planning for the disinvestment of BHEL. There seems to be a planning also to implement the VRS and ERS scheme for the workers. BHEL, which falls among the "Navratna" PSUs in our country, is a profit-making organisation and for long has been serving the nation's interests. The entire process will have an adverse effect upon the workers and their families concerned. The fear of a bleak future will also create conditions where the working class concerned will be forced to rise in protest. Alongside, the disinvestment of organisations like BHEL will be detrimental to the interests of our country. The Government must immediately drop down such proposals concerning the disinvestment of our profit making PSUs.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

**Need for amicable settlement of Dimaraji issue in North Cachar Hills
District of Assam**

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, the people of district of North Cachar Hills in Assam embody in their lives all the values derived from centuries of shared living by different ethnic groups in the lap of nature. But for the last several years, the civilian population of the

district is suffering physically, mentally, economically and otherwise by witnessing the violence and counter violence activities arising out of the movement started for special attention to the Dimasa tribes, which constitute a significant section of Assamese community and a sizeable part of the district's population. There were rays of hope due to the peace initiative through the ceasefire agreement and proposal of talk by Dima Halam Daogarh, DHD, and the Government of India within the Constitution of our country.

Sir, the present spark of communal violence of Dimasa and Zemes in North Cachar Hills again aggravated the situation. A lot of people lost their lives and thousands of families become homeless due to such violence.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government to grant sufficient *ex-gratia* to those who lost their lives and provide adequate rehabilitation to the affected people and bringing the Dimaraji issue to an amicable solution at the earliest by meaningful dialogue between the Government and Dima Halam Daogarh, DHD, Dimasa People's Party, DPC and other interested party/parties of the district.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI SREEGOPAL VYAS (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

Need to amend the rules for determining BPL status to extend the benefit of PDS to all poor people in the country

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान पी.डी.एस. और बी.पी.एल. पद्धति में सुधार लाने की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली पूर्ण रूप से अनियमित है। इसके त्रुटिपूर्ण होने के कारण इसका लाभ सटीक तौर पर गरीबों को नहीं मिल पाता है। आज भी देश के 75 प्रतिशत लोग दैनिक 20 रुपए से कम आमदनी पाते हैं, 30 प्रतिशत लोगों को अभी अनाज नहीं जुटा पा रहे हैं। उन गरीबों तक सहूलियत पहुंचाने में सरकार चूक रही है। महोदय, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सरकार सटीक ढंग से लागू करे और सब गरीबों के लिए सुविधा मुहैया कराया जाए।

महोदय, साथ-ही-साथ सरकार का ध्यान बी.पी.एल. की त्रुटिपूर्ण मापदंडों पर भी आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा। सरकार गरीबों को दो हिस्से यानी ए.पी.एल. और बी.पी.एल. के नाम पर बांट रही है। हम चाहते हैं कि जरूरतमंद सभी गरीबों को सरकार उचित सहूलियत प्रदान करे। महोदय, बी.पी.एल. तय करने का जो 13 सूत्री शर्त प्लानिंग कमीशन ने तय किया है, वह सरासर अव्यावहारिक है। इन शर्तों से वास्तविक गरीबों का आकलन नहीं किया जा सकता। यह 13 सूत्री शर्त त्रुटिपूर्ण है।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली सब के लिए मुहैया करायी जाए और बी.पी.एल. निर्धारण करने का जो 13 सूत्री शर्त है, उसमें संशोधन किया जाए ताकि हर गरीब तक सहूलियत पहुंच सके।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री ओ.टी. लेपचा (सिक्किम) : सर, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Need to remove anomalies in the pay scales of Railway Engineers/Technical Supervisors in view of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के बाद देश के कई विभागों के कर्मचारी कई प्रकार की विसंगतियों के शिकार हुए हैं। रेलवे के तमाम इंजीनियर इसमें प्रमुख शिकार हैं। उनके इस विषय को मैं सदन के माध्यम से उजागर करके उनको राहत दिए जाने हेतु अनुरोध करता हूँ।

Sir, I demand to fulfil the following grievances of railway engineers:

- (1) Recognition of All India Railway Engineers Federation to discuss and resolve the problems of Railway Engineers/Technical supervisors as per the Khanna Committee Report.
- (2) Grant of Grade Pay of Rs.4,800/- to JEs (Junior Engineers) at par with Nursing Sister and Rs.5,400/- to Section Engineers and Senior Section Engineers at par with Matron with standard designation of JE/AE, that is, JE (GP-4800) and AE (GP-5400).
- (3) Group 'B' Gazetted status to all, that is, JEs (JE-II/JE-I) & AE (SE/SSE) as per DOPT Gazette Notification No.605 of 9th April, 2009.
- (4) (a) AC-II entitlement to all JEs at par with other departments and as recommended by Sixth CPC.
(b) Inclusion of father & mother in privilege pass.
- (5) Change of classification and provide designation also (since no financial implication is involved) under MACPS.
- (6) Time-bound scales/promotions from JE to JA grade.
- (7) Grant of special pay @ 30 per cent to all engineers and technocrats at par with scientists.
- (8) Revision of rates of incentive bonus of engineers (JE-II, JE-I, SE & SSE) as per revised pay bands plus grade pay.
- (9) (a) Incentives/arduous duty allowance @ 30 per cent to JEs, SEs, SSEs, CMS/DMS/CMT staff.
(b) Design/Planning/PCO allowance @ 30 per cent to drawing, design/IT (EDP) engineers.
10. Exemption of all allowances (DA & HRA) from income-tax.
11. No corporatisation of Railways.

I urge the Government to take immediate steps to consider and fulfil the above demands of the Railway engineers.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the hon. Member.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं भी अपने आपको इससे एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री रामचन्द्र खूंटिया (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं भी इस विषय से एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

Concern over beggars being on the verge of death due to hunger and their inclination towards criminal activities because of soaring prices in country

