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23 Asadha, 1931 (Saka)

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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 14th July, 2009/23 Asadha, 1931 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक के भारी छूट वाले बाण्ड

*141. श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:

श्री मोती लाल वोरा:††

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक (आईडीबीआई) ने वर्ष 1992 में भारी छूट वाले बाण्ड [डीप डिस्काउंट बाण्ड (श्र-1)] की शुरुआत की थी और एक बाण्ड का मूल्य 2700 रुपए तय किया था;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इन बचत-पत्रों का विक्रय करते हुए बैंक द्वारा निवेशकों को यह भरोसा दिलाया गया था कि 31 मार्च, 2017 के बाद निवेशकों को प्रति बाण्ड एक लाख रुपए अदा किए जाएंगे, परन्तु अब बैंक बाण्ड-धारकों को 31 मार्च, 2002 से ब्याज का भुगतान नहीं किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि बैंक द्वारा 2500 रुपए से अधिक ब्याज राशि होने पर बाण्ड-धारकों से आयकर की कटौती की जा रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार बाण्ड-धारकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी, हां। जनवरी 1992 में भूतपूर्व भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक (आईडीबीआई) ने आबंटन की तारीख से 25 वर्षों की परिपक्वता अवधि के साथ 2,700 रुपए प्रति बाण्ड के निर्गम मूल्य पर 1 लाख रुपए के अंकित मूल्य वाले डीप डिस्काउंट बाण्ड (डीप डिस्काउंट बाण्ड (श्र-1)) जारी किए थे। यह बाण्ड 31 मार्च, 1992 को आबंटित किए गए थे। निर्गम की शर्तों के अनुसार, निवेशकों के पास सार्वजनिक निर्गम के समय निर्धारित इन बाण्डों के माने गए अंकित मूल्य पर आबंटन की तारीख से प्रत्येक पांच वर्ष की समाप्ति पर बाण्ड को वापस लेने का विकल्प और आईडीबीआई के पास बाण्ड के मोचन का विकल्प था। 1 लाख रुपए का अंकित मूल्य तभी तय था, यदि निवेशक या आईडीबीआई ने 25 वर्षों की कुल परिपक्वता अवधि के दौरान बाण्डों को वापस लेने/मोचन करने, जैसी भी स्थिति हो, के विकल्प का प्रयोग न किया हो। ये शर्तें इन बाण्डों का सार्वजनिक प्रस्ताव करते समय आईडीबीआई द्वारा जारी किए गए 15 जनवरी, 1992 के प्रस्ताव संबंधी दस्तावेज में विनिर्दिष्ट की गई थीं और बाण्ड प्रमाण पत्र के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर मुद्रित भी की गई थीं। चूंकि आईडीबीआई ने आबंटन की तारीख से 10

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री मोती लाल वोरा द्वारा पूछा गया।

वर्ष की समाप्ति पर मांग के विकल्प का प्रयोग किया था, इसलिए प्रस्ताव संबंधी दस्तावेज की शर्तों के अनुसार 31 मार्च, 2002 के बाद की अवधि के लिए इन बाण्डों पर कोई भी ब्याज देय नहीं है।

(ग) आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 की धारा 193 के अनुसार, वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान ब्याज आय 2,500 रुपए से अधिक होने पर स्रोत पर कर की कटौती करना अपेक्षित है। तदनुसार, आईडीबीआई बैंक उन बाण्डधारकों के मामले में, जिन्होंने फार्म 15छ/ज में घोषणा और/या अधिनियम की धारा 197क के तहत प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है, वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान 2,500 रुपए से अधिक की ब्याज आय से लागू दरों पर स्रोत पर कर की कटौती कर रहा है।

(घ) आईडीबीआई ने बाण्डों का मोचन प्रस्ताव संबंधी दस्तावेज की शर्तों के अनुसार किया है और बाण्डों के मोचन के लिए बाण्ड प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करने के लिए बाण्डधारकों को सूचित करने का प्रयास किया है। आईडीबीआई ने लगभग 90% बाण्डधारकों को मोचन आय का भुगतान पहले ही कर दिया है। तथापि, इन बाण्डों के मोचन के बारे में व्यक्तिगत सूचनाओं और समाचार पत्रों में बार-बार विज्ञापन देने के बावजूद कुछ बाण्डधारकों से विमुक्त बाण्ड प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त न होने के कारण आईडीबीआई शेष बाण्डधारकों को धनराशि का भुगतान नहीं कर पाया है। जिन बाण्डधारकों ने अभी तक प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत नहीं किए हैं, उन बाण्डधारकों तक पहुंचने के लिए और प्रयत्न करने के उद्देश्य से, आईडीबीआई ने अप्रैल, 2009 में ऐसे बाण्डधारकों को पुनः सूचनाएं जारी की हैं।

Deep discount bond of IDBI

†*141. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:††

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had launched a deep discount bond (Series-I) in 1992 and the rate per bond was fixed at Rs. 2700/-;

(b) whether it is a fact that while selling these saving bonds to the investors it was assured that after 31 March, 2017 investors will be paid rupees one lakh per bond but no interest is being paid to bond holders since 31 March, 2002;

(c) whether the bank has been deducting income tax from bond holders on interest amount exceeding Rs. 2500/-; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the interests of bond holders?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In January, 1992 the erstwhile Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had issued Deep Discount Bond (Series-I) with face value of Rs. 1 lakh at an issue price of Rs.2,700 per bond with a maturity period of 25 years from the date of allotment. These Bonds were allotted on 31st March 1992. As per the terms of the issue, the investors had the option to withdraw and the IDBI had the option to redeem the bond at the end of every 5 years from the date of allotment at the deemed face value of these bonds prescribed at the time of the public

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Motilal Vora.

issue itself. The face value of Rs. 1 lakh was payable only if the investor or the IDBI did not exercise the option to withdraw/redeem the bonds, as the case may be, during the total maturity period of 25 years. These terms were specified in the Offer Document dated 15th January 1992 issued by the IDBI while making public offer of these bonds, and was also printed on the face of the Bond Certificate. As the IDBI exercised the call option at the end of 10 years from the date of allotment, as per the terms of the Offer Document, no interest is payable on these bonds for the period beyond 31st March, 2002.

(c) In terms of section 193 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, tax is required to be deducted at source in case interest income exceeds Rs.2,500/- during the financial year. IDBI Bank is accordingly deducting tax at source at applicable rates from interest income exceeding Rs.2,500/- during a financial year in case of bondholders who have not submitted declaration in Form 15G/H and/or Certificate u/s 197A of the Act.

(d) IDBI has redeemed the bonds in accordance with the terms of Offer Document and has made attempts to inform the bondholders to submit the bond certificates for redemption of the bonds. IDBI has already paid redemption proceeds to around 90% of the bondholders. However, IDBI has not been able to pay the proceeds to the remaining bondholders because of non-receipt of discharged bond certificates from some of the bondholders in spite of individual notices and repeated advertisements in the newspapers about redemption of these bonds. In order to make further attempt in reaching the bondholders who have not yet submitted the certificates, the IDBI has issued fresh intimations to such bondholders as late as in April, 2009.

श्री मोती लाल बोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक ने 1992 में 2700 रुपए के बॉण्ड कितनी संख्या में जारी किए थे और क्या 25 वर्ष की अवधि के बाद उन्हें एक लाख रुपए डिस्काउंट देने की बात कही थी?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already stated the factual position. Yes, the IDBI issued this Bond from 31st March 1992. The terms and conditions were laid down. The minimum requirement was that one has to buy at least one Bond of Rs.2,700 with the prevailing rate of interest at that point in time. Another was that if somebody buys a Bond, after the maturity period of 25 years, in 2017, they will get Rs. one lakh per Bond of Rs.2,700. But even when this offer was made, there were conditions for either of the parties, namely, the bondholders and the IDBI. The bondholders will have the right to withdraw at the interval of every five years and the IDBI will have the right of redemption/call option at the end of every five-year period. And when it will be withdrawn at the end of five years or it will be redeemed at the end of five years, each bondholder will be paid according to the deemed face value of the Bond on that day. These were the terms and conditions which were laid down very clearly at the time of the offer.

So far as the number of such Bonds is concerned, about 11 lakh bondholders were there. After ten years, it was found that interest rate variations were substantially changing. Then the

IDBI also wanted to redeem it. At the end of the tenth year, that means year 2002, a substantial number of bondholders were paid back the money. I am told that about 11 lakh were original subscribers and about ten lakh claims have already been settled.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, I am satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Finance Minister. But I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The bondholders were given the assurance that after the maturity period of 25 years, they would be paid Rs. one lakh. The bank has used the call option and now it is paying Rs.12,000 to the bondholders.

I understand that 90 per cent of the bondholders have been paid the money. But the ten per cent of bondholders have not been paid on time. Nor have they been given the interest on it. They have only given Rs.12,000.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly enquire into the fact how the bank authorities have used the call option after five years. There is no doubt that there was an agreement in the Bond that the bondholders can withdraw and bank can also use the call option. But, Sir, only Rs.12,000 have been paid to them. No interest was paid on it. On the other hand, they are charging income tax on it from the bondholders. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to enquire into the fact and the bondholders, who have not been paid the money due to them, should be paid the money immediately.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, even as late as April this year, the remaining around one lakh bond-holders have been intimated by the IDBI to come and collect their deemed value at the end of the tenth year, that is, 2002 which will be Rs.12,000. Now, as the hon. Member is aware, IDBI has also transformed its character. From a financial lending developmental institution, now, it has converted itself into a commercial bank. Earlier there was no question of paying interest. But, as it has transformed itself into a commercial bank, now, the Reserve Bank has instructed that those who have not yet withdrawn their money or those whose money has not yet been paid, should be paid at the rate of savings interest, that is, 3.5 per cent. So, now those who have not received back their money will be entitled to interest.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, when the Industrial Development Bank of India was established, the role assigned to it was development finance. Over the years, I find, there are attempts to change the role of IDBI. It is being encouraged to function as a commercial bank and not as a development finance bank. Sir, tomorrow, there is going to be a strike in IDBI. I would like to know: What is the response of the Government to restore the role of IDBI as development finance bank? What is the response of the Government to the strike?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so many institutions change and transform their character with the passage of time. It has not happened today. This transformation took place on 1.10.2004. Therefore, almost five years have passed when they had transformed themselves

from the development financing to commercial banking. There is no dearth of developmental financing. There are other institutions to meet the requirements. So far as the strike is concerned, I am not in the management of the IDBI. There are so many financial institutions and organisations. Sometimes, there are disputes between the employees and the employer. They settle these disputes through their own mechanism. That is their job.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking a very fundamental question. What is the basic objective of this deep discount bond issued by IDBI? To what extent, this objective has been achieved? Whether it is to the advantage of the bond-holder or to the advantage of the bank.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the basic fundamental objective is to collect money. These bonds were issued in 1992 in the financial situation prevailing at that point of time. Simply if you ask the public to deposit money in a bond, they are not going to do it unless this becomes attractive. So, Sir, it will have to be that interests of both the bond purchasers and the bond givers are being provided for.

Irregularities in SSA

*142. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received complaints regarding misuse of funds and other irregularities in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the number of officers against whom action has been taken for their involvement in the said cases, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such cases in future?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The performance Audit report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, indicates that an amount of Rs. 53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines.

In addition, reports from States have indicated instances of financial irregularities. Andhra Pradesh reported an embezzlement of Rs.14.98 crores under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. An FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three accounts officials and transferred another three out of the State Project Office of SSA. In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against wherein services of two officials have been terminated. In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs.8.58 lakhs recovered from them. In West Bengal an

amount of Rs.517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are underway. In Gujarat (2007-08) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs.15.98 lakhs recovered. Nine officials have been suspended. Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. In Himachal Pradesh FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse of SSA funds and an amount of Rs.3.02 lakhs has been recovered.

The Government of India has directed the States/UTs to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes. The States/UTs have also been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. The Financial and Procurement Manual for SSA lays down detailed procedures on accounting, fund flow arrangements, financial reporting, internal controls, external audit and procurement procedures, etc. Concurrent financial reviews are undertaken by a professional body of auditors, and field monitoring is undertaken by Social Science Institutions.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, the primary objective of starting Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is to have an alternative to universal free and compulsory education in the country. But, if you see the objective and accomplishment, there is a big gap. There are more than 75,884 schools in India with just one teacher and there are 6,647 schools where there is none at all. In spite of incurring such a huge expenditure of Rs.11,133 crores, as many as 1,36,00,000 children are out of school. So, how are you going to meet the serious lapse? What are the steps you are envisaging in the immediate future? This is my question.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, though the question that the hon. Member has asked does not flow out of the question that is being answered by me because the question relates to diversion of funds and misuse of funds. Since the hon. Member has asked the question, I would like to just place on record the fact that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been a relatively, in fact, a largely, very successful scheme, and I just want to place some figures. In fact, in 2002, only 86 per cent of the habitations, in India, was served with primary schools. In 2009, 98 per cent of them are being served, Sir. This is a huge success; 92 per cent of the habitations served by upper primary schools, up from 78 per cent, in 2002; the GER up from 96.3 per cent, in 2002, to 111.2 per cent, in 2007-08, at the primary level; the GER up from 60.2 per cent, in 2002, to 73.6 per cent, in 2007-08 at the upper primary level. The dropout rate has declined from 39, in 2001, to 25.4 in 2007-08; the pupil-teacher ratio has reduced from 38:1 to 33:1. So, there is, I mean, no scheme at this level, and with this kind of magnitude, the way annual allocations are something like Rs.13,000 crores, no such scheme can be 100 per cent perfect. But, I think, we are achieving our objectives at the primary level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is there any second supplementary?

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, to the question the Minister may say that it does not flow from the original one. But, Sir, I am talking, overall, about the functioning of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; the shortcomings which are there, are corruption and irregularities. That is one thing that is being pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, but there are other things which we have to also look into seriously. The Audit Report itself says that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being established to see that there is one primary school within a radius of one kilometre. But, then, as we see, the Audit Report reveals that there are 31,648 inhabitations in 14 States. This is also another serious shortcoming. And for coming out from these shortcomings what is the Government going to do? This is also concerning the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, the hon. Member should know this, and I would like to inform the hon. Member here, that in this Session itself we have brought the Right to Education Bill which deals with all the problems that we are talking about, so that we have a neighbourhood school in every habitation. That is the purpose of bringing the Bill. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has not worked well. Wherever it has worked, it has worked exceptionally well; wherever there is a gap, we are trying to fill that gap, and that is why the Right to Education Bill.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I compliment the Minister for making the wide coverage, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since within the habitations, the focus, normally, is on the richer sections, and this has been raised in the last Session also, whether he will assure us that they will take a bottom up approach while sanctioning the school buildings. Sir, the SC/ST localities should be taken first; then, the others be covered because the dropout rates are mainly among the poorer sections. I know that it is left to the sarpanches. But is there any guideline issued, while sanctioning the school buildings under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, that the bottom up approach should be taken?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as you know, we are, in fact, trying to take particular care of the weaker sections of the society, SCs/STs. But there are some problems that are beyond the control of the Government, which afflict those communities, and we need to address those problems very seriously. And we are doing so. In fact, the whole Right to Education Bill looks at that issue as well. And we have to reduce the dropout rates, because at the primary level they are fine, but when children go to Class V, Class VI or Class VIII, the dropouts are up to approximately 50 per cent; we have to deal with that problem. But that does not mean that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is not doing well. What it means is that the State must do more. What it means is that we must address that problem and resolve it. And this is exactly what we are trying to do.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें यह बताया है कि जहां-जहां अनियमितताएं बरती गईं, उनमें से कई राज्यों के विरुद्ध राज्यवार आधार पर कार्यवाही की गई है। पश्चिमी बंगाल के बारे में बताया गया है कि वहां के एक जिले में आठ कर्मचारियों द्वारा 517.80 लाख रुपये की राशि

घोखे से निकाल ली गई इसलिए सीआईडी ने सात लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया और उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही चल रही है। मान्यवर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कार्यवाही चल रही है, वह किस प्रकार की है? इसके बाद आपने इसमें दिया है कि उनसे पैसे वसूल कर लिए गए या उनको दंडित किया गया, लेकिन आपने जो बताया है कि कार्यवाही चल रही है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही चल रही है?

मान्यवर, साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि वर्ष 2000 से प्रारम्भ सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में सरकार ने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति का कुछ लक्ष्य निश्चित किया था, जिसे 2006-07 में 6.60 लाख, 2007-08 में 8.10 लाख और 2008-09 में 9.66 लाख रखा गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनमें से अभी तक कितने अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति हुई है? अगर आप यह जानकारी दें तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, first of all, the latter question as to how many teachers have been appointed has nothing to do with this question. The question relates to diversion of funds meant for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मैंने इसलिए यह प्रश्न पूछा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कपिल सिबल: एक मिनट, एक मिनट। You have asked the question.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member wants to say that he has asked this question because it is not a part of the question. I am grateful to my learned friend.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: However, there are two kinds of actions that any Government can take under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan where there is diversion of funds. Diversion of funds is of two kinds. One is that the funds are spent on an activity which is not authorised and the second is that the funds are misused for a private purpose. As far as diversion of funds is concerned, when they are spent on an activity which is not authorised, like spending on civil works instead of authorised activity, what we do is we recoup the money from the State Government and to the extent it is not recouped we take it from the share of the State Government for the next year. That is what we do for diversion of funds, and for embezzlement, we file criminal cases and wherever there is embezzlement, we have to suspend the officials and file criminal cases. The FIRs are lodged and prosecution goes on. That is exactly what is happening.

As far as the appointment of teachers is concerned, this is one of the biggest problems that this country is facing. We don't have enough teachers at the school level. We need to have a national programme to recruit enough teachers and we are doing so, both under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and otherwise.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: नहीं-नहीं, अभी तो मैंने पूरा सवाल पूछा ही नहीं और आपने उसका उत्तर दे दिया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: One supplementary, please. Shri Tariq Anwar.

श्री तारिक अनवर: सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है, यह बात सही है कि सर्वशिक्षा अभियान काफी हद तक कामयाब है। यह बात ठीक है कि भ्रष्टाचार की कुछ शिकायतें हैं, लेकिन फिर भी आज गांवों में जो स्कूलों की बिल्डिंग्स हमें दिखाई पड़ रही हैं, यह सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के कारण ही दिखाई पड़ रही हैं। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी से ज़रा इससे हटकर यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत सारे ऐसे बच्चे हैं, जिन्हें स्कूल उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, लेकिन मदरसा और संस्कृत विद्यालय, जो राज्य सरकार के द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त हैं,

क्या उनको भी सर्व शिक्षा अभियान में लिया जा सकता है, जिससे उन बच्चों को भी पढ़ने की सुविधा प्राप्त हो सके?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I think what we need to do is to have separate schemes to deal with some of these issues. As far as the question of Madrasas

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: I talked of Sanskrit Vidyalayas also.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: ...and also Sanskrit Vidyalayas are concerned, we have separate schemes to deal with them. As far as Madrasas are concerned, in fact, we want to develop a consensus through which we can impart secular education in Madrasas without impacting on the religious education that is imparted there. We are hoping in the times to come to give them an equivalent of a CBSE degree. If they get a degree which allows them to move on to polytechniques or to a university system, which is not available at present, I think the Madrasas would benefit greatly. We are contemplating that stream and I am in the process of developing a national consensus on that. I think the Members of this House will also support me in that.