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश में पौने दो करोड़ भिखारियों की हालत दयनीय ही नहीं, बल्कि मरणीय हो रही है। दिल्ली में तो दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा एक फरमान जारी किया गया है कि Commonwealth Games से पहले दिल्ली भिखारी मुक्त होगी। क्या ये भिखारी ऊपर भेज दिए जाएंगे या इनके लिए कोई व्यवस्था की गई है? जहां तक सवाल है सरकार बी.पी.एल. बना चुकी है, ए.पी.एल. बना चुकी है, लेकिन पता नहीं इन भिखारियों की जमात किस में आती है? मैं चिंतित इसलिए हूँ कि पिछले दिनों मुंबई के वी.टी. स्टेशन पर तीन दिन तक दो भिक्षुक मृत पड़े रहे, वहीं जोगेश्वरी स्टेशन पर तीन दिन तक एक लाश पड़ी रही। साथ ही दिल्ली में अभी पिछले दिनों तीन मौतें भिखारियों की हुई हैं। जब मैंने पता किया तो पता चला कि शरीर से अशक्त इन भिखारियों को मुंह से भीख मांगने की ताकत भी नहीं बची थी। देश में अनेक समस्याएं होंगी, लेकिन इस ज्वलंत समस्या पर सरकार को चिंता करनी चाहिए। इसका मुख्य कारण है कि 8 वर्ष की उम्र से लेकर 80 वर्ष के लोगों की ज़िदगी भीख के कटोरे से जुड़ी है। यह भी जानकारी है कि देश भर में इनके माध्यम से इन भिखारियों के बीच अपराध करने वाले लोग भी तैयार होते हैं। यहां तक जानकारी मिली है कि भिखारियों में जो थोड़े स्वस्थ पाए जाते हैं, उनके संबंध नामी अपराधियों से होते हैं और वे उनके लिए ट्रेन में काम करने लगते हैं। भारत में सभी ऐसे स्थानों पर जहां भिखारियों की संख्या ज्यादा होती है, वहां पर छानबीन होनी चाहिए। कारण यह है कि अगर छानबीन नहीं हुई तो इन्हीं में से कुछ ऐसे लोग आगे चलकर देश के लिए घातक बनेंगे या भारत में कोई न कोई 26/11 जैसी बड़ी वारदात के लिए इनको माध्यम बनाएंगे। मुझे एक जानकारी और मिली है कि इनको महंगाई के कारण लोग अब भीख भी नहीं देते। कुछ भिखारियों का कहना था कि पहले एक दिन में 20-25-30 रुपए मिल जाते थे, अब वैसी स्थिति नहीं रही है।

मेरी सरकार से मांग है कि देश के सभी भिखारियों की छानबीन की जाए तथा जो अशक्त और अजीर्ण हैं, उनके लिए रैन बसेरा बनाया जाए या उनके बारे में कुछ सोचा जाए। मेरी आखिरी मांग है कि इसमें रेलवे और भारत की पुलिस की बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि नौनिहाल भिखारियों को नया जीवन मिलेगा तथा अशक्त और अजीर्ण भिखारियों को आवास एवं रोटी मिलेगी। धन्यवाद।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : महोदय, हम माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करते हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, the whole House associates itself with this Special Mention.

Concern over drought conditions in several parts of Karnataka

SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, the Karnataka State has received 460 mm of rainfall from 1st June to 31st July, 2009. This is 7 per cent more than the usual rainfall during this

period. However, the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga and Bellary have recorded the deficit rainfall of 48 per cent, 41 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. The districts like Bidar and Gulbarga have been affected very badly. The crop-sown area in Bidar is 2.06 lakh as against 2.93 lakh hectares and in Gulbarga 4.22 lakh as against 5.66 lakh hectares and out of which the area affected due to the drought is 83,000 hectares in Bidar and 60,000 in Gulbarga.

Sir, in 57 taluks of 16 districts, the rainfall is less than 20 per cent and there is a deficit rainfall of more than 50 per cent in 16 districts. Five taluks in Raichur district, 10 taluks in Gulbarga, 5 taluks in Bidar districts are hit by drought. Based on the rainfall, dry spells and agriculture conditions, most of the taluks of Bagalkot, Bijapur, Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal and Bellary have been notified as drought affected as there was shortfall of rain during this period.

In Karnataka, Kharif season commences from April in some parts of Southern districts. Short duration pulses like black gram and green gram are also taken up in the second fortnight of May in North interior Karnataka districts like Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal Bagalkot, and Bijapur. Sowing of regular rain-fed Kharif crops begins in June after the onset of Southwest Monsoon. But due to less rain during this period in North interior Karnataka region, the farmers are migrating from this area to Southern interior areas. The North Karnataka area is more backward area as there are no big industries, techno enterprises, companies, etc.

The break monsoon during the period covering almost two months caused unprecedented moisture stress of rare severity in North interior Karnataka, that is, Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal, Bagalkot, Bijapur, etc. The situation has warranted to take up drought mitigation measures in the affected areas like employment generation, arranging drinking water, providing fodder to livestock, providing supplementary nutrition, agriculture input, subsidy to the small and marginal farmers. As the affected areas of these districts need to be considered sympathetically and warrant special attention.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The House is adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-four minutes
past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty two minutes
past two of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR REGARDING PRIVATE MEMBERS'
RESOLUTION**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members would recall that discussion on a Private Members' Resolution on relationship between Legislature and Judiciary moved by Shri Ramdas Agarwal on the 24th July, 2009 had remained inconclusive. The Resolution was carried forward to the next day allotted for Private Members' Resolutions *i.e.* today. Since it was earlier decided to cancel the Private Members' Resolutions scheduled for today, if the House agrees, the partly discussed Private Member's Resolution scheduled for today may be taken up as the first item on the first day allotted for Private Members' Resolution in the next Session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir, we all agree.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Sir, I am thankful to you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, with your permission I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and to amend the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Sir, presently, there are three Acts governing development, construction, operation and maintenance of Metro Railways namely, 1. The Metro Railway (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 for governing construction of Metro Railway in the metropolitan city of Kolkata and Delhi, with provisions for extension to metropolitan cities of Mumbai and Chennai through notification. 2. The Kolkata Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provision Act, 1985 for governing operation and maintenance of Metro Railway in the metropolitan city of Kolkata. 3. The Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 for governing operation and maintenance of Metro Railway in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Government proposed to extend the Delhi Metro area under the Control of New Okhla Industrial Development Area (NOIDA) in the State of Uttar Pradesh and to Gurgaon in the City of Haryana. The construction work has already begun by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited. In view of the Commonwealth Games being held in October 2010, these extensions are required to be completed before that period. In fact, Metro extension to NOIDA is scheduled for commissioning by 30.9.2009. The Metro Rail System has been approved by the Central Government for Bangalore and Chennai and the construction work has already begun at these places. The other cities where such system is under different stages of construction and implementation are: Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kochi and Mumbai. There are no statutory provisions at present which may provide a legal cover for development, construction, operation

and maintenance of Metro Railway in the cities. Therefore, it has become necessary to make suitable amendment to the Metro Railway (Construction of Works) Act, 1978, and to the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, so as to make provisions of both these Acts applicable to the Metro Railway in the NCR, metropolitan cities and other metropolitan areas for development, construction, operation and maintenance of Metro Railway. The provisions of the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, are not being made applicable to the metropolitan city of Kolkata, because the operation and maintenance of Kolkata Metro Railway is, at present, being regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Calcutta Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1985.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives. Thank you.