Schemes to unearth black money

*143. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:††

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 294 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21 December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Group set up by Government has recommended special schemes to unearth black money and assets;

(b) if so, the amount of black money presently in and outside the country and the schemes to unearth the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money presently in and outside the country. At the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had in 1985 conducted a study "Aspects of black money in India" in which the amount of black money in the country in the year 1983-84 was estimated between Rs.31,584 crore and Rs.36,786 crore. The authors of the study had, however, admitted that their estimate was based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which could be challenged. Subsequently no fresh study has been conducted by the Government on the amount of black money.

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

The Government takes several punitive and deterrent steps to unearth black money. These include scrutiny of returns, surveys, search and seizure action, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Among other efforts to unearth black money, Tax Information Network (TIN) has been set up as depository of important tax related information which can be accessed by the Department. The basic components of TIN are information relating to Tax Deduction at Source (TDS), information relating to payment of taxes and information relating to high value transactions coming from the Annual Information Returns (AIR). The information collected from various sources is also collated electronically to create a 360 degrees profile of the high net-worth assesses so as to detect black money. Under the provisions of section 206A of the Income Tax Act certain entities responsible for paying to resident any income by way of interest (other than interest on securities) without deduction of tax at source are required to furnish quarterly returns. Information as regards suspicious transactions and large cash transactions, as disseminated by the Financial Intelligence Unit, India (FIU-IND), is also investigated by the Income Tax Department. Appropriate action under the provisions of Direct Tax Laws is taken in cases where black money is detected.

There is no proposal under Government's consideration to introduce any new amnesty scheme.

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

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I recall that the Wanchoo Committee, in its report, in 1971, described the black money as a cancerous growth in the country's economy. In reply to Question No. 294, in this House, on 21.12.2004, the House was informed that the amount of black money in the country, in 1983-84, was estimated between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores. It has again been repeated, today, in reply to my question. There was a study conducted in 1985. But there has been no further study since then. We have also been informed that the Government has set up an Expert Group to recommend special schemes to unearth black money and assets. But till date, the report has neither been Tabled in this House, nor has the Government Tabled any action taken report on the recommendation of the Expert Group.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question? Please avoid making a statement while putting a supplementary.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: My first question to the hon. Finance Minister is this. What action has the Government taken, so far, on the recommendation of the Expert Group and the quantum of black money unearthed between 21.12.2004 and 31.3.2009?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of black money is concerned, it is true that there is a pernicious impact of unaccounted money on the overall economy. So far as the quantum and quantification of unaccounted money is concerned,

various studies have been undertaken by various individuals, but no precise amount has been arrived at. I have referred to a statement, in response to the main question, where I have stated in the first paragraph itself that it is a Government-sponsored study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, which conducted the study in 1985. They have given the figure between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores, in the year 1983-84. The authors themselves said that there were numerous assumptions and approximation, each of which could be challenged on either side. Somebody may say it is much higher; somebody may say it is lower. It is true that, thereafter, the Government did not undertake any official initiative to quantify it. But certain individual studies have taken place, from time to time, and we have received those studies. For instance, I can give some information to the House. One Prof. Suraj B. Gupta, retired Professor of the Delhi School of Economics, undertook some study, in 1992, in his book 'Black Income in India'. They made some study that in 1980-81, it was 41.7 per cent of the GDP, amounting to Rs. 50,977 crores; in 1983-84 - 45.81 per cent, amounting to Rs. 85,208 crores; in 1987-88 - 50.71 per cent, amounting to Rs. 1,49,297 crores. Certain other types of studies have also been made. Another study has been made by Prof. Arun Kumar, of JNU in his book 'Black Economy in India'. In this book, he has stated that in the year 1995-96, there was an estimated black money of Rs. 4,87,185 crores. From these figures itself the hon. Members will appreciate that there are very wide variations. In a situation like this, there would be wide variations. Then the question is, what is the Government going to do? The Government is going to unearth the black money. There are two very effective instruments, that is, the instrument of search and seizure and the instrument of survey through which the income tax departments collect the information. With the computerised scrutiny system in place, it has been possible, on the one hand, to spare a large number of taxpayers from rigorous scrutiny.

But, whenever there is a doubt, and through the computerised scrutiny system, if it is found that certain accounts will have to be scrutinised, then, it is scrutinised thoroughly so that it becomes really a problem for tax evaders and tax avoiders. Through search and seizure operations also — if the hon. Members are interested in having some figures, I have that; but I would not like to waste the time of the House by quoting those figures — the Income-Tax Authorities get the relevant information. Through the documents which they seize from there, they arrive at an assessment; from there, they realise a large quantum of revenues, which get reflected in the details of the Budget documents which we give every year.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have noted from the reply that a study by the NIPFP has been conducted by the Government on the amount of black money prevailing since 1995. Very recently, we came to know that Mr. Falco Galli, spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice, has said that the documents, in respect of Hasan Ali Khan, submitted by the

Government of India, in 2007, were forged. I want to know from the hon. Minister what action plan the Government of India is undertaking to curb the menace of black money in India *vis-a-vis* the money deposited in Swiss banks by several Indians and Indian companies.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of search and seizure operations on Hasan Ali Khan and the documents seized from there are concerned, as per the practice of the Income Tax Department, whenever they conduct a search and they seize the documents, they prepare a list of documents which have been seized so that the persons, whose premises are being searched, cannot claim that the officials have taken away their valuable properties and other things. Now, one such document appeared to be a forged document, and after some time, after some scrutiny, — it was not possible to make a scrutiny on the spot — necessary clarifications were issued by the Revenue Department through a Press Release. So, that aspect has been taken care of. And, as regards the information which we have received from the search operation conducted in that particular premise, the Department has gone vigorously, and they have valued and re-valued everything. Some money is being deposited — we have got the evidences — in the Swiss bank. We have sought the advice of the Solicitor General as to whether we should issue a legal *rogatory* to get the necessary information. But, as the hon. Members of this House are aware, this is an issue which is agitating many of us. Swiss banks, till now, took the position that they would never divulge the information. So far as their banks' Secrecy Act is concerned, they will not divulge the information. If I remember correctly — I am subject to correction by hon. knowledgeable Members — only once did they make this departure, when the Nuremberg trial took place in 1946. Before that and even after that, the Swiss banks have never departed from that. But, as a consequence of this meltdown, there is a pressure now from the OECD countries that for the correct exchange of information, there should be a revision of the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements which are entered into between various countries, as we have entered into 76 such Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with various countries. Those are being brought at par with the disclosure provisions followed by the OECD countries. And I am told that the Swiss Authorities have, ultimately, agreed to enter into negotiations. We have the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with them as well and the relevant Secrecy Clause. We are going in for negotiations, and when it is arrived at, it would be possible for us to get more information in respect of that. So far as Hasan Ali Khan is concerned, it has been taken care of, and the assessment is being properly conducted.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, my supplementary is that in 2004, you had set up a committee specifically to recommend special schemes for unearthing the black money and unaccounted money. What are precisely the recommendations of that committee? What did they do from 2004 to 2009? And what is the response of the Government to those recommendations? Kindly educate us. And, secondly, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. One question please.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Please. It is a part of the same question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said 'second'!

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is an indivisible part of the same question, Sir. Please allow. And, I think the hon. Minister will be glad to answer.

The tax arrears increased by geometric proportions in some years, especially during the last quarter of the last decade; now, the situation has improved to some extent. But, still, a sizeable part of tax arrears are there. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider that, as also the unaccounted money which should have been in the national exchequer but which is not somehow flowing there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as recommendations of the committee of 2004 are concerned, we have received the report. But, to be frank, we are not very enamoured to have another type of disclosure scheme. In this country, we have conducted a series disclosure schemes from 1950; one such scheme had been piloted by me as the Revenue Minister in 1975 and it was known as the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. We had got a substantial quantum of money. But, the amount which we receive as a result of all these exercises after netting out the negative impact on revenues is not very large and the one-time receipt that we get, there is always a complaint because voluntary disclosures are not popular unless the rates of tax are reduced. Therefore, in every such scheme, the rate of tax has been reduced. The complaint has been that we are penalising the honest tax payer and encouraging the dishonest tax payer. There is a vested interest in first concealing some income and, thereafter, taking the advantage of these types of schemes, come out and have a little relief. Therefore, we are not very enamoured of such schemes.

So far as the question of recovering arrears is concerned, it is not that every arrear is as a result of avoidance of taxation. Many times, more often than not, assesses do not agree with the assessment of the tax authority and, as a citizen of a democratic country, he has the right to object and the law has given him that right, and there is a way of settling these issues. These issues are being settled through these mechanisms.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that it is not easy to quantify the amount of black money that is there in the market. Some time back, the Wanchoo Committee had opined that there was a parallel economy running with more than three lakh crores of rupees; that was the estimate long back. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the hon. Prime Minister had stated some months back that steps would be taken by the Indian Government to get back the money that was parked in Swiss banks. The Swiss authorities had said publically, as per newspaper reports, if the Parliament of any country passed a Resolution in this respect, they would be ready to give the names to that country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bagrodiaji, no interruptions. Please. ...*(Interruptions)* No interruptions please. Let the question be completed.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is a very serious question concerning the entire country. People are agitated. There is a big debate going on outside the Parliament also. And the hon. Prime Minister has rightly taken note of it. I am sure the Finance Minister must be aware of the seriousness of the situation. What are the steps that the present Government is intending to take to get back the money that is parked in Swiss banks and other tax havens by Indian people?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as this issue is concerned, the hon. Member is correct. The hon. Leader of the Opposition in the other House had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister, with a copy to me. We are aware of it and we have initiated the steps. I have already pointed out that even when they were discussing the financial crisis, one of the decisions which the world leaders arrived at was that there should be transparency in the exchange of information. And we have already taken it up not only with the Swiss authorities but also with the other authorities, and in some cases, we get the information. But, as per the secrecy clause, in one particular case, where we have got the information, we have taken action, we have made assessment, we have got additional revenue, but unfortunately, unless that clause is being changed, we cannot do much. It is the international commitment. Unilaterally, we cannot simply ignore it. If we ignore it, then, further sources of information will be dried out. Therefore, we are negotiating with them. We have taken various steps for revision of the Avoidance of the Double Taxation Agreement, particularly relating to the secrecy clause, to have the information to the appropriate authorities. Now, they are sharing the information with the tax authorities only. In many countries, there are such rules. Their rules are, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Arun Jaitley is nodding, I don't know whether approvingly or disapprovingly, but he knows it very well that some of the countries tell the other concerned country, 'yes, we can give you, but only related to tax matters, not related to any other matter', and we shall have to go with this. But, this matter is engaging the attention of the Government. Yesterday, the hon. Member raised this issue while making his observations on the debate on the General Budget, and I have noted that.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, I will be very precise in my question. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether companies based out of Mauritius are the major source of black money in this country, and what steps are being contemplated by the Government in this direction.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in my other incarnation as the Foreign Minister of this country, I took it up with the Mauritius authorities, and we have made some progress. There is a procedure which is popularly known as 'Mauritius route'. So, I have taken it up, and the same is being pursued. We want to amend the relevant clauses of the particular Agreement which was

entered into with Mauritius in the early eighties. The Mauritius Government pointed out that they are building up their country as a financial hub. I have no problem in it because Mauritius is a very friendly country to us. Most of the population of Mauritius is of the Indian origin, and all the Indian rituals, customs and systems are being practised there. Therefore, we have very close relations with Mauritius, and we would not like to disturb them. So, I have offered that let us calculate the financial losses which we will have, deemed losses even, and we are prepared to compensate that by providing through other means, including the bilateral assistance which the Government of India is in a position today to do. We provide around three to four billion US dollar worth bilateral assistance to other countries. But, we would like to amend this. So, talks are going on. It is difficult for me to give more details on this issue.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question to the Finance Minister, through you, arises from his written answer and the statement which he made just now. He said that the Government is, for various reasons, not in favour of a new disclosure and amnesty scheme. Whenever such schemes came, I was amongst those who objected to them on ethical grounds. But, in view of what is happening abroad and in countries like Switzerland, I would suggest something. In spite of your Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, as per my information, Sir, it would take years for you to get information, no roving inquiry, specific inquiry is acceptable. Yes, now they have made tax fraud and tax evasion a crime. And, you can get the letter rogatory not only after conviction but even before. But, it will take years to get information. They are delaying it because their economy depends on that. So, in view of the situation that it will take a long time, but there is a pressure now on people who have black money here and especially black money abroad, my suggestion is, charge the same tax rates as you charge the others, no more and no less. But, say, 'bring the money in three, four or six months. After that, if anything is found here or abroad, the entire amount will be confiscated, maybe he will go to jail.' But, Sir, one more request is that in that scheme which was not there last time that not only questions asked, make it a bearer bond or some such scheme, so that nobody knows his identity. Otherwise, Sir, the small money will come in but big guys have lots of ways to keep the money abroad. But, if identity by a bearer bond or something like that is hidden and a reasonable rate of tax is charged, a lot of money will come in because here they put the money in the Arabian Sea. Sir, they cannot put it even in some other bank. During the earlier elections, it was said, 'do not warn him, the money will be taken out.' Okay, taken out, but brought where? It is not easy, Sir. You bring your disclosure scheme though I was against it earlier, — it is unethical, — but on pragmatic grounds.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this is a suggestion for action, we appreciate it. I cannot respond to it instantaneously. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a suggestion for action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

*144. [The questioner (Shri A. Vijayaraghwan) was absent. For answer *vide* page 22 *infra*.]

Losses to Air India

*145. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:††
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has recently promised to bail out crisis-hit State-owned airlines, Air India, which is running in losses;
- (b) if so, the details of losses suffered by Air India in the last three years;
- (c) the details of funds Government has agreed to provide for Air India and under what conditionalities;
- (d) whether Government has now decided to have drastic restructuring and cutting the flab in Air India; and
- (e) if so, the time by which process of restructuring the Air India is likely to be completed?

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

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

Statement

(a) A Presentation was made before the Prime Minister about the financial status of Air India. Subsequently, Air India has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity induction and provision of loans.

(b) NACIL, which was formed after the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines on 1 April 2007 has reported a loss of Rs.2226 crores during 2007-08 and is estimated to incur a loss of around Rs.5000 crores during 2008-09.

(c) to (e) NACIL has been advised to formulate a restructuring plan for Air India.

‡श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवाई : सभापति जी, एयर इंडिया किसी ज़माने में दुनिया की सबसे बेहतरीन एयरलाइंस समझी जाती थी, आज अफसोस की बात है कि वह तबाही के दहाने पर है। जिस एयरलाइंस में 31,000 कर्मचारी हैं, 3,000 करोड़ रुपए सालाना का wage bill है, आज उसकी हालत यह है कि employees को तनखाह देने के लिए उनके पास पैसे नहीं हैं और मुझे उम्मीद है कि आज 14 तारीख है, आज तक उन्होंने सैलरी देने का वायदा किया था, वह मिल गई होगी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या आपकी मिनिस्ट्री का कोई assessment है कि यह financial crisis, जो एयर इंडिया के सामने एक चैलेंज है, इसकी वजूहात क्या हैं? क्या यह mismanagement की वजह से है या allowing unrestricted access of the foreign airlines or the anomalies which are in the agreement. What are the root-causes?

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai.

محترمہ محسنہ قدوائی : سبھا پتی جی، انر انڈیا کسی زمانے میں دنیا کی سب سے بہترین انر لائنس سمجھی جاتی تھی، آج افسوس کی بات ہے کہ وہ تباہی کے دہانے پر ہے۔ جس انر لائنس میں 31,000 کرمچاری ہیں، 3,000 کروڑ روپے سالانہ کا ویج بل ہے، آج اس کی حالت یہ ہے کہ ایپلائز کو تنخواہ دینے کے لئے ان کے پاس پیسے نہیں ہیں اور مجھے امید ہے کہ آج 14 تاریخ ہے، آج تک انہوں نے سیلری دینے کا وعدہ کیا تھا، وہ مل گئی ہوگی۔ میں مائنٹے منٹری جی سے جانتا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا آپ کی منسٹری کا کوئی assessment ہے کہ یہ financial crisis ، جو انر انڈیا کے سامنے ایک چیلنج ہے، اس کی وجوہات کیا ہیں؟ کیا یہ mismanagement کی وجہ سے ہے یا allowing unrestricted access of the

foreign airlines or the anomalies which are in the literal agreement. What are the root-cause?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Air India's financial position is certainly a matter of concern and there is no denying that. It is also a fact that all airlines in our country are generally facing hard financial crunch. This is a matter of concern for the entire global aviation industry also. I am not trying to pinpoint any one specific cause but I can certainly say that from 2007 onwards, when the global fuel prices started going up and they went almost up to 147 dollars, that was the time when the airlines across the world, and more so in India, especially to the tune of Rs.10,000 crores, was the hit on account of the global fuel prices to the Indian Carriers alone. Of course, this is one of the major reasons followed by the economic slowdown which all of us are aware compounded by the fact that incidents like 26/11 also took place in our country. This has led to a severe drop in the air traffic numbers. For the first time, after many, many years, I would say five or six years of robust growth reaching as high as almost 30 per cent, now we are seeing a decline in the numbers in the current year. But to say that this is the only reason, I would not be fair. I agree with the hon. Member that there are systemic issues also which need to be corrected and I am sure the Government has done all within its power to support the comeback of Air India but it is still a long way and I am sure there are many things which the management of Air India has to do. There is a replacement on the top; there are more changes, which the Air India management has suggested. I would also like to add that only about a fortnight ago the hon. Prime Minister also gave us a patient hearing. We explained the whole situation of the entire industry. He was understanding, the Government as a whole is looking at it very holistically. We are formulating new plans for revival. This will be, of course,

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placed before the Government very shortly. About other issues like salary, I am sure that the management has resolved that issue to a large extent and the issue of payment of salaries is not something, which is going to affect the future of the airline or the employees' future associated with the airline.

†**श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवाई :** महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जैसे कि दोनों airlines का मर्जर हुआ 1 अप्रैल, 2007 को, उसके बाद से जो accumulated losses हैं, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि 2007-08 तक ये losses 2226 crores हैं और वे जो estimate कर रहे हैं कि 2008-09 तक ये losses बढ़कर 5000 crores हो जाएंगे, तो मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह बहुत huge amount है। आपने कहा कि जो इसका 'Restructuring of Air India Plan' बनाया जा रहा है, उसके कोई terms and conditions हैं या वे अपने आप formulate करेंगे और वह प्लान कब तक तैयार हो जाएगा और कब execute होगा, माननीय मंत्री जी से मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ और specifically पूछना चाहती हूँ कि ये 5000 crores के जो losses हैं, इनको पूरा करने का क्या प्लान है, क्योंकि it is a very huge sum.

محترمہ محسنہ قدوائی : مہودے، میں مانتے منتری جی سے پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں کہ جیسے کہ دونوں انٹرلائنز کا مرجر ہوم 1 اپریل، 2007 کو، اس کے بعد سے جو accumulated losses ہیں، منتری جی نے اپنے جواب میں کہا ہے کہ 2007-08 تک یہ losses 2226000 کروڑ ہیں اور وہ جو estimate کر رہے ہیں کہ 2008-09 تک یہ losses بڑھکر 5000 کروڑ ہو جائیں گے، تو میں کہنا چاہتی ہوں کہ یہ بہت huge amount ہے۔ آپ نے کہا کہ اس کا "Restructing of Air India Plan" بنایا جا رہا ہے، اس کے کوئی ٹرمس اینڈ کنڈیشنس ہیں یا وہ اپنے آپ فامولیت کریں گے اور وہ پلان کب تک تیار ہو جائے گا اور کب execute ہوگا، مانتے منتری جی سے میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں اور اسپیشلی پوچھنا چاہتی ہوں کہ یہ 5000 کروڑ کے جو losses ہیں، ان کو پورا کرنے کا کیا پلان ہے، کیوں کہ it is a very huge sum.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they will have to resort to a lot of cost cutting, trying to rationalise the capacity. Of course, there is a Calling Attention after this and there will be a much more comprehensive answer. But I would only like to state that, of course, it is accumulative build up. It has not happened over night. It is not something which is arising out of only one factor i.e. the fuel prices. It is also within our country. A lot of more capacity has come in. As I mentioned, there was a period of robust growth of 30 per cent plus and at that time there was a need to induct more and more capacity. I would just like to inform in the House that in

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2004 there were only 50 cities connected by air. Now, that number goes to 90. In the ensuing period, a lot of more private airlines also have started operations, some which were there earlier have added capacity. Some more have also started functioning in the last five years. Again, if you go by numbers, India in 2004 had just over 100 planes for the whole country. That included Air India, private airlines, domestic, international all put together. Even today, after all these years of high growth we have just under 400 aircraft. If you compare that number with anywhere else in the world, I am sure we are still a very, very minuscule aviation power, if at all we would like to call ourselves, and that is why in a large part of our country people are asking for connectivity. You asked a question about bilateral rights. By the definition of the word 'bilateral' is a two way street. If a foreign airline can operate into India so is an Indian carrier equally entitled to operate to that destination. But the fact is that we have not been able to seize the opportunities which came our way. Many constraints were there, especially, for Air India, I would like to say. I am not talking for the sector. But for Air India, the last planes were bought during the Prime Ministership of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. At one state, we were being told and all in this House also were in unanimity that Air India and erstwhile Indian Airlines needed new planes. When the planes have come, now there is a counter argument as to why so many planes are required. It is catch 22 situation. If you want to run an airline in a competitive environment you shall require planes and newer planes. Otherwise, on time performance, service standards, quality standards, a lot of things are going to be effective. Therefore, I would just like to explain to the hon. Member that this is a cumulative build up. Of course, I cannot explain the entire problem within just a span of my short answer.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, I would just like to ask the hon. Minister for specific figures. The entire merger between the two airlines were done for economies of scale. It now seems from newspaper report that has not been achieved. In fact, it is dis-economies of scale, if I may say so. Do we have specific numbers? Can the Minister let us know? After the merger has there been rationalisation of manpower? If so, to what percentage have offices shut down? Have both the airlines jointly seen on the need to have so many outlets, whether it is all over the world or in the country? What are the steps that have been taken in actual percentage terms of rationalising and leveraging each other's asset to try and have a leaner organisation?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is right that the merger was conceived with the specific objective to synergise, to reduce costs and streamline operations in a larger context, including manpower. Unfortunately, all the advantages of the merger have not been accrued. In fact, I would say, there is some kind of resistance for unknown reasons. Nobody had lost his job. That was an assurance given by the Government. Nobody was going to be downgraded. In fact, there has been an upward move in the ladder. Anyway, the fact is, there are no specific numbers available. But, I am sure, there have been a lot of synergies which

have accrued after the merger. Unfortunately — I must admit this as one of the reasons which has not worked in favour of the merger — the delay on account of IT integration, for various reasons, including systemic issues, has not worked in favour of merger. I do not know why the issue has not been addressed by the Air India management in a time-bound manner. We have to go by the rules and the prescribed regulations for public sector undertakings. But, the delay in IT integration has been — I would say this as an admission — one of the reasons why the integration of IA and AI has not taken place. The merger was also one of the reasons for Air India's proposed entry into Star Alliance. That has also been delayed. We have taken, I would say, a strong decision and we have told the management that this issue must be resolved in a time-bound manner. Otherwise, it will further affect the advantages which were to accrue from the merger, as also AI's entry into the Star Alliance which will, in the long-run, help it in a big way to come out of this current financial crisis.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सर, इस पर कालिंग अटेंशन आगे लगा हुआ है इसलिए दूसरा सवाल ले लें तो अच्छा होगा।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : माननीय मंत्री जी, आप पिछले पांच साल से इस विभाग के मंत्री हैं और अभी भी हैं। हम ऐसा मान सकते हैं कि आपको इस विभाग का पर्याप्त अनुभव है। मेरा सवाल है यह है कि आपने जो मर्जर किया था, वह इस चिंता से किया था कि प्रतिस्पर्धा में बड़ी entity से फायदा होगा। अभी जो आपका उत्तर मैंने देखा, उससे मुझे निराशा हुई है। मेरा कहना यह है कि एयर इंडिया की तरफ से सदन के प्रति उत्तरदायित्व तो आप ही का है, इसलिए सवाल तो हम आप ही से करेंगे। मेरा सवाल है कि आप दो तीन कारण बताएं कि यह स्थिति क्यों है? इसके अतिरिक्त हम आपसे यह उत्तर भी स्पष्ट जानना चाहेंगे कि जो प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स आयी हैं, उनमें प्रतिस्पर्धा की बजाय यह गिरती जा रही है, इसके लिए कहीं कोई वेस्टिड इंटरस्ट तो काम नहीं कर रहा है जो एयर इंडिया को competitive नहीं होने देना चाहता?

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : एक बात मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि भारत की संसद को ही यह चिंता होनी चाहिए क्योंकि यह हमारा कैरियर है, राष्ट्रीय कैरियर है, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि इसके बारे में हम उत्तरदायी हैं और इसके बारे में आगे जो भी कामकाज या सुधार की आवश्यकता होगी, हमें ही उसके बारे में देखभाल करनी होगी। लेकिन साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जब से हमने हमारे देश में उदारीकरण की नीति अपनाकर openness और liberalization करके नयी-नयी कम्पनीज़ को स्पर्धा में आने का मौका दिया, कहीं न कहीं उसका प्रभाव, हमारा जो नैशनल कैरियर है, इसके कामकाज पर हुआ है। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है। लेकिन यह कहना कि हम स्पर्धा में सही तरह से सामना नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, यह बात भी ठीक नहीं होगी। कई पब्लिक सेक्टर्स हैं जिन्होंने competitive environment में भी अच्छा काम किया है तो एयर इंडिया क्यों नहीं कर सकती, यह सवाल निश्चित रूप से आपके मन में आना स्वाभाविक है। लेकिन उसके बावजूद मेरा आपको यह सुझाव देना जरूरी है कि हम जब तक competition नहीं लाए जब तक हमने ज्यादा एयरलाइन्स को मौका नहीं दिया, तब तक हमें connectivity, बेहतर सेवा, कम किराए - यह सब कुछ देखने का मौका नहीं मिला था। मैं आपको भी धन्यवाद दूंगा कि आपकी सरकार के समय में भी आपने उदारीकरण की नीति को काफी गति दी थी।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : किन्तु तब घाटा इतना नहीं था।

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : घाटा तो अभी-अभी हुआ है। मैं स्वयं कह रहा हूँ। घाटा तो अभी हुआ है। 2007 से ज्यादा हुआ है, उसके कारण मैंने बताए हैं और मैं आपको यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री प्रवीण राष्ट्रपाल : गलती की शुरुआत आपसे हुई।

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : देखिए, गलती की बात नहीं है। जो स्थिति है, जो वस्तुस्थिति है, वह तो संसद के सामने रखना मेरा कर्तव्य है। इसीलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि जहां तक कम्पिटिशन का सवाल है, किसी भी क्षेत्र में अब monopoly नहीं हो सकती या सिर्फ सरकार ही पूरे काम का उत्तरदायित्व निभाएगी, यह तो अब ना-मुमकिन है। यह 1994-95 से, जब से प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स की 1993 onwards शुरुआत हुई, तब से लगातार एयर इंडिया का या इंडियन एयर लाइन्स का, जो मार्केट शेयर था, वह घटता गया। यह बात भी सही है कि जितना सैक्टर बढ़ेगा, उसके पूरे उत्तरदायित्व को एक ही एयर लाइन्स नहीं निभा सकती। लेकिन हमारी पूरी कोशिश रहेगी कि इसमें जो भी सुधार हो सकते हैं, उनको समय बाउंड हम करेंगे।

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that one of the main reasons for the losses was the hike in the prices of fuel internationally and domestically. My simple question, through you, to the hon. Minister is this. Is it not a fact that the prime time, especially in the metro cities, is allotted to the private carriers, and not to the national carrier? I would like to listen from the hon. Minister regarding the scheduling and re-scheduling of the carriers from one metro city to another metro cities during the prime time.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it is not true that there is any discrimination for or against the national carrier. All carriers are given a level playing field. And, to say that prime slots are given to private carriers and not to the national carrier is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, that is not true. That may be your impression. In fact, a lot of impression is being created, rightly or wrongly, in various sections of the media through many employees' organizations also that the national carrier is being discriminated. I can enumerate ten steps taken by the Government where we have taken special measures to protect the interests of the national carrier. Even sometimes charges are levelled that we are favouring the national carrier. Anyway, whatever that may be, but so far as your special query is concerned, I don't think there is any truth in that.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned that the Air India has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity, induction and provision of loans. I would like to know, in a business — it is also like a commercial business — can you, by merely equity, induction and provision of loans, make profits. You have shown losses to the tune of Rs. 2,226 crores, and again, next year, to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crores. So, can you reduce these losses by merely inducing equity and loans? I don't think it is possible because there is something wrong somewhere where you keep on incurring losses. Even if you increase the equity and capital, I don't think you will be able to make profits. I want a categorical reply in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question. We are running out of time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Please clarify this.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, my good friend, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, has good business knowledge. He will appreciate that any company of the size of Air India, with an equity of only 145 crores, cannot do such a big quantum of business, or, can go for such a large acquisition programme. Equity, as you know, is something that comes to the company. It is not to be serviced; it is not to be paid back. Therefore, equity for such a large company is vital. And, as an owner of an airline, either you raise it from the public through IPOs, or, you as the owner, that is, the Government will have to put in the equity. This is as a private owner of a private airline who will bring in his own equity. Here it is the case of the Government. So, the Government shall have to bring in the equity. Dr. Karan Singh is also here, I would also like to state that the Air India, in its sixty years of existence, has never been paid even a single rupee by the Government. It had only got equity of Rs. 145 crores then. That is what is continuing till now. In fact, the Government has been paid back by the Air India many times, by way dividends, in the last sixty years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Employment to agricultural workers through NREGS

*144. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is keeping any data base with regard to the employment provided through National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to the agricultural workers;
- (b) the details of annual working days for agricultural workers including the Statewise data;
- (c) whether Government would enact a comprehensive Central Legislation for these agricultural workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has no proposal under consideration for a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers.

Approval of Private Universities

*146. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities, Deemed Universities and Private Universities separately in the country, in March, 2005 and March, 2009 respectively, State-wise; and

(b) what were the criteria for giving approval to these Private Universities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC) the total number of Universities and University level institutions in March, 2005 was 343 and in March, 2009 was 472. The Statewise details of the institutions deemed-to-universities and private universities as in March, 2005 and March, 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*).

State Legislatures are empowered to establish Universities, including those not funded by the public exchequer (*i.e.* Private Universities).

Institutions deemed-to-be-universities are so declared under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, by the Central Government on the recommendations of the UGC. UGC's recommendations are based on its examination of the proposals received from institutions by its Expert Committees as to their suitability in terms of UGC guidelines in regard to standard of teaching, research, infrastructure, as well as its potential for excellence.

Statement

State-wise number of Institutions Deemed to be Universities and Private Universities as on March, 2005 and March, 2009

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Universities as on 31.3.2005		No. of Universities as on 31.3.2009	
		Institution Deemed to be Universities	Private Universities	Institution Deemed to be Universities	Private Universities
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	04	—	07*	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	01	—
4.	Assam	01	—	—*	—
5.	Bihar	01	—	02	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Chandigarh		—	—	—	—
7. Chhattisgarh		—	—	—	02
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		—	—	—	—
9. Daman and Diu		—	—	—	—
10. Delhi		10	—	11	—
11. Goa		—	—	—	—
12. Gujarat		02	03	02*	05
13. Haryana		03	—	05*	—
14. Himachal Pradesh		01	01	—*	02
15. Jammu and Kashmir		01	—	—*	—
16. Jharkhand		03	—	02*	—
17. Karnataka		07	—	15*	—
18. Kerala		01	—	02*	—
19. Lakshadweep		—	—	—	—
20. Madhya Pradesh		03	—	02*	—
21. Maharashtra		16	—	21*	—
22. Manipur		—	—	—	—
23. Meghalaya		—	—	—	02
24. Mizoram		—	—	—	01
25. Nagaland		—	—	—	01
26. Orissa		02	—	02*	—
27. Puducherry		—	—	01	—
28. Punjab		03	—	03*	01
29. Rajasthan		07	—	08*	11
30. Sikkim		—	01	—	02
31. Tamil Nadu		16	—	29*	—
32. Tripura		—	01	—	01

1	2	3	4	5	6
33. Uttar Pradesh		08	03	10 *	08
34. Uttarakhand		02	04	04	06
35. West Bengal		02	—	01 *	—
TOTAL		93	13	128	42

*One National Institute of Technology which was earlier declared as Deemed to be Universities has since been declared an Institute of National Importance.

Non-disbursement of loans

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government paid Rs. 700 crore as commitment charges to the World Bank between the years 2004—09 for non-disbursed portion of sanctioned loans;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-disbursement of loans provided by World Bank; and

(c) the details of loan received by Government during the last three years and the details of development schemes to be completed with the aid of such loans from World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) For the years 2004-05 to 2008-09, out of Rs.695.71 Crore of commitment charge paid to all external funding agencies, Rs.400.62 Crore has been paid to the World Bank.

Payment of commitment charges on the undrawn amount of loan is an integral part of the general terms and conditions of loan from most financing institutions, including World Bank (WB). The entire loan amount is not disbursed in one instalment. Depending on the nature of project and its implementation schedule, the disbursement takes place over the project implementation period. Drawing the entire loan amount in one instalment will entail avoidable interest liability because the full amount cannot be spent in one go and would remain idle in government account.

The total amount of loan from the World Bank in the last 3 years is Rs. 34904.05 Crore. List of the projects for which the World Bank has extended loans during this period is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of the Projects for which World Bank has extended loans during last three years

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donor	Loan Currency	Agreement Date	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
1	2	3	4	5	6
IBRD	INR		4,99,24,385.28	3,75,10,534.38	1,41,80,052.56
4818-IN Karnataka Municipal Reforms Project	INR	02/05/2006	9,776,670.19	0.00	0.00
4837-IN Ind Operation under Orissa Socio-	INR	28/08/2006	6,789,354.30	0.00	0.00
4843-IN Punjab State Road Sector Project	INR	26/02/2007	11,315,590.50	0.00	0.00
4845-IN Third Pradesh Economic Reform	INR	08/02/2007	6,789,354.30	0.00	0.00
4846-IN Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture	INR	12/02/2007	15,162,891.27	0.00	0.00
4857-IN Andhra Pradesh Commun. Based Tank	INR	08/06/2007	0.00	38,05,416.53	0.00
4872-IN Karnataka Community Based Tank	INR	17/01/2008	0.00	1,288,606.66	0.00
4879-IN Bihar Development Policy Operation	INR	15/01/2008	0.00	6,040,343.70	0.00
7576-IN Orissa Community Tanks Management	INR	27/01/2009	0.00	0.00	2,561,557.88
7577-IN Orissa State Roads Project	INR	27/01/2009	0.00	0.00	11,435,526.25
4860-IN Himachal Pradesh State Roads Project	INR	07/08/2007	0.00	8,859,170.76	0.00
4862-IN Strengthening Rural Credit Cooperative	INR	02/11/2007	0.00	12,080,687.40	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4871-IN Himachal Pradesh Development Policy	INR	19/11/2007	0.00	5,436,309.33	0.00
P4330-IN Preparation of the Assam state Roads	INR	19/01/2007	90,524.72	0.00	0.00
P4450-IN National e-Governance Support Project	INR	17/06/2008	0.00	0.00	137,226.32
P451-0-IN Capital Markets, Debt Management and	INR	14/01/2009	0.00	0.00	45,742.11
IDA	INR		7,18,10,704.27	5,14,67,936.07	5,49,83,415.90
Q5310 Bihar Rural Livelihood Development Project	INR	17/05/2006	37,243.05	0.00	0.00
Q6120 West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor	INR	19/05/2008	0.00	0.00	134,481.79
3635-1-IN Karnataka Community Based Tank	INR	02/11/2007	0.00	1,316,346.70	0.00
3732-1-IN Addl Financing for Andhra Pradesh Rural	INR	25/01/2008	0.00	2,676,571.62	0.00
4211-IN Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening Project	INR	24/07/2006	5,529,505.39	0.00	0.00
4225-IN Second Operation under Orissa Socio-	INR	28/08/2006	3,397,080.56	0.00	0.00
4229-IN Karnataka Health System Dev and Reform	INR	16/10/2006	6,491,450.97	0.00	0.00
4251-IN Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	INR	26/02/2007	7,002,694.78	0.00	0.00
4254-IN Third Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform	INR	08/02/2007	3,417,261.24	0.00	0.00
4255-IN Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agri Modernization &	INR	12/02/2007	6,713,438.42	0.00	0.00
4291-IN Andhra Pradesh Community-Based Tank	INR	08/06/2007	0.00	3,949,040.09	0.00
4323-IN Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP)	INR	09/08/2007	0.00	2,595,083.49	0.00
4380-IN Bihar Development Policy Operation-1	INR	15/01/2007	0.00	2,996,255.81	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4472-IN Orissa Rural Livelihood Project-TRIPTI	INR	27/01/2009	0.00	0.00	3,605,567.41
4499-IN Orissa Community Tanks Management	INR	27/01/2009	0.00	0.00	2,458,341.42
Q5270-IN Prep. of Capacity Bldg. for Ind. Poll. Mang.	INR	05/07/2009	25,799.55	0.00	0.00
Q5680-IN Advance for Preparation of Proposed	INR	30/03/2007	25,537.03	0.00	0.00
Q5910-IN Adv. for preparation of North East Rural	INR	03/12/2007	0.00	48,926.78	0.00
Q6420-IN Ind Adv. for preparation of proposed	INR	05/12/2008	0.00	0.00	24,357.67
36181-IN Mizoram State Roads Project	INR	01/08/2007	0.00	758,466.43	0.00
4161-IN National Agricultural Innovation Project	INR	24/07/2006	2,764,752.69	0.00	0.00
4162-IN National Agricultural Innovation Project	INR	24/07/2006	6,525,085.43	0.00	0.00
4227-IN Reproductive and Child Health Project Phase-II	INR	16/10/2006	16,480,885.89	0.00	0.00
4228-IN Tuberculosis Control Project Phase-II	INR	16/10/2006	7,783,014.28	0.00	0.00
4232-IN Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and San. Proj.	INR	16/10/2006	5,616,954.99	0.00	0.00
4299-IN Third National HIV/AIDS Control Project	INR	05/07/2007	0.00	10,524,505.25	0.00
4319-IN Vocational Training Improvement Project	INR	02/11/2007	0.00	11,602,655.88	0.00
4338-IN Strengthening RURAL credit Co-Op, Project	INR	02/11/2007	0.00	12,336,049.04	0.00
4360-IN Himachal Pradesh Development Policy	INR	19/11/2007	0.00	2,664,034.98	0.00
4417-IN Second Elementary Education Project	INR	14/08/2008	0.00	0.00	25,965,785.88
4461-IN National vector Borne Disease Control and	INR	13/02/2009	0.00	0.00	22,794,881.73
GRAND TOTAL (INR)			12,37,35,089.55	8,89,78,470.45	6,91,63,468.46

Airport express rail link in Hyderabad

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

(a) the latest status of the request of Andhra Pradesh Government to develop a dedicated airport express rail link from the existing Begumpet Airport to the new Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad;

(b) the details of the said proposal; and

(c) by when this rail link is likely to be set up?