The question was proposed.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं मेट्रो रेलवेज (अमेंडमेंट) बिल, 2009 पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। महोदय, यह बिल Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 और Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 में संशोधन करने के लिए लाया गया है। सबसे पहले तो मैं मेट्रो रेल बनाने वाले मिस्टर श्रीधरन को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने अपनी कमाल की काबिलियत दिखाते हुए, मेट्रो रेल का एक सक्सेसफुल सिस्टम डेवलेप करके दिखाया। वर्ष 2002 में इसकी पहली बार शुरुआत हुई और वर्ष 2005 में मेट्रो का दूसरा फेज भी चालू कर दिया गया। मुझे याद है कि उस वक्त बिजनेस वीक में मेट्रो रेलवेज के बारे में एक लेख लिखा गया था। उसमें मेट्रो का सारा क्रेडिट श्रीधरन जी को दिया गया कि श्रीधरन जी ने टाइम शेड्यूल के पहले ही प्रोजेक्ट को पूरा किया। एक बहुत अच्छा सिस्टम जो मेट्रो रैपिड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सिस्टम के नाम पर हमने कोलकाता में देखा और उसी को यहां पर लेकर आए। अरबन डेवलेपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री ने जितने भी मेट्रो सिटीज हैं, वहां पर इसको लगाने की कोशिश की है, इसकी पहल की है, इसके बारे में बहुत बार विचार-विमर्श हुआ है। दिल्ली में जो मेट्रो रेलवे बनकर खड़ा हुआ है, उसमें अब कुछ अड़चनें आने लगी हैं। रोज करीब साढ़े आठ लाख पैसेंजर्स इसमें ट्रेवल करते हैं। सर, राखी के दिन दस लाख पैसेंजर्स ने मेट्रो में ट्रेवल किया। हमने और पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटीज ने कई बार इसकी विजिट की और इसको देखा है, as a होम कमेटी के मेम्बर के रूप में मुझे भी, इसके टोटल सिक्योरिटी आसपेक्ट को देखने का मौका मिला है। वहां पर उन्होंने हमें हर तरह की चीज बताई कि मैन मेड क्लेमिटीज और नेचुरल क्लेमिटीज को फेस करने के लिए, उनके पास क्या-क्या सिस्टम हैं, किन्तु अभी 2010 के पहले, कॉमनवैलथ गैम्स के पहले जो यह मांग उठी कि मेट्रो नोएडा तक जाए और इधर गुडगांव तक जाए, तो इनके एक्ट में कुछ अड़चनें थीं, जिसको शायद पूरा करने के लिए ये सारी चीजें लाई गई हैं।...(व्यवधान)... काम तो शुरू करना ही था, क्योंकि मांग बहुत थी और जनवरी, 2009 में कैबिनेट ने डिंसीजन लिया था और इस बिल में संशोधन करने की बात सोची गई। उसके बाद लोक सभा भंग हो गई, लोक सभा डिजाल्व हो जाने के बाद यह बिल वहां नहीं आ सका, इसलिए अब यहां लेकर आए हैं। मुख्यतः जो उसमें सब्सिट्यूशन करना है, वह National Capital Territory of Delhi की जगह National Capital Region करना है। As per the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985 के तहत लाना है। National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985 की जो-जो क्लॉजेज हैं, उनको दिल्ली मेट्रो रेलवे कारपोरेशन एक्ट के तहत भी कवर करना है, इसीलिए यह बिल लाया गया है। सिर्फ यही नहीं, इसमें For deeming the Commissioner as a Civil Court

for the purpose of section 121 of the Evidence Act को भी कवर करना है, इसलिए भी यह जरूरी है। मेरा इतना ही कहना है कि इतिहास से आप ही Urban Development Minister हैं और आप ही इसके इंचार्ज हैं। जब आप National Capital Region का कांसेप्ट लाए, उसमें National Capital Territory of Delhi और National Capital Region ये दोनों हैं, National Capital Region के अंदर Territory of Delhi आता है। Some part of which is controlled by the MCD and some part is controlled by the NDMC and the law and order is controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs. But when you are extending it to three States, all those States will be involved, as far as law and order is concerned. In Gurgaon, the Haryana Police will be involved. In Noida, the U.P. Police will be involved. आप इसमें इसके लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं लाए। इसका क्या करेंगे? क्योंकि Apart from other things, जैसे आप Construction of works, operation and maintenance लाए। जैसे कोई terrorist Act. है, कोई sabotage है, कोई लॉ एंड आर्डर प्रॉब्लम है, Employees are same, commuters are different, the area is different. यह एक ट्राइंगल बन गया, दिल्ली, यूपी और हरियाणा। अभी यहां तक आप जाएंगे, तो और भी बोलेंगे कि गुडगांव से नोएडा को भी जोड़ो और ट्राइंगल बनाओ। गुडगांव से नोएडा को जोड़ो, तो उधर से यह ट्राइंगल पूरा रहेगा। यह मांग इसलिए आएगी क्योंकि यह अच्छी तरह से चल रही है। आज इसके प्रावधान में आज जो चीज लेकर आए हैं, आप इसमें सिर्फ numerical change करने की जगह और प्रावधानों में भी परिवर्तन लाते और बृहद रूप में देखते कि National Capital Region के क्या-क्या consequences हैं। यह सवाल किसका है, क्या यह Inter-State Council का है या यह National Capital Region के अधीन है और National Capital Region का असली मालिक कौन है? होम मिनिस्टर हैं या तीनों स्टेट के चीफ मिनिस्टर्स हैं, दिल्ली के, यूपी के और हरियाणा के। क्या आपने मेट्रो को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कोई बात की है कि आगे आने वाले समय में जो लॉ एंड आर्डर के नाम पर मुसीबतें आने वाली हैं या आएंगी, उनको कवर करने के लिए कोई एक फोरम होना चाहिए, जहां इन इश्यूज को एड्रेस किया जा सके। मैं इतनी बात कहकर, इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बिल को एक दिन भी लेट करना मेट्रो के कंस्ट्रक्शन वर्क को रोकना होगा। इस बिल को जल्दी से पास करके लागू किया जाए, ताकि हम कॉमन वेल्थ गेम्स से पहले इसको लागू कर सकें।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, I rise to support the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009. I also support further amendment to the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and to amend the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002. Sir, as we are discussing this Bill, we all know that construction is a sign of development and progress. And, especially, Metro Railways construction is also a sign of further development and progress. By this amendment, Delhi Metro will be extended to Noida and Gurgaon. Starting this facility in other metropolitan cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai and other places which have been stated by the hon. Minister is, definitely, a sign of progress. We support the Bill. As has been said by Ahluwaliaji, this amendment is being made, mainly, to replace the words "metropolitan city of Delhi" by the words "National Capital Region" and the words "National Capital Territory of Delhi" by the words "National Capital Region". If you look at the whole amendment, be it amendment no. 2, 6, 7, 13, 23, 26, 34, you will find that everywhere those words have been substituted to enhance the purview of the Bill excepting one