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

(a) and (b) An Express Rail Link was proposed between the old Begumpet Airport to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad to offer fast, safe and convenient approach to the passengers. In this regard, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had prepared a Detailed Project Report. The proposal was not found viable by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) in view of huge cost involved and also not convenient to the public. Therefore, the GoAP has taken a decision to go for a comprehensive rail network for the city of Hyderabad including airport at Shamshabad in place of proposed Express Rail Link.

(c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

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

(a) whether Government has decided to disinvest selected Public Sector Units (PSUs);

(b) whether it is going to maintain the harmony amongst the employees in the PSUs proposed for disinvestment; and

(c) whether there will be consultations prior to virtual disinvestment of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. NHPC Limited, Oil India Limited and RITES Limited had proposed to make public offerings of equity. The Government decided to disinvest a small portion of equity out of its shareholding in these companies in conjunction with their public offerings. The public offerings of NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited are likely to be completed in the current financial year. The public offering of RITES Limited has been deferred for the present by the company due to change in capital requirements of the company.

While considering the recommendations of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises for revival/restructuring of loss making Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) and Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC), Government approved disinvestment of the two companies.

(b) The policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% and the Government retains the management control of the company.

(c) In all cases of disinvestment, Inter-ministerial consultation are held before taking a decision.

Expansion of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

*150. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to expand the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme by easing its eligibility norms;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to reduce the age for Below Poverty Level (BPL) persons receiving pension from 65 years to 60 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider extending pension even to widows, destitutes and the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has already introduced in February 2009, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) as components of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). IGNWPS is applicable to BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and IGNDPS is applicable to BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years.

Old Age Pension was earlier granted to destitutes of 65 years or higher under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). In November 2007 Government of India modified the eligibility criteria under NOAPS by relaxing the eligibility criteria from 'one who is 65 years or higher and destitute' to 'one who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a family living below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India'. With the change in eligibility criteria, NOAPS was renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided in all the pension schemes.

Residential schools for tribal students

*151. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Schemes under operation for promotion of residential schools for tribal students;

(b) the financial assistance granted towards promotion of residential schools during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any scheme for opening more schools to impart compulsory education to tribals in the tribal habited areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) For promotion of Residential Schools for tribal students, funds are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the State Governments and NGOs under four Central Schemes viz. (i) Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in low literacy districts, (ii) Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas, (iii) Setting up of Eklavya Model Residential Schools out of Grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India and (iv) Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes. These schools are managed by State Governments or NGOs or Registered Societies.

Details of financial assistance released for promotion of residential schools for tribal students under each of the four schemes are given in the enclosed Statements—I, II, III and IV (*See below*).

There is no proposal with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at present to formulate a scheme for opening schools to impart compulsory education to tribals in the tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra.

Statement-I

Statewise release of funds to Non-Governmental Organisations/State run autonomous societies for educational complexes during the last three years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09 under the scheme of strengthening education among scheduled tribe girls in low literacy districts

				(Rs. in lakh)
Sl.No.	Name of the State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	128.00	1434.00	1910.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	4.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	16.00	16.00	39.00
4.	Gujarat	31.00	0.00	405.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Jharkhand	3.00	5.00	4.00
7.	Karnataka	0.00	180.00	0.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	140.00	81.00	395.00
9.	Maharashtra	28.00	14.00	0.00
10.	Orissa	300.00	159.00	1194.00
11.	Rajasthan	87.00	49.00	49.00
12.	West Bengal	58.00	37.00	0.00
	GRAND TOTAL	791.00	1975.00	4000.00

Statement-II

Funds released under the Scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2005-06 Amt.	2006-07 Amt.	2007-08 Amt.	2008-09 Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	112.76	558.00	886.80
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	200.00	156.52	117.39	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	150.00	400.00	100.00	153.13
12.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	624.01	673.81	0.00
14.	Maharashtra	50.00	256.71	300.80	940.07
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	1020.00
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		600.00	1550.00	2000.00	3000.00

Note: The amount (in BOLD) pertains to arrears sanctioned in previous years.

Statement-III

Funds released under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution during last 3 years for EMRS

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	360.00	530.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.44	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	1115.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	1850.00	540.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	175.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
10.	Jharkhand	400.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	387.76	189.87
12.	Kerala	0.00	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	577.75	452.25
14.	Maharashtra	520.00	120.00
15.	Manipur	0.00	125.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
19.	Orissa	1029.79	300.00
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	420.00
21.	Sikkim	100.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	205.00	180.00
23.	Tripura	0.00	115.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttarakhand	0.00	150.00
26.	West Bengal	325.00	450.00
GRAND TOTAL		5860.74	5192.12

From the year 2007-08, the Ministry has discontinued earmarking funds for EMRS separately and funds required for EMRS are to be utilized by the States within the allocation of respective States out of grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution

Statement-IV

Statewise release of funds to voluntary Organizations/Non-Governmental organisation for residential schools during the last three years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09 under the scheme of grant-in-aid to voluntary organisation

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	122.00	76.00	325.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	143.00	144.00	130.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.00	10.00	16.00
4.	Gujarat	64.00	22.00	28.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	45.00	86.00	58.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	51.00	43.00	45.00
7.	Jharkhand	31.00	75.00	77.00
8.	Karnataka	194.00	115.00	139.00
9.	Kerala	37.00	20.00	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	57.00	46.00	40.00
11.	Maharashtra	45.00	51.00	126.00
12.	Manipur	153.00	95.00	77.00
13.	Meghalaya	0.00	13.00	33.00
14.	Mizoram	0.00	8.00	0.00
15.	Nagaland	4.00	10.00	0.00
16.	Delhi	5.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	184.00	314.00	272.00
18.	Rajasthan	20.00	30.00	26.00
19.	Sikkim	37.00	30.00	21.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	21.00	0.00
21.	Tripura	2.00	2.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	41.00	10.00
23.	Uttarakhand	0.00	55.00	57.00
24.	West Bengal	115.00	142.00	231.00
GRAND TOTAL		1311.00	1449.00	1711.00

Safeguarding tribal languages

*152. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government is taking or proposing to take to safeguard our tribal languages which are facing extinction; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Languages in India are not categorised as tribal languages or non-tribal languages. The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (RGCCI), categorises Indian languages as either Scheduled or Non-Scheduled. The Twenty-two Indian languages included under the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India are categorised as Scheduled languages and in addition one hundred minor Indian languages are categorised as Non-Scheduled languages by the RGCCI.

The Government of India provides support to documentation, description categorisation, classification and production of materials in tribal languages. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore under the Centre for Tribal and Endangered Languages conducted fieldwork on 80 of these languages and produced phonetic readers, grammars and dictionaries as part of their linguistic description.

This Ministry has reviewed with the States and Union Territories, the progress made in the preservation and development of minor Indian languages including tribal languages, which are not covered under the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India. It was noticed that States/Union Territories have taken concrete action to develop these minor languages.

Fake currency

†*153. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of sudden increase in the value of fake currency in circulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of fake currencies seized from different States in the country, especially from Uttar Pradesh, during the last two years and the details of their denominations and value; and

(d) the special action being taken by Government to deal with the problem of circulation of fake currency?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has reported that the total value of counterfeit currency seized by law enforcement agencies and recovered through banking channels during the year 2007, 2008 and during January-March, 2009 was Rs.10,54,18,925/-, Rs.21,45,27,797/- and Rs.4,09,49,465/- respectively.

(c) As per the information furnished by NCRB, the amount of fake currencies seized from different States/UTs in the country including Uttar Pradesh, with details of denominations and value, during the last two years and upto March, 2009 is as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Denomination-wise number of pieces seized

Year (Jan-Dec.)	5	10	20	50	100	500	1000	Total Pieces	Value (in Rs.)
2007	71 (0)	220 (70)	421 (247)	12,518 (2,113)	1,28,745 (28,452)	74,404 (21,126)	14,959 (1,588)	2,31,338 (53,596)	6,56,72,375 (1,51,07,490)
2008	1 (0)	201 (8)	326 (15)	20,088 (12,688)	87,068 (20,089)	82,341 (14,501)	21,116 (1,973)	2,11,141 (49,274)	7,20,06,235 (1,18,67,180)
2009 (upto 31.3.09)	1 (0)	3 (0)	34 (0)	1,125 (0)	8,845 (0)	13,019 (0)	3,238 (0)	26,265 (0)	1,06,88,965 (0)

Figures in brackets relate to Uttar Pradesh.

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

Strike by employees of Air India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India's 30,000 employees have threatened to go on strike after they were told that their June salaries would be delayed whereas previously they were given bonuses continuously for three years even when airline was making losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State-owned Air India (AI) has accumulated losses of Rs. 4,334 crore and taken an overdraft of more than Rs. 16,000 crore to meet its working capital expenses; and

(c) if so, whether he has so far reviewed the finances of AI and taken any decision for its survival?

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

(a) No strike notice was issued by any Union. However, Unions resorted to other means of protest against the deferment of salaries.

(b) NACIL is estimated to incur a loss of Rs. 5000 crore in 2008-09 and as on date its working capital limits are Rs. 16000 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive restructuring plan for Air India is under formulation.

Payment of dividend by profit earning banks

† *155. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Banks have earned profit during the financial year 2008-09;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of the profit making as well as loss making banks separately, during the said period;

(c) whether the profit making banks have also decided to pay dividend; and

(d) if so, the break-up of amount of such dividend likely to be paid by each bank, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) All public sector banks and 21 private sector banks have posted an aggregate post tax profit of Rs.42,763 crore for the year 2008-09. The Development Credit Bank Ltd., a private sector bank, has reported a loss of Rs.52 crore for this period. Bank-wise details of post-tax profit of Indian banks is given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) The banks pay dividend to their shareholders keeping in view the quantum of their profits, RBI guidelines, statutory provisions, Government advisory in case of public sector banks, requirement of capital for their growth plans, availability of distributable profit, etc. The details of dividend paid or proposed to be paid by the public sector banks are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement-I

*Bank-wise details of Profit after Tax pertaining to
Indian Banks—March 2009*

(Rs. in crore)			
Bank Group	Sl.No.	Bank Name	Profit after Tax
1	2	3	4
Nationalised Banks	1.	Allahabad Bank	768
	2.	Andhra Bank	653
	3.	Bank of Baroda	1,806
	4.	Bank of India	2,673
	5.	Bank of Maharashtra	375
	6.	Canara Bank	2,057
	7.	Central Bank of India	571
	8.	Corporation Bank	893
	9.	Dena Bank	423
	10.	IDBI Bank Limited	859
	11.	Indian Bank	1,239
	12.	Indian Overseas Bank	1,211
	13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	905

1	2	3	4
	14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	437
	15.	Punjab National Bank	2,767
	16.	Syndicate Bank	888
	17.	UCO Bank	465
	18.	Union Bank of India	1,727
	19.	United Bank of India	185
	20.	Vijaya Bank	262
SBI Group	1.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	403
	2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	616
	3.	State Bank of India	8,483
	4.	State Bank of Indore	279
	5.	State Bank of Mysore	337
	6.	State Bank of Patiala	532
	7.	State Bank of Travancore	608
Old Private Sector Banks	1.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	115
	2.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	36
	3.	City Union Bank Ltd.	122
	4.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	57
	5.	Federal Bank Ltd.	500
	6.	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	189
	7.	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	410
	8.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	267
	9.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	236
	10.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	50
	11.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	36
	12.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	31
	13.	SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd.	11
	14.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	195
	15.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	151

1	2	3	4
New Private Sector Banks	1. Axis Bank Ltd.		1,664
	2. Development Credit Bank Ltd.		-52
	3. HDFC Bank Ltd.		2,244
	4. ICICI Bank Ltd.		3,299
	5. IndusInd Bank Ltd.		148
	6. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.		276
	7. Yes Bank Ltd.		304

Data is sourced by RBI from off-site return submitted by banks.

Mar-09 data is provisional.

Statement-II

Details of Dividend paid/Proposed by public sector banks for the year 2008-09

(Amount-Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Bank	Dividend Paid/ Proposed	Dividend Distribution Tax	Total Dividend Pay-Out
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	112	19	131
2.	Andhra Bank	218	37	255
3.	Bank of Baroda	328	56	384
4.	Bank of India	421	71	492
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	65	11	76
6.	Canara Bank	328	56	384
7.	Central Bank of India	149	25	174
8.	Corporation Bank	180	30	210
9.	Dena Bank	34	6	40
10.	Indian Bank	252	43	295
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	245	42	287
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	183	31	214
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	0	0	0
14.	Punjab National Bank	630	107	737

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Syndicate Bank	156	27	183
16.	UCO Bank	60	10	70
17.	Union Bank of India	252	43	295
18.	United Bank of India	0	0	0
19.	Vijay Bank	44	7	51
20.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	181	31	212
21.	State Bank of India	1,841	313	2,154
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	60	10	70
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	83	14	97
24.	State Bank of Indore	26	5	31
25.	State Bank of Mysore	36	6	42
26.	State Bank of Patiala	91	15	106
27.	State Bank of Travancore	65	11	76
TOTAL		6,040	1,026	7,066

**Data provisional

Financing of investment

*156. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the innovative steps which are being taken to finance investment consistent with a medium term strategy of prudent fiscal management as well as more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), disinvestments and pruning of fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Having regard to the medium term fiscal framework, the financing of infrastructure takes into account the possibility of leveraging private investment through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); encouraging innovative methods of intermediating a higher proportion of domestic savings into infrastructure sectors; and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Distance education through Out of Campus centres

*157. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Open Universities and Deemed Universities are conducting distance mode education by setting up Out of Campus centres;

- (b) if so, the details of such universities;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has opined in C.A. No. 4173 of 2008 in Annamalai University vs. Secretary to Government, Information and Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, and invalidated the authority of Distance Education Council (DEC) to give *post-facto* approval;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which Government would help the employees of Out of Campus centres and students pursuing higher studies through these centres in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Open Universities and Deemed Universities as well as other dual mode Universities which are offering distance education programmes, are conducting distance mode of education through out of the campus centres. In the distance mode of education, in order that the students do not have to come to the University campus for attending classes, study centres are established at various locations within the jurisdiction of the University, where students can attend contact classes and clarify their doubts after going through the self study materials.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.4173 of 2008, has opined in paragraph No. 29 of the judgement that “The only point which survives for our consideration is as to whether the purported post-facto approval granted to the appellant — University of programmes offered through distance modes is valid. DEC may be an authority under the Act, but its orders ordinarily would only have a prospective effect....”

(e) As per the existing provisions under the law and in view of the judgement of the Supreme Court, no help could be extended to the affected students and employees under reference. The students of those study centres which are bonafide study centres of duly recognised Universities, are not facing any difficulties and as such do not appear to need any specific assistance from the Government.

Financial assistance for Shipping Industry

*158. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Shipping Industry has appealed to Government for financial assistance to tide over present crisis and has urged Finance Ministry to arrange for Rs. 10,000 crores line of credit for shipping industry;
- (b) whether the Ministry has pointed out that ship owners were now finding it difficult to raise resources outside the country, a very common practice earlier;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry has agreed to help and assist Shipping Industry to tide over crisis;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and by what time the Ministry has agreed to help Shipping Industry; and

(e) what is the amount so far provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G..K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The Indian National Shipowners' Association which represents Indian Shipping Companies holding 90% of the Indian tonnage has represented for creation of Rs.10,000 crore Corpus for providing credit facilities to Indian Shipping Companies for acquisition of ships as the recent global economic slow down has resulted in depressed earnings for shipping companies and credit crunch.

(c) to (e) Although, in the liberalization era Government is not committed to providing soft loans for acquisition of ships, at the behest of Finance Ministry, Indian Bank's Association had constituted a Working Group to examine the proposed extension of credit facilities to Shipping Companies in India for purchase of ships. Indian Bank Association has recently advised that they have no role to play in the matter and the Shipping Company should take up the matter with the individual banks. No soft loan could yet be provided to the Shipping companies.

Tax on corporate income

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's tax on corporate income is a shade lower than that of the United States of America (USA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In India, the income-tax on the income of a domestic company is levied at a flat rate of 30 per cent. Further, the income-tax so calculated is increased by a surcharge, if the total income exceeds Rs.1 crore. The surcharge is levied at the rate of 10 per cent of such income-tax in the case of a domestic company and at the rate of 2.5 per cent in the case of company other than a domestic company. Education Cess and Higher and Secondary Education Cess are also levied at the rate of 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. In the United States of America, the Federal income tax rates for Corporations vary from 15 per cent to 39 per cent, depending upon the amount of income and the slab in which such income falls.