area, that is, the Annual Report, whereby the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety shall, for each financial year, prepare in such form, and within such time, as may be prescribed, an annual report giving full account of the activities of the Commissioners during the financial year immediately preceding the financial year in which such report is prepared and forward copies thereof to the Central Government. This is a very important area by which activities could be reviewed and this will give further scope to the Central Government to review the activities of the Commissioner. Sir, while supporting the Bill, I just want to mention here that, as has been said by Shri Ahluwaliaji, Shri Sreedharan, who is the chief of the Metro Railways, has, definitely, done a good job. His work, definitely, needs to be appreciated. Not only he but also all his team comprising of engineers, officers, workers who have contributed to the completion of the Metro Railways, Delhi and Konkan area, wherever it may be, need to be appreciated, because it is a team work. While saying so, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the Starred Question No. 463, and the incidents occurred in the Metro Railways. While appreciating their good work, we cannot also ignore the accidents which have happened at the construction sites of Metro Railways. In reply to the Starred Question No. 463, it was said by the hon. Minister that the number of accidents is 130; out of which 102 were fatal accidents and 94 people were injured. From 2005-2009, these accidents occurred, killing 102 persons, mainly, the workers and the general public, or Delhiites. Now, the point is, while we are doing more construction works, expanding the Metro Rail activities, we should not forget and ignore the healthcare and safety standards of the workers. You may construct the Golden Quadrilateral roads, or, Metro railways and make progress but for whom is this development meant? We should not be complacent with our work. As the work is in progress, could you imagine that the workers working in Delhi are not getting the minimum wages? They are getting less than Rs.100/-. Could you imagine that the persons who are working in Metro Railways have no standard life? They do not have houses to live in. They are not getting BPL-standard wheat, rice, whatever is needed. They are working for more than 12 to 13 hours. So, while appreciating the work of the Department and the Chief of the Metro Railways, I would also like to tell the House, to the Government and to the hon. Minister that we should expedite the work. It must be completed before the commencement of Commonwealth Games. All the general public of this country is with you. But, side by side, we must not also compromise with the health standards, safety standards; we must not also compromise with corruption, nepotism and we must not also compromise with the interest of our country. Sir, I would also like to make a mention of the point, which has been replied by the hon. Minister here. Sir, the Comptroller and Auditor General's Performance Audit Report on the Implementation of the Phase I of Delhi ...

SHRI M. VENKAI AH NAIDU (Karnataka): Khuntiaji, you have gone on record. Are you sure that the workers are not getting even hundred rupees?

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Yes, they are not getting. That is on record. I am telling you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I said, there is complaint that they are getting less than hundred rupees; and there are no safety standards, no houses in Delhi for them. It is happening.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, can I intervene?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Khuntiaji, the Minister wants to intervene.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, to the best of my knowledge, the point made by the hon. Member is not founded in fact. They are governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act and many other Acts. Therefore, I would like to place it on record that these allegations are not founded in reality. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to make a small submission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): सर, उन्हें न्यूनतम मज़दूरी भी नहीं दी जाती है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I think, it will help. Sir, he is not telling about the direct employees of the Company; not about the DMRC direct employees. But there are a lot of contract workers whose working hours are more than 12 hours. They are not being paid minimum wages and other problems are also there. So, definitely about the DMRC employees, we cannot even dream that they are not being paid. They are a part of the Government employees. ...*(Interruptions)*... But the contract workers are also there. They are a part of your Metro network and they are also contributing in fast completion of the project. So, please take a note of it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I also mentioned that they are not the Metro workers. The Metro is engaging several contractors and sub-contractors. But as the principal employer, the Metro also has some responsibility. If some allegation is there, the Metro should also take that into consideration and try to rectify that. They are definitely not the Metro workers. They are the contract labourers who are engaged directly or indirectly by the contractors and sub-contractors.

Sir, however, in this case, the Comptroller and Auditor General's Performance Report also should be taken into consideration. We do appreciate the work done by the Metro; we do appreciate the initiative taken by the Central Government to expand the Metro Rail facility to Gurgaon, Noida and some parts of the country. But we also want that while making this progress, we must also take care of the other people who are involved in the completion of the

construction work and they should not be just left at the mercy of the contractors, employed directly or indirectly. Sir, since I belong to a particular State, in addition to all these activities, as has been mentioned by the hon. Minister, I request him, if it is possible, to include Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, the twin city, in the Metro Railway activity. That is very important for our state Orissa.

With these words, I once again support and appreciate(Interruptions)...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): सर, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड): सर, मैं भी इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, मैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not from here; you have to go to your seat to support it. ... (Interruptions)... पाणि जी, ऐसे नहीं, आप अपनी सीट पर जाकर सपोर्ट कीजिए। Don't support it casually. Go to your seat and support. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, मैं भी इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: So, Sir, I once again support and appreciate the Central Government's initiative for expanding the Metro Rail activity to Gurgaon, Noida and to other cities of the country. We do expect that we will be able to complete this work as per the target fixed by the Government.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, we welcome this Bill and we welcome the extension of Metro facilities to the National Capital Region. Actually, I want to know from the Minister — this point was also raised by Shri Ahluwaliaji — how is the coordination chapter between the State and the Urban Development Ministry will be maintained in this Bill. At the outset, I would like to say that, in Kolkata, it is run by the Railways and it comes under the jurisdiction of the Railways, whereas, some Metro facilities are under the Ministry of Urban Development. Why don't you follow a — I urge the Government, not your Department alone — a uniform policy? There should be a uniform policy. In this Bill, there is a provision that the Fare Fixation Committee will be jointly shared by the State Government and the Central Government. That is mentioned in this Bill. There is mention of Fare Fixation Committee. But, Sir, in Kolkata, I know even some important decisions are being taken unilaterally.

The Kolkata Metro is being extended now up to Gorla. The State Government has shared 33 per cent of the cost but even the date of opening ceremony has been unilaterally announced by the Railway Ministry. There must be coordination between the State and Central Governments and there must be a uniform policy. I remember — it has just now crept into my mind -- that I was a Mayor at that time; Dr. Sisir Bose approached me to name a station after Netaji. I wrote a letter as the Mayor; got a reply. They said that the opinion of the State Government is necessary. I asked the Chief Minister. He wrote a letter and the Government sanctioned it. But now, the railway stations' names are being announced unilaterally, without consulting the State Governments. So, there must be a uniform policy.