Capacity enhancement of ports

*160. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of ports in the country would be increased to 1000 million tonnes from 750 million tonnes by the end of the current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the areas covered in Andhra Pradesh especially for Visakhapatnam and Machhilipatnam?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G..K. VASAN): (a) The capacity of the 12 Major Ports under the Central Government was 504.75 million MT in 2006-07. By 2011-12 *i.e.* by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the capacity is projected to be increased to 1016.35 million MT.

(b) A statement giving the break-up of the projected capacity creation in Major Ports in the Eleventh Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*).

(c) The development of Machhliapatnam is the responsibility of the concerned State Government as it is a Non-Major Port. In respect of Visakhapatnam Port which is a Major Port in Andhra Pradesh, its capacity is projected to be 110.90 million MT in 2011-12 with the addition of 52.40 million MT capacity during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by implementing the following schemes:-

- (i) Development of WQ 6 Berth.
- (ii) Installation of Mechanized facilities at WQ 7 berth.
- (iii) Construction of WQ 8 berth.
- (iv) Development of East docks in the inner harbour (2 berths with ancillary facilities).
- (v) Construction of EQ 10 berth.
- (vi) Outer harbour expansion project.
- (vii) Strengthening of EQ5, EQ6, EQ7, WQ1, WQ2, WQ3, WQ4 WQ5 berths to cater to 12.5 m draft vessels.
- (viii) Extension of Container Terminal.
- (ix) Additional oil handling facilities for POL.
- (x) Development of Single Point Mooring facility by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- (xi) Productivity measure schemes.

Statement

Capacity Creation in Major Ports in the Eleventh Plan

(Million Metric Tonnes)

Port	Existing Capacity 2006-07	Capacity Addition by 2011-12	Total Capacity in 2011-12
1	2	3	4
Kolkata	13.40	18.85	32.25
Haldia	43.50	21.20	64.70

1	2	3	4
Paradip	56.00	55.00	111.00
Visakhapatnam	58.50	52.40	110.90
Ennore	13.00	51.20	64.20
Chennai	50.00	23.50	73.50
Tuticorin	20.55	43.43	63.98
Cochin	20.15	35.40	55.55
New Mangalore	41.30	22.50	63.80
Mormugao	30.00	37.46	67.46
Mumbai	44.65	48.16	92.81
Jawaharlal Nehru	52.40	43.90	96.30
Kandla	61.30	58.80	120.10
TOTAL	504.75	511.80	1016.55

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Modernization of small and medium size airports

1021. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has neglected modernization of small and medium size airports under its control; and

(b) the details of any improvements at airports like Coimbatore, Madurai, and Siliguri?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Development/expansion of airports is a continuous process taking into account the commercial viability, traffic potential/demands, commitment of airlines to operate through the specific airports etc. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) have planned/taken up development/modernisation works for Coimbatore, Madurai and Siliguri airports as under:

At Coimbatore Airport, the works related to expansion and modification of existing terminal building for 600 passengers are in progress with probable date of completion (PDC) by April, 2010. The work related to construction of part parallel taxiway, extension of apron and strengthening of old apron and allied works are also in progress with PDC by October 2009.

There are also plans for construction of new integrated terminal building and extension of runway.

At Madurai Airport, extension of new apron has been completed and construction of new integrated terminal building complex for 500 passengers including two aerobridges are in progress with PDC by October, 2009. In addition, extension of runway has also been planned.

At Bagdogra airport (Siliguri), extension of apron, installation of Instrument Landing System and approach lights have been planned.

Expansion of Bhubaneswar airport

1022. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Civil Aviation department has any plan to expand the Bhubaneswar airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Bhubaneswar is going to be an International airport;
- (d) How many other airports are in Orissa other than Bhubaneswar; and
- (e) whether Government has also plan for the development of these airports to have air link to Rourkela, Sambalpur, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Kokrajhar?

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

(b) and (c) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. At this airport, construction of a New Terminal Building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 145.54 crores to handle 800 passengers at a time has been initiated. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also a plan for extension of apron to facilitate aerobridge stands.

(d) Other than Bhubaneswar airport, AAI maintains Jharsuguda airport in Orissa.

(e) At present, there is no such plan under consideration.

Merger of domestic and international carriers

1023. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the domestic and international carriers, Indian Airlines and Air India were merged before last year to create a new entity namely National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL);

(b) whether the merger was to create synergy and to improve the financial and operational aspects in order to place the two companies on firm footing;

(c) whether the merger has failed resulting in huge financial losses and drop in market shares; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Air India is running in losses largely due to operating losses, which have been compounded due to the present economic recession as also the high oil prices last year and debt servicing of new aircraft.

On the international sectors, Air India's market share declined from 21.7% in 2007-08 to 17.7% in 2008-09, with a capacity drop of 6%. On the domestic sectors, Air India's market share declined from 17.9% in 2007-08 to 16.9% in 2008-09, with a capacity drop of 10% as against the overall industry drop of 2.2%. The drop in market share is directly related to the reduced capacity deployed by Air India on account of restructuring of its operations.

Collision at Mumbai airport

1024. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a collision between Air India (AI) 348 with 119 passengers on board to Delhi and Jet Airways 9W651 to Kolkata with 120 passengers on board was averted at Mumbai airport on 31 May, 2009 morning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India and Air Traffic Controller (ATC) gave different statements about this air-miss; and

(d) if so, whether Government had ordered an enquiry into this incident?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 31 May, 2009, an incident between Jet Airways flight JAI 615 B-737 (operating sector Mumbai-Kolkata) and Air India flight AIC 348 A-310 (operating sector Mumbai-Delhi) was averted during cross runway operations.

Take off clearance was issued to JAI 615 which was acknowledged by JAI 615 and it commenced take off from Runway-14. AIC 348 was issued line up clearance for Runway-27. Simultaneously, AIC 348 also started moving on the runway for take off. On observing Air India aircraft commencing take off, the controller instructed AIC aircraft to hold position. JAI 615 crew who were monitoring the frequency, on assessing the situation as precautionary step rejected take off, thus the incident was averted.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An enquiry conducted by DGCA has revealed that the incident had occurred due to loss of situational awareness and also Expectancy Bias by crew of Air India flight who took take-off clearance meant for Jet 615 as its own and initiated take-off.

Upgradation of Vishakhapatnam airport

1025. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken by his Ministry for upgradation of Vishakhapatnam and Gannavaram Airports at Vijayawada, indicating the progress made so far on these works; and

(b) by when all these works are likely to be completed?

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

(a) and (b) Construction of New Integrated Terminal Building with capacity to handle 700 passengers at a time, at Vishakhapatnam airport has been completed. This includes modern passenger facilities like Passenger Boarding Bridges, Conveyors, Escalators and Elevators. Construction of New Runway (length 3050mt.), Apron, taxi-track, Isolation Bay and other associated work have also been completed.

At Vijaywada Airport, extension and strengthening of runway, construction of New Apron, Taxi-way and Allied works are in progress to cater for operation of A 321 type of aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs.47.87 crores. The work is likely to be completed by September, 2009.

Facilities at airports in North Eastern Region

1026. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of expansion of infrastructure facilities of various airports in the North Eastern Region;

(b) how many more airports have been planned for Assam and other North Eastern States;

(c) whether Government would consider to provide more connectivity with other parts of the country as well as different countries of the world for the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordaloi (LGNB) Airport at Berjhar Guwahati; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The present status of expansion of infrastructure facilities of various airports in the North Eastern Region (NER) operated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) including Civil Enclaves (CE): Dibrugarh Airport - The airport is operational, work relating to modernisation of terminal building of 500 pax and arpon expanded to accommodate A-320 and ATR has been completed. The runway is planned to be extended by 640mt with an estimated cost of Rs.14 crores. Guwahati — the airport is operational. Terminal building has been extended to accommodate 1200 passengers. The work pertaining to extension of runway by 360mt and Apron extension to add 11 new bays is in progress. It is planned to have parallel taxiway and integrated terminal building. Jorhat (CE) — airport is operational. It is proposed expand apron and terminal

building. Lilabari — the airport is operational. The work pertaining to apron expanded to park 2 A-320 aircraft and terminal building to accommodate 400 pax has been completed. It is proposed to install Instrument Landing System (ILS) at this airport. Silchar (CE)—the airports is operational. The work pertaining to expansion of runway by 500 mt, apron expansion to park 3 A-320 and 1 ATR aircraft, provision of Aeronautical Ground Lights and ILS has been completed.

Shillong — the airport is operational. The work pertaining to new terminal building to accommodate 200 pax is in progress. It is planned to expand runway by 2286 mt for A-321 operations and expansion of apron to park 4 A-321 aircraft subject to availability of land. Tura-the airport is non-operational. It is proposed to extend runway to 1500mt for ATR 42 operations subject to availability of land. Imphal-the airport is operational. The work pertaining to night landing facilities including 5 Solar Power Obstacle Lights has been completed. The work pertaining to expansion of apron to accommodate 3 additional aircraft and taxiway construction is in progress. It is planned to acquire land as per master plan for future expansion. Lengpui-the airport is operational. The work pertaining to installation of ILS and DVOR is in progress. Dimapur-the airport is operational. The work pertaining to expansion of apron and taxiway including face lifting of terminal building is in progress. Pakyong (Gangtok)-the airport is under construction. The construction of greenfield airport for operations of ATR 72 aircraft started on 10.01.2009 and is targeted to be completed by 09.01.2012.

(b) There are proposals to set up Greenfield airport at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Chietu (Kohima) in Nagaland. A Greenfield airport at Pakyong in Sikkim is already under construction.

(c) and (d) The government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air Transport Services taking into account the need for air transport service of different regions of the country including North-East Region. At present, scheduled air services are available from Guwahati to Agartala, Aizwal, Delhi, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Imphal, Jorhat, Lilabari and Silchar.

FDI in private domestic airlines

1027. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in private domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is under examination.

Facilities at Trivandrum airport

1028. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the present facilities at Trivandrum airport are inadequate to meet the passenger requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala have represented in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government would take to improve the present condition of the airport?

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

(a) and (b) The existing passenger facilities are inadequate since the peak hour capacity of the International Terminal has exceeded the design capacity of the building.

(c) and (d) The need for further development and expansion of the Trivandrum International Airport has been brought out by various State functionaries in different forums.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up construction of a state-of-the-art world class International Terminal Building complex for handling 1600 peak hour passengers (800 Arriving & 800 Departing) at Chakai side which would be operational by 30th September, 2009.

Losses to Air India

1029. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is losing Rs. 14-15 crore a day;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 30,000 crore loss a year is staring at Air India;

(c) if so, whether in spite of the fact that airlines raised fares, load factors have declined;

(d) whether his Ministry has urged Government that Civil Aviation is facing financial crunch has asked Finance Ministry to provide assistance to the sector and whether Minister had also discussed with Prime Minister and Finance Minister to bail out Civil Aviation; and

(e) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Air India is estimated to make a loss of around Rs.5,000 crores in the year 2008-09.

(c) Air India did not raise its fares in the recent past to remain competitive during this economic meltdown. However, in view of the increase in the price of ATF, Air India was compelled to increase the domestic fuel surcharge by INR 400. In the current year, the seat factors on Air India's flights have shown a marginal increase as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

(d) and (e) In June, 2008, a presentation was made before the Prime Minister on the difficulties being faced by airline industry in India and particularly Air India; The Prime Minister had approved setting up a Committee to examine various issues relating to the financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines. Accordingly, a committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to monitor the various steps suggested.

The Government has taken various steps to assist the domestic aviation industry:

(i) Custom Duty on import of ATF has been abolished; (ii) State Governments have been persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF; (iii) The Oil Companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis; (iv) The infrastructure at the airports and Air Traffic Control and Navigation Systems are being constantly upgraded to meet the future demand of the airlines.

Huge loss in Air India

1030. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India has been running at a huge loss particularly since 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken to run the Air India as a economically viable company?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NACIL expects to register a loss of approximately Rs.5000 crores in 2008-09. The losses have been largely due to operating losses, which have been compounded due to the present economic recession as also the high oil prices last year and debt servicing on new aircraft.

(c) NACIL has initiated following measures to reduce losses:-

(i) integration and restructuring of network and schedules; (ii) fuel efficiency improvement measures, (iii) extended the credit period for all vendors, (iv) promotions and recruitment put on hold, (v) staff asked to travel only on economy class, etc. among other substantive measures for restructuring of loans and credits.

Losses to Air India due to mismanagement

1031. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is losing Rs. 14 to 15 crores a day due to mismanagement of its affairs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is seeking Government's subvention to come out of the crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Air India is asking Government to increase its equity from the existing Rs. 145 crores to Rs. 5,000 crores; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Air India is running in losses largely due to operating losses, which have been compounded due to the present economic recession as also the high oil prices last year and debt servicing of new aircraft.

(b) to (e) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) had submitted a proposal for infusion of equity of Rs.1231 crores and provision of soft loan of Rs.2750 crores in 2008-09. However, NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for induction of equity and provision of soft loan.

Enhancement of fares by domestic airlines

1032. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airlines have enhanced their fares recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and percentage of enhancement;

(c) whether this is attributed to hike in aviation fuel price;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes any policy to subsidise the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and take steps to reduce the operational cost of airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Jet Airways, Jet Lite, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet, Go Air, Paramount Airways and IndiGo have increased the fuel surcharges by Rs.400/- across their network effective 16th June, 2009. Air India has also raised its fuel surcharge by Rs.400/- effective 19 June 2009. The increase in fare has been due to the increased price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(e) and (f) No, Sir at present there is no proposal with the Ministry to subsidise the Aviation Turbine Fuel. However, the Government has taken various steps which *inter-alia* are as under:

- (1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.
- (2) The State Governments have been persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Andhra Pradesh and in certain cases Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.
- (3) The Oil companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis.

Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers

1033. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Air Traffic Controller (ATC) in our Aviation sector and they often work 30 hours shift leaving them little time for rest or recuperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to train more personnel in Air Traffic Control Sector, which is crucial for the smooth operation of any aviation system as it provides services for traffic clearance to land and take off?

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

(a) and (b) At present a total number of 1630 Air Traffic Controllers are in position against the sanctioned strength of 2107. They are not required to work 30 hours shift. They work in planned shift with adequate breaks between consecutive shift days.

(c) The training centre at Allahabad has adequate capacity and infrastructure to meet current and future requirement of training of ATCOs. However, with the objective of enhancing the capacity, an additional training centre has been established at Hyderabad to expedite the training process of ATCOs.

Construction of new international airports

†1034. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new proposal or plan for the construction of new international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for construction of new metro airport in Bihar;

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the number of international and metro airports in Bihar, at present?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Any proposal for new Greenfield airport project will normally be considered through PPP route with the prior 'in principle' approval of Government of India (GOI). So far GOI have not received any proposal.

(e) No airport in Bihar has been designated as international airport. However, limited international operations exist at Patna and Gaya airports.

Financial stake in Delhi airport

1035. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has financial stake in Delhi airport;

(b) if so, the extent of the financial stake of AAI in Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi;

(c) the role of AAI in the management of the Delhi airport;

(d) whether it is a fact that AAI has completely withdrawn from all aspects of decision making in Delhi airport; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to encourage and direct the AAI to be proactive and help passengers get more amenities and rights at Delhi airport?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have 26% equity in M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL).

(c) AAI takes part in all the major decisions in respect of Delhi Airport through its Board Members who are part of M/s DIAL Board.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Air crashes

1036. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent past the number of plane crashes has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the plane crashes in future?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken various measures which include complete monitoring of Flight Data Recorders, installation of Minimum Safe Altitude Warning System, installation of Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars, installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System, installation of Transponders, installation of Ground Proximity Warning System, computerised monitoring of Flight Duty Time Limitation, Training, Medical and Licence validity of pilots, safety audit of operators, training of aviation personnel under Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness (South Asia) programmes.

Deferring salary of employees by NACIL

1037. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has issued a memorandum deferring the payment of employees' salary by fifteen days;

(b) whether the net worth of NACIL has been completely eroded, compelling the management to request Government for a bailout package;

(c) whether there is any proposal to spruce up the financial condition of NACIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, these are being paid between the Tenth and 14th July, 2009 depending upon the category of employee.

(c) and (d) NACIL has initiated the following measures to reduce losses:-

(i) integration and restructuring of network and schedules; (ii) fuel efficiency improvement measures; (iii) enforced credit period for all vendors; (iv) deferment of June salary by 15 days of all employees; (v) Executive (GM and above) appealed to forgo salary for one month; (vi) promotion and recruitment put on hold; (vii) staff asked to travel only on economy class; (viii) Banks requested to roll over the existing working capital borrowings which are due to repayment; (ix) Extended credit is being sought from the Public Sector Oil companies for the fuel uplifts by Air India in India.

Apart from that, NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for equity induction and provision of loans.

Anchor Investment introduced by SEBI

1038. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently introduced the concept of anchor investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An issuer making a public issue of shares through book building may allocate on a discretionary basis up to 30 per cent of the Qualified Institutional Buyer [QIB as defined in SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000(DIP Guidelines)] portion of the issue to Anchor Investors (AI) subject to a minimum application size of Rs. 10 crore, stipulated margin requirement and lock-in. No person related to the promoter/promoter group/merchant bankers can apply as AI. The price of acquisition of such shares cannot be less than the price fixed as a result of book building.

Mobile Banking Services

1039. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are proposing to cut interest rates for the loans given or being given;

(b) if so, how much interest rate will be reduced, category-wise;

(c) whether some of the Nationalized Banks have launched Mobile Banking Services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there will be cash transactions also in these Mobile Banking Services?

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

(a) and (b) Interest rates on advances above Rs.2 lakhs are deregulated and determined by banks themselves. In response to reduction in key Policy Rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been reducing their Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLRs) and interest rates on advances since October, 2008.

(c) to (e) The RBI has authorised 17 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as on 30th June, 2009 to introduce Mobile Banking Services. The services being offered by these banks will enable customers of banks to carry out fund transfer both inter-bank and intra-bank. In addition, the customer users will also be able to access their accounts for balance enquiry, ordering statements, cheque books, drafts and making utility bill and insurance premia payments. However, cash pay in and pay out would be permissible only at authorised locations of banks (viz. branches and business correspondents).

Outstanding taxes against MNCs

1040. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) owe crores of rupees in taxes to Government;

(b) if so, the amount of Income Tax and other Corporate Taxes outstanding against MNCs as on date;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the taxes from the companies by Government; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding taxes from the MNCs?

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

(a) and (b) Sir, information in respect of outstanding tax against Multi National Corporations is not centrally maintained. To furnish the details would require compilation of data at all the field formations spread throughout the country and the time and efforts required would not be commensurate with the objective sought to achieve it. The total arrear demand as on 30.5.2009 is Rs.2,10,404 crores (both Income tax and Corporate tax)

(c) Out of the arrear demand of Rs.2,10,404 crores the net collectible demand is only Rs.18,200 crores. The rest of the demand cannot be recovered because of the following reasons:- (i) the demand has been stayed by the Courts/Tribunal (ii) the demand pertains to persons notified under section 3 of Special Court (Torts) Act, 1992 and so no recovery can be made directly from such persons (iii) the case is before B.I.F.R and so recovery cannot be enforced (iv) the company is under liquidation (v) case is before Settlement Commission (vi) the demand is arising from protective assessment (vii) the demand has been stayed (viii) the demand is covered by instalments.