Then, Sir, safety is very important point. Here, in Delhi Metro, there is monitoring done by Close Circuit TV. How is that being monitored? You may watch an incident over that but how do

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you detect that thing? The hon. Minister must throw some light on this. Then, Sir, in the Delhi Metro, why does the staff not have the right to form their associations or unions? I think this right is being denied. The Minister must kindly look into this matter.

Lastly, Sir, about accidents in Delhi Metro, we discussed it here. The hon. Minister was kind enough to bring the report here. I would only request you to look into this chapter, Sir, because I am afraid, when you said that inadequate strength due to lack of concrete. Are there such deficiencies elsewhere also, other than that area? Do you go in for random testing? Another point is whether ISO number was specified while indenting cement. Kindly look into the matter. Are there discrepancies in the hours of curing, as recorded in the measurement books? I would not expect the Minister to reply here but kindly check it up with your engineers and officials, because we are afraid; if such discrepancies occur in other stretches also, what would be the method to detect them? With these words, I support and welcome this extended facility.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, Metro Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2009 का जो प्रावधान है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह बताया कि जैसे-जैसे मेट्रो रेलवे का विकास हो रहा है, उसका क्षेत्र बदल रहा है, उसको देखते हुए इसके विकास, इसके संचालन तथा इसके रख-रखाव के लिए हमें एक statutory provision की जरूरत है, उसकी व्यवस्था की जरूरत है। इस दृष्टि से यह सही है कि अगर आप इस प्रकार के अधिकार नहीं देते हैं, इस प्रकार से उसका कार्य-क्षेत्र नहीं बढ़ाते हैं, तो उसे काम करने में दिक्कत आएगी। आज मेट्रो बहुत ही ज्यादा लोकप्रिय है, परन्तु उसी के साथ-साथ हमें इस पर भी ध्यान देना होगा कि अगर यह mode of transport बहुत महँगा हो जाएगा, तो यह आम लोगों की पहुँच के बाहर हो जाएगा। यह एक बहुत अच्छी सुविधा है, मगर क्योंकि इसमें पूँजी ज्यादा लगती है, पैसा ज्यादा लगता है, इसलिए हम लोगों को इसके साथ-ही-साथ यह भी ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि यह आम लोगों की पहुँच के बाहर न होने पाए।

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि जो सुविधाएँ हैं, उनका भी ध्यान रखना चाहिए, उसकी सुरक्षा का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिए और उसी के साथ-साथ क्योंकि अभी तक तो लोगों का मेट्रो के बारे में बड़ा विश्वास था, परन्तु उसमें इधर जो घटनाएँ या दुर्घटनाएँ हुई हैं, उनसे लोग थोड़ा चिन्तित होने लगे हैं। उनके क्या कारण हैं, इन पर तो इस सदन में भी चर्चा हुई है।

इस बारे में इस सदन में भी चर्चा हुई है। अब क्योंकि यह प्रोजेक्ट हमें जल्दी पूरा करना है, इसलिए दिन-रात काम होते हैं, लेकिन जो मजदूर वहां काम करते हैं, उन्हें जो सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिए, जो उन्हें वेतन मिलना चाहिए, उन के स्वास्थ्य को ध्यान में रखकर जिस प्रकार की उन्हें स्वास्थ्य सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए, वह सुविधा उन्हें नहीं मिल पा रही है। इसलिए हमें अगर सचमुच इस प्रतिष्ठित प्रोजेक्ट को, जिस का कि बहुत ही मान है, पूरा करना है तो इसे हमें समग्रता में देखना होगा और सभी चीजों का बहुत ही ध्यान रखना होगा क्योंकि अगर इस कार्य में कहीं कोई कमी रह गयी तो वह बहुत ही नुकसानदेह साबित हो सकती है। महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि अगर पिलर जल्दबाजी में बनाए गए और उन की गुणवत्ता में कमी रह गयी, उस की डिजाइन में कमी आ गयी तो एक भीषण दुर्घटना हो सकती है और वह बहुत ही दुखद और नुकसानदेह साबित होगी। महोदय, मैं समझता हूँ कि इन सब चीजों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए क्योंकि अब दिनों-दिन चारों तरफ मेट्रो का विस्तार होना है। अभी उड़ीसा से इस की मांग आ रही है और देश के दूसरे क्षेत्रों से भी मेट्रो की मांग

आएगी और वहां भी मेट्रो का विकास होगा। इसलिए इस के विकास को दृष्टि में रखकर हमें इस विधेयक को पारित करना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009. As Chennai metropolitan city is covered under this Bill, I am very much happy to participate in this discussion. Sir, Chennai metropolis has been growing rapidly and the traffic volumes on the roads have also been increasing enormously. Hence, a need for a new rail based rapid transport system has been felt, and towards this objective, the Chennai Metro Rail Project is being implemented. This project is divided into two parts. One is Corridor-I and the other is Corridor-II. The Corridor-I covers areas of Washermenpet - Broadway - Chennai Central Station - Rippon Building along Coum River - Government Estate - Tarapur Towers - Spencers - Gemini - Anna Saalai - Saidapet - Guindy - Chennai Airport.

The target of completion is tentatively fixed at 2014 and the budget estimated is Rs.14,600 crores. Sir, in this regard, I would like to present my request that Thiruvotriyur is a fast-developing town where major industries and cottage industries are located in thousands. The distance between Washermenpet and Thiruvotriyur is only five kilometres. The business people, educational institutions have been demanding...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What is the population of the town?

SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Nearly three lakhs. Thiruvotriyur is an assembly segment. It comes under the North Chennai Parliamentary constituency. One Assembly constituency consists of minimum population of two lakh voters. I personally know that 2.5 lakh voters are there. Even adjacent to Thiruvotriyur, there are also many small villages, small industrial units.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to intervene and clarify that the Bill is intended to provide legal cover to all such Metro projects which may be proposed or found viable in all such cities and agglomerations that may have more than one million population. Therefore, wherever there is a population of more than one million, if the initiative is taken by the State Government, the Central Government will respond to it. However, it is all subject to the fact that the project is found commercially viable.

SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Thank you, Sir. My second request is wherever there are terminal metro stations, they are very-well being integrated with the railway stations. Sir, the MRTS project, which was started in 1980, is still to be completed. The escalator machines fixed at many of the MRTS railway stations for example in Chepauk and Velachery are not functioning well. In this regard, CBI has also registered a case, and it is under investigation. Finally, I urge upon the Minister to complete this project within a time-schedule. Thank you.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise here to support the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009. While participating in this discussion, I want to raise certain

issues because of the ghastly incident of July 12 at South Delhi, which has taken a toll of six lives, and, another twenty people got injured. After this incident, we saw some sort of controversy between the Minister in charge of transport, and, the Chief Minister. They were not sure as to where the mistake lies. One is blaming the DMRC. Another is saying that DMRC is not directly involved into it.

The most surprising thing is that when the concerned construction workers were complaining about the cracks and other things, it was not properly looked into. Sir, had that complaint been taken seriously, perhaps, this casualty would not have occurred.

Sir, we are having the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, which came on July 18. It has criticized the DMRC for not following certain parameters like soil-testing mechanism and violating several safety parameters. They have also pointed out certain shortcomings and lapses in certain quality control things, and, then it is also pointed out that the DMRC has been conducting several tests in non-accredited laboratories, and, violating noise pollution levels.

Another more serious lapse that we have found is about the contractors. Sir, the entire thing is handed over to Gammon India. We are very surprised. The same contractor was held responsible when two years ago in September, 2007 in Hyderabad, a flyover, work on which was being undertaken, got collapsed and there were some casualties. The Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed a Committee which found the negligence on the part of Gammon India. I am only surprised that despite knowing all these lapses and shortcomings, once again, how this contract was handed over to Gammon India.

Sir, what we have observed is that when we give certain work to some big contractors, they hand it over to sub-contractors, and, in turn, they also handover the work to some petty contractors. In this process, safety parameters are getting violated. We must see to it that while selecting the contractors, we should be very much over-cautious.

Now, there is a target is to meet the deadline of Commonwealth Games. Sir, just to finish and complete the work in the stipulated time, whether we are violating certain procedures and norms; I do not know. These are certain shortcomings which, I think, we have to take into consideration.

Finally, I just want to say about Hyderabad Metro Rail Project. Certain controversies have come there. I think, we have finally sorted them out. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister when you are going to ground it and when you are going to finish it. Seeing the growing traffic in Hyderabad, we feel that it is really the need of the hour that we start and ground the work at the earliest. So, with this, I support the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill 2009.

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. First of all, I support the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill,

2009 which intends to make 80 per cent functioning of the Metro rail system in the country. In these circumstances, the Delhi Metro Railway Act 2002 and the Metro Railway Construction Act 1978 received amendment. Hence the present Amendment Bill of 2009. The intention of the Government behind amending the Act is to remove obsolete provisions and add new provisions in the Act. I welcome the provisions of the Act.

As the hon. Prime Minister always emphasises on the inclusive growth, the function of the Metro has to be extended so that the poor man can also realise the development of the country. The Metro Railway Corporation is planning to extend the functioning of its activities to other cities and places also. In Kerala, the Government has decided to start metro services at Kochi city. Preliminary discussions were conducted with the authorities concerned. The State Government has requested the Government of India to accord sanction for the project. I request the hon. Minister to take up the issue, consider it favourably and take a decision in the matter and also give necessary financial assistance to the State to complete this project.

From the reports, it is seen that there are accidents in the past. In the last 11 years, 130 accidents have taken place and 102 persons died. This is an alarming situation. Therefore, Sir, we have to look into certain observations in the audit report by the CAG. The observations of the Standing Committee have also to be looked into. Anyway, the functioning of the metro railway system is going on well. I, on behalf of my party, support this Bill wholeheartedly. Thank you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, at the outset, I must place on record my deep sense of gratitude to all the Opposition parties because it were they who agreed to get this Bill taken up today and that too in an out of the way fashion. I am very happy to see a rare gesture of unison and unanimity on this Bill.

Sir, it is a historic step, because, for the first time, we are providing an enabling legal framework for metro construction in all million-plus urban agglomerations. Not that these metro projects will be taken up immediately in all these areas, we are providing the legal framework. To begin with, apart from the National Capital Region, all major cities are offering themselves and State Governments have taken initiative. In all other cities where projects may be proposed by State Governments, we will certainly respond positively.

This august House does not need to be told about the urgent and ubiquitous need for mass transport in urban areas. In a country like India, the need is far more acute than elsewhere. Even in a country like America, the need for mass transportation is being felt for a variety of reasons, for reasons of environment, for reasons of fuel cost, and for reasons of traffic jam.

Mr. Ahluwalia has showered generous praise on Sreedharan who is truly the chief architect of the DMRC. It gives me pleasure to agree with Mr. Ahluwalia in regard to the quality of work rendered by Sreedharan.

Sir, he raised one substantive question as to who will look after the law and order issue that may arise outside Delhi, in Uttar Pradesh, and in Haryana.

So far as the security of metro train system is concerned, the CISF is there. However, the extension to all the States from the DMRC will never succeed unless meaningful cooperation is procured from State Governments. For the sake of Metro, I cannot deprive State Governments of their function to look after law and order. At the end of the day, we are one nation, we are one union. I do not think such problems will arise.

Rama Chandra Khuntiaji referred to accidents while, of course, supporting the Bill. I made this point before. Perhaps it bears repetition, reiteration. All the accidents have taken place during the construction phase. We need to distinguish between accidents that take place during the construction time and accidents that take place during operation time. It is not that these took place during the last five years. During the last 11 years of construction phase, 130 accidents have taken place. These are no doubt unfortunate. All in all, 102 people have died. In this also, I must tell you that 15 people died elsewhere. This includes the deaths of both phases. But, there are some global benchmarks. There are international indices to judge for ourselves whether we, as a nation, are doing well. Sir, in terms of recognised global indicators, we are well ahead of Singapore; we are slightly behind London. I am not saying, in accidents also, we should compete. I am not saying that. But, I am mentioning this only to enable the House to have a sense of proportion, to develop proper comprehensive perception on this entire issue of accidents. As for DMRC workers, we have taken care of their interests, their salaries and so many other things. Even in regard to the workers employed by contractors, the DMRC told me that they are doing their best to see that all the provisions of all the labour laws are adhered to. There could be violations. I can't say that there have been no violations. I will further request the DMRC to see that the working conditions of contract labour employed by the contractors and private companies are properly looked into.

Sir, I would like to assure the House as I did earlier also. No doubt, we want to complete certain projects before the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. The Commonwealth Games are only a big peg on which we hang the targets of major civic projects. Heavens will not fall if we don't complete these things. But, whether the Commonwealth Games happen here or not, we need to do these things. Therefore, we will not, under any circumstances, sacrifice the quality or safety of construction of projects for the sake of speed.