(d) Apart from the statutory measures being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of Bank Account, debtors etc. attachment and sale of immovable properties etc.) the following special measures have also been taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears in all cases (i) making it obligatory for the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals to decide appeals, where stay has been granted, within 180 days of the date on which the stay order was passed (ii) taking away the powers of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) to set aside a case (iii) monitoring of high demand cases by Directorate of Recovery and the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Contravention of Foreign Exchange Management Act by companies

1041. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19 February, 2009 and state:

(a) whether Directorate of Enforcement have completed the investigations for alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) contravention by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) as requested by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for violating External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) guidelines;

(b) if so, the details of the investigations and action taken or proposed to be taken against ADAG for violation of FEMA; and

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in investigating the matter?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) In view of the complexities of this case there has been no delay. All effort has been made by the Directorate of Enforcement to expeditiously conclude investigations.

Slowdown in economic growth

1042. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic growth of the country has registered a slowdown in the back drop of Global Economic crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has identified the infrastructure bottlenecks that stand in the way in achieving high growth rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove such bottlenecks?

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

(a) and (b) As per the Revised Estimates for 2008-09, released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost has declined from 9 percent during the year 2007-08 to 6.7 percent in 2008-09. The details are as given below:

Growth of GDP (Factor Cost at constant 1999-2000 Prices)

(in percent)

Sl.No.		2007-08 (QE)	2008-09 (RE)
1	2	3	4
1.	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.9	1.6
2.	Industry	8.1	3.9
	a. Mining and quarrying	3.3	3.6
	b. Manufacturing	8.2	2.4
	c. Electricity, gas and water supply	5.3	3.4

1	2	3	4
	d. Construction	10.1	7.2
3.	Services	10.9	9.7
	a. Trade, hotels, transport and communication	12.4	9.0
	b. Financing, Insurance, Real estate and Business services	11.7	7.8
	c. Community, social and personal	6.8	13.1
4.	GDP at factor cost	9.0	6.7

The lower growth in GDP in 2008-09 which was spread across all sectors except Mining and quarrying, Community, social and personal services, could be attributed to subdued demand conditions, uncertainty regarding the depth and duration of global economic crisis, risk aversion, caution in extension of credit facilities and due to agricultural production being influenced by the vagaries of nature.

(c), (d) and (e) Physical infrastructure such as electricity, railways, ports, airports, irrigation and urban and rural water supply and sanitation, suffer from a substantial deficit in terms of capacities. The nature and quantum of deficits identified in the Eleventh Five Year Plan document are as follows:

Sector	Deficit
Roads/Highways	65590 km of NH comprise only 2% of network; carry 40% of traffic; 12% 4-laned 50% 2-laned; and 38% single-laned.
Ports	Inadequate berths and rail/road connectivity.
Airports	Inadequate runways, aircraft handling capacity, parking space and terminal buildings
Railways	Old technology; saturated routes; slow speeds (freight: 22 kmph: passengers: 50 kmph); low payload to tare ratio (2.5)
Power	13.8% peaking deficit; 9.6% energy shortage; 40% transmission and distribution losses; absence of competition.
Irrigation	11.23 BCM utilizable water resources,; yet near crisis in per capita availability and storage; only 43% of net sown area irrigated.
Telecom/IT	Only 18% of market accessed; obsolete hardware; acute human resources shortages.

The Eleventh Plan envisages improving the infrastructure. Various programmes/schemes are being implemented, with make use of considerable public resources on the one hand, while encouraging and facilitating private participation directly as well as through private partnerships.

Mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan

1043. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recommendation made in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan allocating 30 per cent expenditure for women is being implemented in all the Ministries and Departments;
- (b) whether this includes expenditure on children as well; and
- (c) whether Government has any specific plans to ensure implementation of the Planning Commission recommendation for 30 per cent expenditure?

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

(a) and (c) Although the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan emphasizes earmarking of funds for women under the various schemes by the 'women-related' ministries/departments, it was recommended that every programme across all Ministries and Departments should clearly identify and disaggregate the group of intended beneficiaries or users in terms of gender. The programme should then explore the possibility of undertaking special measures to ensure the participation of women or facilitate access of the services provided to them. 26 Ministries/Departments and 5 Union Territories (without legislature) have reported funds earmarked for the benefit of women under 100%/30% category as part of Gender Budgeting Statement in BE 2009-10.

(b) No such distinction has been made. However, a separate statement highlighting the provisions earmarked for the benefit of children is given as part of the Expenditure Budget.

National Stock Exchange

1044. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Stock Exchange (NSE) is promoted by the Public Sector Institutions which together hold a majority stake therein;
- (b) what is the cash component (*i.e.* non-fixed deposit and non-bank guarantee) of the Settlement Guarantee Fund of NSE for all its segments;
- (c) what are the fields in which the money has been invested by NSE and what is the composition of the body which takes decision for investment; and
- (d) what is the frequency period prescribed for the meetings of the investment body?

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

(a) to (d) There is no holding by either Central or State Government in the equity shares of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). Public sector banks and insurance companies hold less than 50 per cent of paid up equity share capital of NSE. As informed by NSE, the cash component of Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) for all segments is Rs.1706.15 crore as on

March 31, 2009. For the day to day treasury management including the cash management of the SGF, the investments are made in debt instruments like Bank Fixed Deposits, units of various schemes of debt and liquid mutual funds, taxable/tax free bonds, etc. as per the prudential policy laid down by the Board of NSE. The composition of the Board of NSE is enclosed at in the Statement.

Statement

List of Board of Directors of National Stock Exchange of India Limited

Sl.No.	Name of Director
1.	Mr. S.B. Mathur, Ex. Chairman, LIC
2.	Mr. Anjan Barua, Chief General Manager (Global Markets), State Bank of India
3.	Mr. T.S. Vijayan, Chairman, LIC
4.	Mrs. Bhagyam Ramani, General Manager, GIC
5.	Dr. Rajiv B. Lall, Managing Director and CEO, IDFC Limited
6.	Mr. Lawrence Leibowitz, Group EVP and Head-US Products and Global Technology, NYSE Euronext
7.	Mr. Onkar Nath Singh, Ex-CMD, Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited
8.	Rear Admiral Madan Mohan Chopra (Retd.)
9.	Mr. A.P. Kurian, Chairman, Association of Mutual Funds in India
10.	Mr. Anand G. Mahindra, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Mahindra and Mahindra Limited
11.	Dr. KRS Murthy, Professor and Former Director Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
12.	Mr. C. Achuthan Former Presiding Officer, Securities Appellate Tribunal
13.	Mr. Y.H. Malegam, Chairman Emeritus, M/s. S.B. Billimoria and Co., Chartered Accountants
14.	Dr. R.H. Patil, Chairman, The Clearing Corporation of India Limited
15.	Dr. V.A. Sastry
16.	Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna (Retd.), Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
17.	Mr. Ravi Narain, National Stock Exchange of India Limited
18.	Ms. Chitra Ramkrishna, National Stock Exchange of India Limited

Easier procedure for opening savings accounts

1045. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RBI has advocated for easier procedure for opening savings accounts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what more steps are being taken to encourage small savings in banks and post offices?

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

(a) and (b) In order to extend banking facilities to the sections of the society who have so far remained excluded and with a view to achieving the objective of greater financial inclusion, all banks have been advised by RBI to make available a basic banking 'no frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balance, as well as, minimum service charges so as to make such accounts accessible to vast sections of population. All banks have been advised to give wide publicity to this facility. Further, after introduction of document based verification of identity/address in November, 2004, a large number of persons, especially those belonging the low income group both in urban and rural areas were not able to produce such documents to satisfy the bank about their identity and address. This led to their financial exclusion. Accordingly it has been decided to further simplify Know Your Customer (KYC) procedure for opening of account for those persons who intend to keep balances not exceeding Rs.50,000/- in their accounts taken together and the total credit in all the accounts taken together is not expected to exceed Rs.1,00,000/- in a year.

(c) In order to encourage small savings in banks few banks have already initiated certain pilot projects in remote parts of the country, utilizing smart cards/mobile technology to extend banking services similar to those dispensed from branches. Printed material used by retail customers like account opening forms, pay-in-slips, passbooks etc. are printed in trilingual form in order to ensure that banking practices percolate to larger sections of population.

In order to make the small savings schemes in post offices more attractive and investor friendly, the taken by Government include, increase in the maximum deposit ceiling under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme. Bonus at the rate of 5% of the deposits has also been made available in respect of the deposits made under the POMIA Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon maturity of the deposit. Further, the benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5 year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Schemes, with effect from 1.4.2007.

Family Planning Insurance Scheme

1046. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government takes a long time to settle claims pertaining to the Family Planning Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many claims have been settled during the last three years, State-wise?

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

Negative inflation and rise in prices of essential goods

1047. MS. KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite overall low/negative inflation, the prices of essential commodities have gone up substantially over the past one year;

(b) if so, the rate of increase in prices of cereals, pulses, salt, fruits and vegetables during the past one year;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect the poor and the economically weak from such high prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation measured by the wholesale price index (WPI) was negative at 1.4 per cent in June, 2009. Month wise inflation (in per cent) for select essential commodities since June, 2008 is indicated in table 1 below:

	All-Comm.	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetables	Fruits	Salt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Weight (%)	100.00	4.41	0.60	1.46	1.46	0.02
Jun-08	11.82	7.17	-1.30	1.82	5.62	6.01
Jul-08	12.36	7.41	1.44	-4.90	11.91	6.20
Aug-08	12.82	6.49	6.56	-8.52	21.05	10.49
Sep-08	12.27	6.38	8.51	-2.66	16.42	24.85
Oct-08	11.06	8.80	8.88	12.75	15.79	26.75
Nov-08	8.48	9.21	10.99	24.35	14.10	21.68
Dec-08	6.19	10.53	12.59	7.65	15.91	24.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jan-09	4.90	10.89	13.57	15.36	18.63	11.79
Feb-09	3.50	12.66	16.83	6.55	11.62	10.81
Mar-09	1.20	11.72	10.83	-5.27	7.58	10.82
Apr-09	1.31	11.59	13.68	16.40	5.47	14.41
May-09	0.43	12.40	14.89	18.84	-0.18	11.18
Jun-09	-1.39	12.84	16.81	20.21	0.83	19.95

(c) The sharp decline in the overall inflation rate in 2009 stemmed from a major decline in the fuel group and a lesser decline in the group of manufactured products, accruing from a high statistical base in the corresponding period in 2008. Despite this decline, inflation in essential commodities continues to remain high, on account of lower agricultural production in some crops, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand.

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

Protection from economic meltdown

1048. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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

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

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

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

(a) and (d) The Government has been monitoring and evaluating the effect of global economic developments on the Indian economy, in formulating its economic policies. Fiscal stimulus packages have been provided by the Government, from time to time, to address the adverse impact of global meltdown, on the domestic economy. The fiscal measures, *inter-alia*, include increased plan expenditures, reduction in indirect taxes and sector specific measures. These measures have been supplemented by monetary measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India.

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

(c) The Plan outlay of Ministry of Minority Affairs has been enhanced from Rs.1,000 crore in 2008-09 (BE) to Rs.1,740 crore in 2009-10, registering an increase of 74 percent. This includes Rs.990 crore for Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities in selected minority concentration districts, Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation which is almost doubled and provision for National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for Minorities. Allocation have also been made for the new scheme of National Fellowship for Students from the Minority Community and Grants-in-aid to Central Wakf Council for computerization of records of State Wakf Boards. These funds are for the use of minorities in the entire country including Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has made a provision of Rs.995.80 crore in the budget of 2009-10 for minorities.

Popularization of the New Pension Scheme

†1049. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put forward some proposals to make the New Pension Scheme popular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pension Fund Regulatory Authority has requested his Ministry for special relaxation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Finance Bill, 2009, the Government has proposed to provide necessary fiscal support to the New Pension System (NPS). Accordingly, it has proposed to exempt the income of the NPS Trust from income tax and any dividend paid to this Trust from Dividend Distribution Tax. Similarly, all purchase and sale of equity shares and derivatives by the NPS Trust will also be exempt from the Securities Transaction Tax. Further, it is also proposed to amend Section 80 CCD of Income Tax Act, 1961 to extend the benefit of this section to all individuals participating in the NPS.

(c) and (d) The PFRDA had requested the Government to extend to the NPS the benefit of Exempt-Exempt- Exempt tax status, as available to other savings schemes like PPF, GPF, EPF, Life Insurance etc.; bear the cost incurred on NPS intermediaries in the initial years; and extend the tax benefit available under section 80 CCD of the Income Tax Act to the self-employed persons.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

New Pension Scheme

1050. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the past several years Government has discontinued its Pension Scheme to its employees;

(b) if so, the New Pension Scheme in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that the Employees' Contribution under the New Pension Scheme is not being properly accounted for and the employees are not being intimated of the accumulations under the New Pension Scheme; and

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

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

(a) and (b) A defined contribution based New Pension System (NPS) has been introduced with effect from 1st January, 2004 for Central Government employees (except Armed Forces) recruited on or after that date replacing the existing defined benefit pension system.

(c) The concerned Pay and Account Office (PAO)/ Cheque Drawing and Disbursing Officer (CDDO) is required to deduct employees' contributions from the salary bills, provide matching contribution from the Government and transfer the details thereof to National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), which is the Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) for the NPS. A detailed statement of transactions is required to be sent by NSDL to the registered NPS subscribers once a year.

(d) The accounting formations namely Civil, Defence, Posts, Telecom and Railways are taking measures to reconcile the data in respect of their employees under NPS and upload the same to NSDL.

Loss in foreign exchange

1051. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the net loss in Foreign Exchange receipt on account of reduction in the export of rubber and other items due to recession in the world; and

(b) what are the measures taken or proposed to be taken to offset the loss in foreign exchange?

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

(a) As a result of global recession, the export natural rubber declined in 2008-09 to US Dollar 97.95 million from US Dollar 122.69 million in 2007-08. In 2008-09 (April-February), the export earnings of handicrafts, carpets, gems and jewellery and marine products have also declined.

(b) As there was concern on possible adverse impact of the global recession on the Indian economy, to help export sector in general and some sectors affected or likely to be affected by

the global recession in particular, three stimulus packages were announced in 2008-09 which include among others, the following.

- (i) Interest subvention of 2 per cent from 1.12.2008 to 30.9.2009 to the labour intensive sectors of exports such as textiles (including handloom), handicrafts, carpets, leather, gems and jewellery, marine products and small and medium enterprises.
- (ii) An additional allocation for export incentive schemes of Rs.350 crore.
- (iii) Inclusion of handicrafts items in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);
- (iv) Provision of additional Rs.1,100 crore to ensure full refund of claims of CST/terminal excise duty/duty drawback on deemed exports.
- (v) Restoration of DEPB rates for all items where they were reduced in November 2008 and increase in duty drawback rates on certain items effective from September 1, 2008.
- (vi) Provision of additional funds of Rs.1,400 crore for textile sector to clear the backlog claims of Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF).
- (vii) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4 per cent.
- (viii) The guarantee cover under credit guarantee scheme for micro and small enterprises on loans doubled to Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent. The guarantee cover extended by credit guarantee fund trust increased to 85 per cent for credit facility up to Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral free loans was reduced.

In addition to the three stimulus packages, the Union Budget 2009-10 has also announced many measures to help the export sector which include, among others, the following.

- (i) Extension of the adjustment assistance scheme to provide enhanced Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) cover at 95% to badly hit sectors upto March, 2010.
- (ii) Enhancement of allocation to Market Development Assistance Scheme by 148%.
- (iii) Interest subvention of 2 per cent to the labour intensive sectors of exports such as textiles (including handloom), handicrafts, carpets, leather, gems and jewellery, marine products and small and medium enterprises extended to 31.3.2010.
- (iv) Flow of credit at reasonable rates to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- (v) Exemption of service tax on Export Promotion Councils and Federation of Indian Export Organization till 31.3.2011.

- (vi) Exemption of service tax for services received by exporters from goods and transport agents and commission agents where the liability to pay service tax is *ab initio* on the exporter. Thus there would be no need for the exporter to first pay the tax and later claim refund.

Extension of Mobile Banking Services

1052. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the policy of Government in the extension of Mobile Banking Services;
- (b) whether the move will be encouraged or discouraged; and
- (c) what is the feedback received in case of Mobile Banking Services?

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

(a) to (c) In view of the rapid growth of users of mobile phones and wider coverage of mobile phone network, guidelines for mobile banking transaction were issued by RBI to encourage implementing financial inclusion and mobile phone based payment transactions in India. Only Banks which are licensed and supervised in India and have a physical presence are permitted to offer mobile banking services. Because of its encouraging response, Banks have been exploring the feasibility of using mobile phones as an alternative channel of delivery of banking services. RBI has observed an increase in usage of mobile phones for banking transactions.

Service Tax

1053. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Service Tax at 10 per cent on various services is on the higher side; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to further reduce the Service Tax on various services?

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

(a) No, Sir. The service tax rate on all services has been reduced from 12% to 10% on 24.02.2009.

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

Money laundering

1054. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that not even a single individual has been apprehended/ interrogated by Government during last three years in relation to money laundering and parking of illicit-funds abroad;

(b) whether the Apex Court has taken note of this and reportedly suggested Government to look at cases lodged under Prevention of Money Laundering Act against persons suspected of parking black money abroad;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any foreign bank has agreed or offered themselves to share such data of black money with Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and country-wise?

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

(b) and (c) The Apex Court has not given any suggestions to Government.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. No foreign bank has agreed or offered to share any data of black money.

Rise in the Sensex

1055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after election to the 15th Lok Sabha the Sensex soared on buying frenzy:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its impact on the economy in near future and on long term?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) Pursuant to the election result of 15th Lok Sabha, on May 18, 2009, the weighted average closing value of Sensex was computed as 14284.21, representing a rise of 2110.79 points over the previous day's close. On the same day, the weighted average closing value of Nifty index was computed as 4323.15, representing a rise of 651.50 points over the previous day's close.

Subsequently, during the period between May 18, 2009 and July 3, 2009 Sensex had moved from 14284.21 to 14913.05, representing a rise of 628.84 points and Nifty had moved from 4323.15 to 4424.25 representing a rise of 101.1 points.

The movement in stock market indices is a function of perception of the economy, and / or of a sector or of index stocks. Movements of stock market also depend on economic factors, domestic and international events, market sentiments, corporate performance and future economic growth.

Refund of income tax

1056. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Refund cases where the amount involved is not more than rupees five thousand or so and relating to senior citizens, are not being disposed of promptly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases pertaining to financial year 2008-09 and the two preceding financial years still pending for disposal in Delhi, year-wise, with reasons for delay in their disposals; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken against delinquent staff and officers concerned with such cases for creating unnecessary delays?