Sir, references have been made to some observations of CAG. Sir, I am not able to lay my hands immediately on the papers. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I have been able to lay my hands on the CAG Report. The CAG is an eminent Constitutional institution. We always attach high value to the findings of CAG. When CAG makes some observations, critical or otherwise, they are invariably looked into by our Parliamentary Committee and this Report of CAG will be looked into

by the Public Accounts Committee. As and when the Public Accounts Committee comes out with its findings, we will naturally act upon those findings to the extent found feasible. But, Sir, the CAG Report itself is a very interesting blend of generous compliments to DMRC and some critical observations of marginal kind. Sir, let me read from conclusions of CAG Report:

“The Delhi MRTS Phase-I project has been widely assessed as a success story in project implementation that is worth emulating in other projects. It is a unique project under the present administrative model. Some of the innovative practices that contributed to a successful implementation of the project as reported by the management, as also observed by the audit, are — sorry, Sir, I am taking some time — (1) All decisions were taken by participative discussions rather than through file Notings. This led to speedy decision-making. However, the Company needs to record the minutes of its discussion for future reference and guidance, to maintain continuity and to secure proper accountability. (2) The Company has adopted exemplary practices to minimise inconvenience caused to the public through construction project. (3) The Company has adopted international standards for fire, safety and environmental safeguards at work sites which are now being emulated by the other projects being executed in the country”.

Now, I come to the lapses which were referred to by our Members. The same Report says:

“The audit pointed out certain shortcomings and lapses in the systems and procedures, as highlighted below:”.

For what? I want this House to note it.

“(1) To facilitate the management to further improve its systems and bring it at par with the best practices. (2) The innovative practices adoptable for a project need to be adequately documented for the benefit of similar and other infrastructure projects”.

Therefore, the CAG Report needs to be viewed in a holistic way. Some marginal critical observations are being played up. The CAG Report did not use the word “irregularity”. When the CAG looks into these things, apparently with the wisdom of hindsight, it would find certain things to be odd and they will all be attended to.

Sir, I don't know whether I have the time to refer to the points made by all the Members. But I want to make this point about the CAG and the CAG did not cast any aspersions and did not talk of irregularities. It did make some critical observations of the marginal kind while heaping very high praise on the entire project.

Sir, Brij Bhushan Tiwariji has talked of fare. I would like to say that the Metro Rail projects are almost forbiddingly capital intensive. Equity is provided by the State Government and the Central Government on fifty-fifty basis. We have been trying to obtain soft loans from foreign

countries. Japan has been very generous in providing soft loans with just 0.1 per cent interest to DMRC. It is prepared to give some loans for other projects in the country. In spite of that, they are allowing the land in and around the stations to be commercialised. We are doing all this so that the fares can be moderated. So, we are not going to allow the fares to spin out of control. We will see that all sections of the people can travel in these Metro projects.

Shri N. Balaganga said something about Chennai. I would like to tell him that Chennai is a model based on DMRC. It will be, in all probability, executed within the time schedule.

Hon. Member, Shri Azeez Pasha, referred to Gammon India. As I said in this House, a show-cause notice has already been issued to M/s Gammon India as to why it should not be blacklisted for two years. We have taken serious notice of what has happened.

Then there was some reference to the Hyderabad Metro. No proposal has been received, as yet, from the Andhra Pradesh Government. We learn that they are going in for PPP model as the Maharashtra Government went in for PPP model in Mumbai. As and when the Government of Andhra Pradesh approaches us for viability gap funding, which can be provided only up to 20 per cent of the total cost of the project, we will then look at the project. We, naturally, will help the Hyderabad Metro Project. But we will look at the proposals when they come to us.

Sir, at the end of my brief reply, I must, once again, thank all sections of the House for this unqualified support to the Bill, to DMRC in particular. We will all work together for the spread of the Metro Rail System in our growing urban areas. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and to amend the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, before I move the Bill, I would like to respond to one point made by the hon. Member Shri P.R. Rajan from Kerala. The processing of Metro project proposal at Cochin is at a very advanced stage. The Planning Commission has given the clearance. If everything goes well, we should be able to ground it.

I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

FAREWELL TO RETIRING NOMINATED MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today we bid farewell to six of our nominated colleagues, namely, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Shri Dara Singh, Shrimati Hema Malini, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao and Shri Ram Jethmalani, who are retiring on the 26th August, 2009 on completion of their term of office.

I place on record my heartfelt appreciation of the valuable contributions made by the retiring nominated Members in the deliberations of the House and by making the debate of this House rich and lively. They would be missed by all of us in the House. I do hope that the retiring Members would carry with them happy memories of their association with this august House. I am confident that they would continue to serve the nation with the same vigour and earnestness as had been shown by them in the House. Wherever they may be, I wish them well and many more years of fruitful service to the nation.

DR. BIMAL JALAN (Nominated): Sir, with your permission, I would like to take a few minutes of this House to express my personal thanks to you, and through you, to Mr. Dy. Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen for the courtesy extended to us. I must say that for a non-political, non-Party, nominated Member, it has been a unique privilege to be a part of this House and I am most grateful for that.

Sir, as I look back over the last six years, which is a fairly long time, I must make a specific mention of the progress that has been made in making the proceedings in the House more orderly without disruption. I must express my personal appreciation, and, I am sure, I am speaking for our country, as a whole, when I say that the consensus that you have been able to bring about among the Members of this entire House in conducting a disruption-free House, mostly, is something about which we can all be very proud of.

Sir, while I speak, I must also say that the Secretariat of Rajya Sabha has performed a service which is unique in many ways. Among our outside colleagues, and I am sure — I have been a member of the Executive in my professional capacity for many years in different Ministries and the Reserve Bank — there is a lot of dissatisfaction with the working of, what you call, our bureaucracy or the Civil Service. But if you want to see exemplary behaviour, I would say it is that of the Secretariat. For example, I am surprised at the fact that the verbatim record of proceedings of the House can be recorded — we see Parliamentary Reporters coming in for

taking down the proceedings — and made available to us the very next morning. It is something that proves to me that you can really do what you want to do provided you have the will, provided you have the autonomy and provided you have the power. And I am saying this not only as a matter of formality but something that is really being done. And most of us who want to improve delivery of services, most of us who want to alleviate poverty, or do whatever we want to do, we can say that it is within our power, if we have the will.

Finally, Sir, I must also express my gratitude to the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister — the country is extremely fortunate to have a leader of that stature, of that quality and of that intellectual background — the present Leader of Opposition, the previous Leaders of the Opposition, who may have political differences, but who, when it comes to the crunch, are together, and other Members of the House who have given us unfailing courtesy all the time. This has particularly been because of our non-party status, and I must thank them for all their courtesy as I leave the House. I would be leaving the House, but I would continue to be a citizen of this House and I will be watching the proceedings of the House, and I would certainly be writing and speaking about it from outside. So, this is not the end of my association. In fact, I feel a freer person now although I am leaving. It is amazing to think that as Members of this House, all the 250 of us, represent India, all the castes, all the different languages, all the different States, of hundred crore people of India in this House. You look around; they may have different political views, but they are all Indians. And the only reason we are here is the great democracy that our Constitutional fathers have given us. I wish you well while you conduct this House, and I am grateful for having been given this privilege and opportunity to be here which I didn't really deserve as a non-political person. Thank you.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first and foremost, may I express my deep sense of gratitude to you, and through you, the Deputy Chairman, and all the Members of this House, especially the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of every political party from across the spectrum, for the enormous cooperation and support that I received during my six years in this House!

Sir, I came here from above, I mean, from the Press Gallery there. I used to be there, taking down notes of proceedings. Then, I was deeply honoured when the former President of India, on the advice of the former Prime Minister, nominated me to the House. That time, many people told me that it was very unusual that a person without grey hair was coming in the nominated category. Sir, my beard, has, of course, greyed over the time. This is not anything meant to all my colleagues and friends who have grey hair; some day I will also get it. But, I must thank, particularly the former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for having nominated me at a much younger age than my predecessors.

Sir, at this point of time, I can only say with the feelings and very deep emotions that are running through me of having been a Member of this House and participated in so many debates

and discussions. Sir, I can only refer to a song by Sahir Ludhianvi, which, I think, sums up my sentiments and, I think, the sentiments of many Members in this House. With your permission, Sir, if I may quote Sahir Ludhianvi:

मुझसे पहले कितने शायर आए और आकर चले गए,
कुछ आहें भरकर चले गए, कुछ नगमे गाकर चले गए,
वो भी एक पल का किस्सा था, मैं भी एक पल का किस्सा हूँ,
कल तुमसे जुदा हो जाऊंगा, जो आज तुम्हारा हिस्सा हूँ।
कल और आएंगे नगमों की खिलती कलियां चुनने वाले,
मुझसे बेहतर कहने वाले, तुमसे बेहतर सुनने वाले,
कल कोई मुझको याद करे, क्यों कोई मुझको याद करे,
मसरूफ जमाना मेरे लिए, क्यों वक्त अपना बर्बाद करे,
मैं पल दो पल का शायर हूँ, पल दो पल मेरी कहानी है,
पल दो पल की हस्ती है, पल दो पल की रवानी है।”

धन्यवाद।

डा. नारायण सिंह मानकलाव (नाम-निर्देशित) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, सर्वप्रथम मैं आज इस विदाई के अवसर पर आपका धन्यवाद और आभार प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे सदन के नेता और प्रतिपक्ष के नेता और सभी दलों के नेताओं का तथा सदन के समस्त सदस्यगण का हृदय से आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। छह साल तक इस सदन में एक सदस्य के रूप में मेरे जैसे एक सोशल वर्कर, ग्रॉस रूट पर सामाजिक कार्य करने वाले व्यक्ति का चयन एक अरब लोगों में से 12 लोगों में चुनना, मेरे लिए सौभाग्य की बात थी और उसके लिए मैं तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति जी, तत्कालीन उपराष्ट्रपति जी, तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री जी और तत्कालीन उपप्रधान मंत्री जी तथा तत्कालीन वित्त मंत्री जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने मुझे यह अवसर दिया। यह सदन एक ऐसा कल्पतरु वृक्ष है, जिसके पत्ते पतझड़ में झड़ते नहीं हैं। दूसरे सदन के पत्ते पतझड़ में एक साथ झड़ते हैं और एक साथ ही उगते हैं। यह ऐसा वृक्ष है जिसमें कभी पतझड़ नहीं आती, सदा बसन्त रहती है, पत्ते झड़ते रहते हैं और उगते रहते हैं। यह एक निरन्तर प्रोसेस है और उसी प्रोसेस के तहत आज हम, जैसा कि अभी भाई साहब ने कहा कि नई कलियों के प्रस्फुटित होने के लिए पत्ते झड़ते हैं और नई कलियां उगती हैं। उसी के तहत आज हम इस विदाई के अवसर पर पहुंचे हैं। यह सदन और इसके अंदर जो कार्य हुआ, जिसको हमने देखा, आज इस घड़ी में मुझे किसी प्रकार की कोई चिंता नहीं है, मैं अपने आपको गौरवान्वित और प्रसन्न महसूस करता हूँ।

मैं जिस सामाजिक क्षेत्र से उठकर आया हूँ, यहां के अनुभव और प्रेरणा लेकर, पुनः उसी सामाजिक क्षेत्र में उसी दमखम के साथ कार्य करने की प्रेरणा लेकर जा रहा हूँ। मैं इस अवसर पर एक बात अवश्य कहना चाहूंगा कि आपके साथ 6 साल तक साथ रहने वाला यह साथी, एक छोटा सा सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता है। मैं राजस्थान के जोधपुर शहर में काम करता हूँ। जब कभी आप उधर से निकलें या कभी आपको जोधपुर जाना पड़े या आप किसी सामाजिक काम को देखना चाहें, तो मुझे एक अवसर अवश्य दें। मुझे आपको देखकर एक सम्बल मिलेगा और उस ताकत के बल पर मैं निश्चित तौर पर मानवीय सेवा का और अच्छा काम कर सकूंगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आप सभी का पुनः एक बार धन्यवाद, आभार प्रकट करता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि आपकी अनुकम्पा बनी रहे, आपका सहयोग और सम्बल बना रहे। धन्यवाद।

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the 217th Session of Rajya Sabha comes to a close today. It commenced on 2nd July, 2009 and was largely devoted to the financial business of the Government. In addition to the Government business, this Session provided rich opportunities to the Members to discuss several issues of importance.

Hon. Members, the 217th Session of Rajya Sabha comes to a close today. It commenced on 2nd July, 2009 and was largely devoted to the financial business of the Government. In addition to the Government business, this Session provided rich opportunities to the Members to discuss several issues of importance.

The working of six Ministries was discussed during the Session, which is a record in terms of number of Ministries covered in the recent past. Various procedural instrumentalities, such as Calling Attention and Short Duration Discussion, were also used for discussions. Members were also provided regular opportunity to make Special Mentions on matters of public importance. I commend the Members for the constructive manner in which they participated in these discussions and I thank the Ministers of the Government for doing likewise.

Despite the marked improvement in the functioning of the House, the Question Hour was lost on four days due to disruptions. It is to be hoped that the collective wisdom of the 'House of Elders' will bring forth an arrangement by which the concern of Members on matter of recent occurrence can be expressed without transgressing on the right of fellow Members to seek answers to carefully crafted questions. I have directed the Secretary-General to make available the statistical information regarding the Session.

Seventeen new members from ten States and NCT of Delhi joined the Council of States during this Session. I am sure, they would make rich and valuable contributions to the House in the days to come.

I thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various parties and groups and the Hon. Members for the wholehearted co-operation extended by them to facilitate smooth conduct of House proceedings. I also thank the Deputy Chairman, the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairman and the officers and staff of the Secretariat for their help and co-operation.

(The National Song, "Vande Mataram" was then played)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die*
at fifty minutes past three of the clock.