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

(a) No, Madam. All refund cases are being processed on priority basis including those of senior citizens.

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

(c) The financial year-wise number of income tax refund cases pertaining to senior citizens is not available as prescribed return is not so classified. All the refunds for returns received in financial year 2007-08 have been issued. The processing of returns and issuance of refunds for financial year 2008-09 has not been completed. In some cases delay is caused due to technical reasons like software problem, delay in PAN migration, invalid PAN and deficiencies attributable to assessee like incomplete bank account details. The statutory time limit to process returns and issue refund for returns received in financial year 2008-09 is 31-03-2010.

(d) The delay is due to technical reasons only.

Grain Cooperative Bank

1057. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has waived the interest on loans of farmers in several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that loan/interest taken from Grain Cooperative Bank in Jharkhand by more than 17,000 farmers have not been waived so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when decision to waive loans of farmers from Grain Cooperative Bank will be taken?

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

(a) and (b) The Government of India has implemented the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief (ADWDR) Scheme, 2008, which covered all agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007. For marginal farmers (*i.e.*, holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there was a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008 while in respect of other

farmers, there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for such loans. Under the OTS, a rebate of 25 per cent is to be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent.

The Scheme was implemented throughout the country. As per the provisional figures, a total of 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore 'other farmers' have benefitted from the Scheme involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore.

(c) to (e) formal communication regarding Grain Cooperative Bank had been earlier received either directly from the Government of Jharkhand or any of its agencies. State Level Banker's Committee, Jharkhand, however, *vide* its letter dated 06.07.2009, has sent a copy of letter dated 21.06.2008 written by Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jharkhand to the Government of India for inclusion of loans taken by 4,467 farmers (amounting to Rs. 1.27 crore) from Deoghar Cooperative Grain Bank Ltd. under the ambit of ADWDR Scheme.

Reversal of wrong debiting of money due to ATM withdrawal

1058. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued guidelines that reversal of money that is wrongly debited from any account while withdrawing money from ATMs should be done within 12 days;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that in practice banks are taking much more time in reverting the money; and

(d) what are the reasons for this delay and steps taken to reverse the wrongly debited money in time?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular dated 23rd October, 2008 on "Reconciliation of transaction at ATMs failure-Time limit". *Vide* the aforesaid Circular, RBI has directed all the banks to recredit the amount wrongly debited due to ATM failure transactions within a maximum period of 12 days from the date of receipt of customer complaints. Banks are further advised to strictly adhere to the time limits indicated in the circular. This circular was reissued under Payment and Settlement System Act, 2007 on February 11, 2009. Non adherence to the time discipline shall attract penalties as prescribed under the Payment and Settlement System Act, 2007.

(c) and (d) RBI reported to have come across few cases where the banks have re-credited the customer's account after 12 days. The reason for the delay in most of the cases are due to delay in inter bank reconciliation of such transactions and in cases where ATMs are in remote location, there has been delay in verification of authenticity for the complaints. RBI has also reported that as and when such cases of delay are brought to their notice, the matter is taken up with the bank concerned and the amounts restored. Further, RBI also impress upon

the banks to strictly adhere to these directions in the meetings called to discuss customer service issue. Continuous monitoring has also been done by RBI in this regard.

Profitability of Indian Stocks

1059. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian stocks have emerged as the second best performers as compared to their peers in three other BRIC nations—Brazil, Russia and China, giving close to 20 per cent return in April, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to help India emerge as the number one?

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

(a) to (c) In April 2009, Indian stock market index *i.e.*, BSE Sensex was the second best performing index *vis-a-vis* indices of BRIC countries. The return by IBOV of Brazil was less than BSE Sensex but marginally higher than NSE index. China's stock market index (SHCOMP) was placed at the lowest position among the BRIC countries. However, indices of Russian stock market indices recorded higher returns than Indian indices during April 2009. The percentage returns of the major indices in April 2009 of the BRIC nations are given below.

Country/Index	Index Value		% Return
	31/3/2009	30/4/2009	
Brazil			
IBOV	40925.87	47289.53	15.55
Russia			
MICEX	772.93	920.53	19.07
CRTX	1101.83	1337.67	21.40
India			
BSE SENSEX	9708.5	11403.25	17.46
S&P CNX Nifty	3020.95	3473.95	15.00
China			
SHCOMP	2373.213	2477.569	4.40

Source : Bloomberg Financial Services

The Government does not try to manage or control the Stock Markets. These are left to market forces to decide. The Government has put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems instituted include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance,

various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. Measures taken to broaden and deepen markets include: screen based trading system, dematerialization of securities, corporatization and demutualization of exchanges, settlement through clearing corporation, trading in derivatives, etc.

Loans sanctioned to SHGs

1060. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Self Help Groups (SHGs) which have been sanctioned loans by the banks during the last three years till April 2009, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of SHGs sanctioned loans in Uttar Pradesh, during last three years till April 2009, year-wise and district-wise;

(c) the rate of interest charged against these loans; and

(d) whether Government is considering to lower the interest rates on such loans?

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

(a) and (b) The State-wise details, including that of Uttar Pradesh, of loans disbursed to Self Help Groups (SHGs) by banks during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (provisional figures) are given in the Statement. (See below). For the year 2006-07, banks have disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 6,570.39 crore to 1105749 SHGs. The Data Reporting System of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) did not maintain State-wise details for the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Banks, viz., Public Sector Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional rural Banks are reportedly charging interest rates in the range of 9.5% to 14% on loans to SHGs, based on their cost of funds, transaction costs, provisioning for Non-Performing Assets [risk costs] and small margin. As of now, there is no proposal to further reduce these rates.

Statement

*State-wise details of SHGs credit linked for three years
(2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09)*

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Region/State	2006-07**		2007-08		2008-09***	
		SHGs provided with bank loan	Bank Loan disbursed	SHGs Provided with bank loan	Bank Loan disbursed	SHGs provided with bank loan	Bank Loan disbursed during the year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Northern Region							
1.	Himachal Pradesh			4297	4116.59	6366	5415.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Rajasthan			21891	10168.35	4670	2234.2
3.	Haryana			2582	2613.89	5787	10537
4.	Punjab			2113	1715.01	10906	1511.82
5.	Jammu and Kashmir			470	180.26	770	584.43
6.	New Delhi			2327	352.47	420	280.99
Sub-Total				33680	19146.56	28919	20563.61
B NE Region							
7.	Assam			20318	8869.1	25264	6110.99
8.	Meghalaya			2143	1362.96	NA	NA
9.	Tripura			2635	1666.05	3892	6451.52
10.	Sikkim			668	439.83	84	80.92
11.	Manipur			2635	1666.05	904	509.14
12.	Nagaland			543	387.76	NA	NA
13.	Arunachal Pradesh			1459	1004	213	94.42
14.	Mizoram			775	893.93	585	594.57
Sub-Total				29119	14871.14	30942	13841.56
C. Eastern Region							
15.	Orissa			103544	56704.09	28452	14654.92
16.	Bihar			18116	13833.64	33977	22539
17.	Jharkhand			11284	5140.04	NA	NA
18.	West Bengal			52558	22535.64	19507	6043.6
19.	UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands			39435	6370.94	521	242.46
Sub-Total				224937	104584.34	82457	43479.98
D. Central Region							
20.	Madhya Pradesh			12884	7479.25	6007	7301.33
21.	Chhattisgarh			18384	7176	21210	13986.64
22.	Uttar Pradesh			23094	16641.63	40476	56800.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Uttaranchal			18386	17499.72	NA	NA
	Sub-Total			72747	48796.6	67693	78087.98
E. Western Region							
24.	Gujarat			41557	19046.13	4124	5667
25.	Maharashtra			38432	16448.28	NA	NA
26.	Goa			10452	6834.74	NA	NA
	Sub-Total			90441	42329.15	4124	5667
F. Southern Region							
27.	Andhra Pradesh			406386	387976.09	500536	676740
28.	Karnataka			112240	93124.66	101202	83977.68
29.	Kerala			76584	46612.44	104709	55449.66
30.	Tamil Nadu			181637	127485.25	158307	132564
31.	UT of Pondicherry					2585	2803
	Sub-Total			776847	665198.44	867339	951534.34
	Grand Total	1,105,749	6570.39	1227770	884926.24	1,081,474	1113174.47

** Disaggregated data State-wise is not available

*** Data is provisional. Source : Data collected by NABARD through SLBC Sources

Objections to Participatory-notes

1061. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are strong objections over Government's decision for the continuation of Participatory-notes in the capital market;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken for checking the vulnerability and misuse of capital markets through Participatory-notes, which are undesirable instruments since they do not disclose the true identity of investors?

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

(a) to (c) SEBI has informed that, as per their records, no such opposition has been received from any entity.

Participatory Notes (PN) in the Indian context, is a derivative instrument issued in foreign jurisdictions, by an FI/ sub-accounts or one of its associates, against underlying Indian securities.

When a PN is traded on an overseas exchange, the regulator in that jurisdiction would be the authority to regulate that trade. However, SEBI also has provisions in terms of the SEBI (FII) Regulations, 1995, according to which an FII may issue Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs)/Participatory Notes (NPs) with Indian instruments as the underlying securities, subject to the subscriber being a regulated entity. Further downstream issue of PNs, if any, may also be done only to regulated entities. Besides, FIIs are required to report at the end of every month, in a prescribed format, all information relating to PNs issued by them including the names of subscribers to the said PNs. FII investments into India are also subject to Indian Anti-Money Laundering laws and strict KYC norms. SEBI has mandated that P-Notes with Indian underlyings can only be issued to regulated entities subject to 'Know-Your-Client' norms.

Penalty for non-utilization of loans

1062. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India pays penalty for not using loans from agencies since 1991 and Government has paid Rs. 1400 crore to World Bank, Asian Development Bank and others;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has revealed that many of its past projects are running far behind schedule and Government has been paying commitment charges of several hundred crores every year in 2007-08, and 2008-09 alone India paid Rs. 240 crores as commitment charges for the non-disbursed portion of sanctioned loans from World Bank and other donors; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and to what extent Government has been able to check this?

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

(a) to (c) Commitment charge is payable on the amount of loan yet to be drawn and is an integral part of the general terms and conditions of loan from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Germany. In respect of Japan, it is payable for loans signed after October 2007. The commitment charge has to be paid as the entire loan amount is not disbursed in one instalment. Depending on the nature of project and its implementation schedule, the disbursement takes place over the project implementation period. Drawing the entire loan amount in one instalment will entail avoidable interest liability because the full amount cannot be spent in one go and would remain idle in Government account. Commitment charges, wherever levied, are usually a fraction of applicable interest rate.

A total of Rs. 1455.72 crores has been paid as commitment charges during 1991-2009. Out of this, Rs. 124.54 crores was paid in 2007-08 and Rs. 117.37 crores in 2008-09.

Government of India has a monitoring mechanism for externally aided project. Projects are checked against readiness indicators before they are launched. During implementation, the projects are monitored through joint review meetings periodically. State level portfolio reviews and site visits are also undertaken from time to time.

Development bank for the unorganised sector

1063. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently agreed to set up a development bank or a fund for the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has recently announced that the recommendations of the National Commission on Enterprises in the unorganised sector would be implemented; and

(c) if so, to what extent the creation of a fund for the unorganised sector is likely to benefit small and medium industries in the country?

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

(a) to (c) The Committee on National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector had recommended, among others, to create a National Fund for the Unorganised Sector (NAFUS).

In a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary, it was decided to create a separate window under SIDBI with an earmarked corpus for providing financial support to micro enterprises. In addition, the Finance Minister has provided a fund of Rs. 4000 crore for refinancing lending to micro and small enterprises by banks and State Financial Corporations (SFCs) for the financial year 2009-10. However, as informed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, a proposal for creation of a fund of Rs. 1000 crore for financing of micro enterprises in the unorganized sector is under their consideration.

Recapitalization of nationalized banks

1064. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry approached the World Bank for loans to the tune of Rs. 16,000 crores to recapitalize about 18 banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the banks that are proposed to be recapitalized; and

(c) the details of norms followed in selecting nationalized banks for recapitalization?

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

(a) to (c) To enable the public sector banks (PSBs) to meet credit requirements of the

economy while maintaining a healthy and comfortable level of regulatory Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio, Government has proposed to provide capital funds to these banks through World Bank assistance. However, the details in this regard including the exact amount of capital to be provided to the PSBs have not been finalised.

Special insurance scheme for swine flu

†1065. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies are contemplating a special insurance scheme for swine flu;

(b) whether it is a fact that some foreign insurance companies are trying to insure people suffering from this disease on the pretext of swine flu; and

(c) if so, whether the foreign insurance companies specially American companies have been allowed to do insurance business in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir. However, the existing health insurance policies such as Mediclaim Policy or the Overseas Mediclaim Policy do not exclude hospitalization due to swine flu.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of Insurance Act 1938 and IRDA Act 1999, no foreign insurance Company is allowed to insure people in India; only Indian Insurance Companies which are licensed and registered with IRDA are permitted to transact insurance business in India.

Infusion of money into the banking system

†1066. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to offset the effect of global economic recession on Indian economy, Government has through the Reserve Bank of India, infused money into the Indian banking system in three installments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of extra provision for the use of banking system from October, 2008 to June, 2009?

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

(a) to (c) With a view to mitigate the impact of the global economic recession on the Indian economy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated measures, which included reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) from 9 per cent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

5 per cent in a phased manner. Besides, the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) was also reduced by 1 per cent of NDTL from 25 per cent to 24 per cent. In addition successive reductions in repo and reverse repo rates were announced to provide for liquidity in the monetary system. Some other facilities were also initiated to augment liquidity and to ensure that credit continues to flow to the productive sectors of the economy.

As per the RBI, the measures have resulted in augmentation of actual/potential liquidity in the banking system of about Rs. 4.49 lakh crore (from mid September 2008 till June 2009); in addition, the permanent reduction in the SLR by 1.0 per cent of the NDTL has made available liquid funds of the order of Rs. 40,000 crore for the purpose of credit expansion. The details are given below:

Table: Actual/Potential Release of Primary Liquidity – since Mid September, 2008 till June 2009

S.No.	Measures/Facility	Amount (Rs. crore)
1.	CRR Reduction	1,60,000
2.	Unwinding/Buyback/De-sequestering of Market Stabilisation Scheme securities	1,54,927
3.	Term Repo Facility	60,000
4.	Increase in Export Credit Refinance	35,434
5.	Special Refinance facility for Scheduled Commercial Banks (Non Regional Rural Banks)	38,429
Total (1 to 5)		4,48,790
Memo: Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) reduction		40,000

Source: RBI

Fallout of global economic crisis

1067. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 lakh workers have lost their jobs as a fallout of the ongoing global economic crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to face the global crisis?

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

(a) and (b) While no comprehensive employment data giving definite estimate is available for the recent period, some sample surveys have indicated employment losses in the wake of global economic slowdown. In a sample survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 2581 units in

20 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to important sectors like mining, textiles, metals, gems and jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown was observed in the export oriented units. The decline in employment observed in gems and jewellery, transport and automobiles was 8.58 percent, 4.03 percent and 2.42 percent respectively. In a similar survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 3192 units in 21 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to sectors like textiles and apparel, handloom/powerloom, leather, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. The sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems and jewellery, textiles, IT-BPO, handloom/powerloom and automobiles. However, decline in employment during January-March, 2009 has been observed in leather, metals and transport. The Department of Commerce has separately conducted some surveys, the results of which are given below:

Sl. No.	Period of Survey	Job losses (Direct and Indirect) in persons
1.	Aug.' 2008-Oct' 2008	65,507
2.	Aug.' 2008-16.01.09	1,09,513
3.	Aug.' 08-09.02.09	1,17,602
4.	Aug.' 08-28.02.09	1,19,159

(c) In order to counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown on the Indian economy, the Government provided three fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The RBI took a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures to facilitate flow of funds from the financial system to meet the needs of productive sectors. Some of the measures to provide employment and give relief in the case of job loss include implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50 percent of wages upto a period of one year and medical benefits in the case of job loss, skill upgradation/training programmes, National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREGS) etc. Employment was provided to more than 4.47 crore households in 2008-09 under NREGS.

Rise in consumer price index

1068. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumer price index rose to 10.2 per cent in May whereas the wholesale price inflation remains less than half; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is planning to reduce the consumer price index, which affects the ordinary citizen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) Year-on-year (Y-o-Y) inflation rates, based on the wholesale price index (WPI) and consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) are indicated in the table 1 below:

Table 1: Y-o-Y Inflation rates based on WPI and CPI (%)

	WPI	CPI-IW	CPI-AL and CPI-RL
APR	1.31	8.70	9.09
MAY	0.43 (Provisional)	8.63	10.21

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

Loans from the World Bank

1069. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is negotiating more loans from the World Bank to fund infrastructure development and to upgrade urban transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the past projects are running far behind schedule to the extent Government has been paying commitment charges of several hundred crores every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to check such charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Negotiations with the World Bank for Orissa State Road Project for an amount of US \$ 250 million, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for an amount of US\$ 600 million and Haryana Power System Improvement Project for an amount of US\$ 330 million were held during July 2008, September 2008 and June 2009 respectively.

(c) and (d) Commitment charge is payable on the amount of loan yet to be drawn and is an integral part of the general terms and conditions of loan from the World Bank. The commitment charge has to be paid as the entire loan amount is not disbursed in one instalment. Depending on the nature of project and its implementation schedule, the disbursement takes place over the project implementation period. Drawing the entire loan amount in one instalment

will entail avoidable interest liability because the full amount cannot be spent in one go and would remain idle in Government account. Commitment charges, wherever levied, are usually a fraction of applicable interest rate. Commitment charges of Rs. 60.24 crore and Rs. 50.58 crore have been paid to the World Bank for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Government of India has a monitoring mechanism for externally aided project. The projects are checked against readiness indicators before they are launched. During implementation, the projects are monitored through joint review meetings periodically. State level portfolio reviews and site visits are also undertaken from time to time.

Defrauding of banks

1070. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unscrupulous borrowers from banks are still enjoying loan facilities even after defrauding banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has recently asked lenders to take coordinated action against such unscrupulous borrowers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by banks on the instructions of RBI?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that certain instances came to their notice where unscrupulous borrowers enjoying credit facilities under “multiple banking arrangement” have, after defrauding one of the financing banks, continued to enjoy the facilities with other financing banks and in some cases availed even higher limits at those banks. On receipt of such fraud reports from banks, RBI advised the concerned banks to report the case to CBI/Police/SFIO, examine staff accountability and complete proceedings against the erring staff expeditiously, take steps to recover the amount involved in the fraud, claim insurance wherever applicable and also streamline the system and procedures so as to prevent recurrence of such frauds.

In addition, banks are being sensitized by RBI from time to time about common fraud prone areas through issuance of modus operandi on various types of frauds and also issuance of Caution Advice so that banks can exercise due diligence while sanctioning fresh loan facilities to the borrowers mentioned in the Caution Advice.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RBI *vide* its circulars dated September 19, 2008 and June 24, 2009 advised all the banks to take coordinated action, based on commonly agreed strategy, for legal/criminal actions, follow up for recovery, exchange of details on modus operandi, achieving consistency in data/information on frauds reported to Reserve Bank of India. The bank which detects a fraud is required to immediately share the details with all other banks in the multiple banking arrangements.

Non-performing assets

†1071. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the end of March, 2008 the total amount of non-performing assets of banks was around Rs. 56,400 crore;

(b) if not, the total amount of assets and the estimate of likely increase in this amount at the end of March, 2009 thereto;

(c) the reasons for increase in this amount and sectors of loan wherein this increase has taken place; and

(d) the details regarding the total number of loan defaulters in March, 2008 and March, 2009?

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

(a) to (c) The Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) have increased from Rs. 55,844 crore as on 31st March, 2008 to an estimated Rs. 66,962 crore as on 31st March, 2009. However, the Gross NPAs to Gross Advances ratio of these banks have very marginally increased from 2.39% to 2.40% between March, 2008 and March, 2009. The increase in amount of gross NPAs is in small scale industry (SSI) sector, other priority sector and non-priority sectors, whereas the amount of gross NPAs in agriculture sector have decreased between March, 2008 and March, 2009. The increase in the absolute amount of NPAs may be attributed, *inter-alia*, to the consolidated impact of business cyclicity, delay in implementation of projects and credit growth across the banking industry during the last few years.

(d) Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) is maintaining a database on its website www.cibil.com on suit-filled accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above and suit-filed accounts (wilful defaulters) of Rs. 25 lakh and above. As per information available on CIBIL website, as on 31st March, 2008, the total number of wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lakh and above in suit-filed accounts was 2786 and those with Rs. 1 crore and above (suit-filed accounts) was 5422. The compilation of information of 2009 is not yet completed.

Foreign financial institutions

†1072. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capital partnership of domestic institutional investors has been 11 per cent in Indian share market during the year 2008-09 whereas in case of foreign financial institutions it has been 12 per cent;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that foreign financial institutions have withdrawn Rs. 73,231 crore from the share market during April, 2008 to March, 2009; and

(d) if not, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) SEBI has informed that for the financial year ended March 31, 2009, the percentage shareholding by Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), in value terms, for all securities listed at NSE accounted for 11.19 per cent and 12.50 per cent respectively. With respect to Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), for the period April, 2008 to March, 2009, the gross purchase was Rs. 6,14,578 crore and gross sales was Rs. 6,60,389 crore. Thus, there is an excess of sales over purchase of Rs. 45,811 crore for the said period.

Foreign Direct Investment

†1073. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inflow of capital into the country *via* Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(b) if so, the total amount of inflow of capital into the country *via* this channel during October, 2008 to March, 2009;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is also outflow of capital *via* FDI; and

(d) if so, the total amount of capital that was taken out of the country *via* this channel during October, 2008 to March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) Yes Sir, As per the data provided by RBI, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (including Equity, Reinvested Earnings and other Capital) inflows during the period October, 2008 to March, 2009 is US \$ 10,097.

(c) and (d) Overseas Direct Investment (including Equity and Loan) during the period October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 is US \$ 9646.05.

Non-Performing Assets

1074. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) relating to the corporate sector, sector-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
The position of sector-wise gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the scheduled commercial banks as on 31st March, 2008 and 2009 is given below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Amount Rs. in crore)

As on 31st March	Agriculture	SSI	Other Priority sector	Non-priority sector
2008	9,735	6,521	12,781	26,805
2009	7,108	7,741	13,472	38,694

The non-priority sector also includes gross NPAs of corporate sector.

Financial frauds

1075. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many financial frauds were reported and enquired during the last three years in the nationalized banks, private banks, other financial institutions;

(b) how much money was involved;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a special Committee to look and suggest ways to curb frauds in the financial sector;

(d) if so, the recommendations of that Committee;

(e) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of that Committee; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) The total number of cases of frauds and amounts involved as reported by the Commercial Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks and Non-Banking Financial Institutions to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the last three calendar years (2006-2008) are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Category	2006		2007		2008	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Commercial Banks	21687	1200.87	22280	1077.84	21980	1431.11
Urban Co-operative Banks	125	53.18	591	62.04	457	34.16
Non Banking Financial Companies	Nil	Nil	13	1.38	103	14.87

(c) to (f) RBI has reported that in recent past no such Committee has been formed. However, two Committees had been constituted in 1991 and 2001, the details of which are as under:

(i) **Ghosh Committee**

RBI had constituted in October 1991 a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh, to enquire into various aspect relating to frauds and malpractices in banks. The committee submitted its report in 1992 The report was divided into four Groups, viz. A, B, C, D and contained 97 recommendation. Out of 97 recommendations, 27 were required to be reported exclusively at Branch level, 43 exclusively at RO/ZO/HO level and 27 at both levels.

The various recommendations of the committee are summarized as under :

Group A

- Joint custody and dual responsibility of cash and other valuables.
- Rotation of staff/duties.
- Designate one of the officer as compliance officer.
- Financial and administration powers of officials to be laid down.
- Exercise of caution at the time of opening of new deposit of all types.
- Precautions against theft of cash.
- Precautions in writing of drafts/mail transfers.
- Precautions for averting frauds in letter of credits, guarantees.
- Screening/selection of employees in EDP Cell, computer area.
- Standards for fully computerized branches.

Group B

- Banks to introduce portfolio inspection in critical areas such as credit, investment, off balance sheet item, etc.
- Periodical movements between bank officials and investigating officials of CBI/Police.
- Six months prior to retirement, officials should exercise their sanctioning powers jointly with next higher authority.
- Paper used for cheques/drafts should be such that any use of chemical for making material alterations in instrument should be visible to naked eye.

Group C

- Chief Vigilance Officer should directly refer to CVC, cases having vigilance angle involving CMD.
- Fraud cases upto Rs. 25000 having involvement of an insider should not be reported to police where recovery is doubtful.
- Introduce a return of staff members to ensure strict submission of information of assets and liabilities and proper scrutiny thereof.

Group D

- BR should not be outstanding for more than 7 days.
- Obtaining photograph of depositors at the time of opening of accounts.

(ii) Mitra Committee

RBI set up an expert committee on Legal Aspects of Bank Fraud under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.L. Mitra in September 2000 and the committee submitted its report in August 2001. The recommendations of the committee consisted of two parts:

Part — I containing recommendations that could be implemented without any legislative changes and **Part II** requiring legislative changes for their implementation.

Major Recommendations under Part I

Development of Best Practices Code (BPC)

System of internalization of BPC

Internal checks and internal controls

Legal Compliance Certificate

Legal Compliance Audit

Appropriate Incentive System for bank official

Liability of accounting and auditing profession

System of credit registration and data information sharing

Recommendations in Part II

- Separate act to deal with financial frauds
- Financial fraud to be criminalized
- Serious financial frauds to be treated separately
- Strict liability and shift of burden of proof on the accused
- Power of search, seize and attach properties/assets involved in the fraud to the investigating agency
- Separate institution for investigation of serious financial frauds
- Special Courts for a fast track justice delivery mechanism

Recommendations under Part I had been conveyed to banks for implementation. As regards recommendations under Part-II, it was observed that the present laws are sufficient to take care of the concerns.

London Summit of G-20 Nations

1076. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contours of any definite line of action were discussed and modalities formalized during the April, 2009 Summit held in London, especially to tide over the present worldwide recessionary trends as nearly 90 per cent of the world GDP and 80 per cent of global trade is controlled by G-20 Nations;

(b) if so, whether specific issues of development aid, protectionism and reforms at world bodies such as IMF, World Bank, etc. were discussed; and

(c) whether these measures, since April, 2009 are producing the envisaged results?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Regarding London Summit of G-20 nations.

The G-20 London Summit was able to come out with some concrete measures aimed to arrest and reverse the global downturn. These, *inter alia*, are:

Coordinated counter-cyclical policies

The G-20 member countries have committed themselves to deliver an unprecedented and concerted \$ 5 trillion fiscal expansion supported by accommodative monetary policies for restoring global growth. Amongst other things, this includes comprehensive support to their banking systems to improve liquidity, recapitalise financial institutions, and address decisively the problem of impaired assets. Taken together, these actions constitute the largest fiscal and monetary stimulus and the most comprehensive support programme for the financial sector in modern times. There is a clear understanding that acting together strengthens the impact of such counter-cyclical policies implemented individually by the member countries. G 20 members have committed to conduct all their economic policies cooperatively and responsibly with regard to the impact on other countries and have refrained from competitive devaluation of their currencies. At the same time, member countries have resolved to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and price stability and are committed to put in place credible exit strategies on restoration of global demand.

Augmenting resources of international Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Reforms in the IFIs

Member countries have agreed to increase the resources available with the IMF, the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Bodies (MDBs) by an additional \$ 1.1 Trillion to help kick-start the global economy, meet balance of payment needs and provide social support for countries in crisis. This includes trebling resources available with the IMF to \$ 750 billion, a new general SDR allocation of \$ 250 billion, at least \$ 100 billion of additional lending by the MDBs, \$ 250 billion of support for trade finance. On the reforms of IFIs, *inter alia*, the member countries have called upon the IMF to complete the next review

of quota and voice by January 2011 and that consideration should be given to greater involvement of the Fund's Governors in providing strategic direction to IMF and increasing its accountability. Similarly, the Leaders agreed for further reforms on voice and representation in the World Bank by Spring of 2010.

Strengthening Financial Supervision and Regulation

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

Resisting Protectionism

Member countries have reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing World Trade Organisation (WTO) inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. Member countries are also committed not to retreat into financial protectionism, particularly measures that constrain worldwide capital flows, especially to developing countries. They remain committed to reaching a balanced conclusion to the Doha Development round.

Results of some of the Measures:

Even though the growth in G-20 Nations and many other countries is still negative (notable exceptions being India and China); there are some signs of improvement in the global economy. A return to trend growth at global level, however, is expected only by late 2010. In the recently held Deputies meeting, it has been informed that \$410 billion resources have been contributed to the resources of the IMF and the gap of \$ 90 billion will be covered up before the Pittsburgh Summit. Good progress has been made in delivering the agreed increase in MDB lending (anticipated to be \$110-120bn in 2009). The deadline for the next set of Quota and Voice Reforms is January 2011. The expanded Financial Stability

Board (FSB) has been set up in which India is a member. The Financial Stability Board has just concluded its plenary session in June in Basel and a decision has been taken to set up Standing Committees for dealing with issues of Vulnerability Assessment, Early Warning Exercise, Supervisory and Regulatory Coordination and Standards implementation. Many of these are ongoing efforts and a more concrete picture to the results on a Global level will be available by the Pittsburgh Summit to be held in September.

Income Tax Benefits for Wind Power Projects

1077. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much benefits is availed by Wind Power Projects in last three years due to accelerated depreciation provision in terms of rupees in crores and the corresponding Wind Power Capacity, as under Income Tax Act, accelerated depreciation benefit is allowed to be claimed by Wind Power Projects; and

(b) whether Government has suggested any benchmark project cost for deciding depreciation benefit?

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

(a) to (b) The information from the field formation of Central Board of Direct Taxes is being collected and will be placed as soon as possible before the Parliament.

Fake currency

1078. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action Government proposes to deal with the menace of fake currency in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes which will make counterfeiting difficult. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Subsidy review

1079. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is reviewing the subsidies to ensure only those who are needy get them;
- (b) if so, the criteria identified so far; and
- (c) by when it will be implemented in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of minorities?

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

(a) to (c) No proposal to review subsidies, in general, is under the active consideration of the Government. Some specific announcements relating to major budgetary subsidies indicated in the Budget for 2009-10 are: the commencement of work on National Food Security Act that aims to ensure that every family living below the poverty line in rural or urban areas to 25 kilos of rice or wheat per month at Rs.3 a kilo; the intention to move towards a nutrient based fertilizer subsidy regime and the intention of the Government to set up an expert group to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing petroleum products.

Shortfall in direct tax collection

1080. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the target of direct tax collection has fallen well short of the target of Rs. 3.45 lakh crores for 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind the shortfall;
- (c) whether the recession has any impact on the collection of direct taxes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) how the above shortfall will have its impact on the fiscal deficit?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The target has fallen short by Rs. 6788 crores.

(b) to (d) In 2008-09 up to the 1st half the collection was growing at a growth rate of 32.5% over the corresponding collection during the previous year. However, the global slowdown in economy started impacting the India economy severely which dented the profits of companies and also resulted in less salaries pay outs to employees, both resulting in decrease in collection in Corporation Tax and Personal Income Tax. Therefore during the 2nd half for 2008-09, the tax collection dipped by (-)5.04%. The Stock Market also remained subdued because of economic meltdown and the Department could collect only Rs. 5408 crore from Securities Transaction Tax at a negative growth rate of (-)36.95%. The Income Tax Department therefore could finally collect Rs. 3,38,212 at a growth rate of 8.33%.

The details of Direct Tax Collection during the F.Y. 2008-09 is as under:-

Head of Tax	Revised Estimates 2008-09	Actual Collection 2008-09
Corporate Tax	222000	213823
Personal Income Tax	108000	109980
FBT	8500	7997
STT	5500	5408
BCTT	600	582
Other Taxes	400	422
Total	3,42,000	3,38,212

(e) Since, the Direct Tax Collection has fallen short of Revised Estimates by Rs. 6788 crores, it will not have any significant effect on the fiscal deficit.

Economy under threat

†1081. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists are trying to break into the economy under a dangerous strategy;

(b) whether the multi-national corporations can damage the social set-up of the country with their desire to yield large profits;

(c) whether it is possible for the terrorists to break into the economic set up of India; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in response thereto?

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

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

Disbursal of farm loans

1082. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to disburse farm loans through post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) In January 2006, the Reserve Bank permitted banks to use the services of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator (BF) and Business Correspondent (BC) models. In this light, banks can use post offices as their BFs or BCs for carrying out banking services including disbursement of small value credit, recovery of principal/collection of interest, collection of preliminary processing of loan applications, post sanction monitoring, etc.

Borrowings from IDA

1083. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank independent evaluation group has warned of significant risks of fraud and corruption in Bank's lending programme which provides loans and grants to 78 countries including India;

(b) whether the report relates to review of World Bank International Development Association (IDA) programme carried out by the Banks' independent Evaluation Group;

(c) whether India was among the biggest borrowers from IDA in financial year 2008 borrowing \$837 million and was only next to Vietnam; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has considered the report and what are steps being taken to check these?

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

(a) and (b) [Review of IDA Internal Controls - An Evaluation of Management's Assessment and the IAD Review], is a report of the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank which relates to review of IDA's control system through an assessment by IDA management and a review by the Internal Audit Department. The report mentions that IEG has found that IDA's internal controls framework operates to a high standard overall giving reasonable assurance that the controls operate effectively. However, in its findings, IEG report mentions that during the review evidence emerged that there are significant risks of fraud and corruption (F&C) impinging in IDA's lending operations, not fully matched by appropriate controls. In the report IEG has stressed that this finding is based on the risk of fraud and corruption rather than any clear measure of the extent to which fraud and corruption may have actually occurred in operations supported by IDA financing. The report can be accessed at www.worldbank.org/ida.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report is an internal assessment of IDA control system carried out by the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank which does not reflect the views of the Governments of various member countries, including India. The report has recommended to the IDA management to develop and deploy specific F&C related instruments into the bank's Risk Scan processes, Country Assistance Strategies, lending and project designs, and Implementation Status Reports.

Incentive package for economic growth

†1084. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the industrial production has been quite low during the last financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the production of capital goods has registered a sharp decline during this period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the incentive package offered by Government to bring economy back on track has remained inappropriate or insufficient; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the rate of growth in the industrial sector during 2008-09 was 2.6 per cent as compared to 8.5 per cent in 2007-08. The growth in capital goods was 7.1 per cent during 2008-09 compared to 18.0 per cent during 2007-08. The slowdown in industry during 2008-09, particularly in manufacturing was, *inter alia*, due to the fall in exports caused by the global economic crisis, decline in domestic demand especially during the second half of 2008-09 as also rise in the cost of inputs for manufacturing during the beginning of the year and rise in the cost of credit.

(e) and (f) In order to restore the growth momentum of the industrial sector, monetary and fiscal measures were taken which were supplemented with sector-specific measures for exports, micro and small enterprises and infrastructure. While the full impact of these measures would be realised gradually, the Index of Industrial Production has shown some improvement from the average growth of 0.5 per cent during the second half of the financial year 2008-09 to 1.2 per cent in April 2009 and 2.7 per cent in May 2009.

Remittance against tuition fees

1085. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of students enrolled in Australian institutes and total remittance from India against tuition fees of such students annually; and
- (b) the total forex outflow in terms of overseas students' tuition fees and expenses?

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

(a) and (b) As on 31st March 2009, the total number of Indians holding student visa in Australia is 81,690. The total forex outflow in terms of 'education related payments' during the last five years is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(US \$ million)

Year	Amount
2004-05	642
2005-06	1,114
2006-07	1,105
2007-08	2,827 (PR)
2008-09	2,247 (P)

PR : Partially Revised, P: Provisional

Remittance towards tuition fees is a current account transaction and RBI have delegated the powers to authorised dealers to allow remittances towards tuition fees without the prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. Detailed country wise break up of forex outflow in terms of overseas students' tuition fees and expenses is not maintained.

Profit making PSUs

1086. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) in the country are making profit;
- (b) the details of profit making CPSUs by unit base; and
- (c) how much amount has been submitted by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to the central exchequer as a share of profit during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, 2007-08, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2009, 160 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) made profit during 2007-08. The enterprise-wise details are given in Statement No. 5 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey, 2007-08.

(c) During last three years *i.e.* 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the CPSEs contributed an amount of Rs. 18443.79 crore, Rs. 22834.76 crore and Rs. 23857.88 crore respectively as a share of profit (dividend and dividend tax) to central exchequer.

Recommendation of BRPSE for Burns Standard

1087. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has recommended that Burns Standard be transferred to Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details of these recommendations;

- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for Railways to takeover Burns Standard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) what are the reasons for delay in taking over Burns Standard by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) BRPSE considered the Modified Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (MDRS) of BSCL on 26.06.2009. Confirmed minutes of BRPSE meeting has not been received so far.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The matter has been taken up with Ministry of Railways for the takeover of the wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL) and to expedite the modalities for their transfer to Ministry of Railways. The response from Ministry of Railways is awaited.

Revival of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company

1088. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has submitted its final recommendation for revival of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company as the matter is pending for a long time; and

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has given its consent to become Joint Venture partner as a measure for reviving the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The BRPSE has not submitted its final recommendation for revival of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd.

(b) Tamil Nadu Government has so far not conveyed its consent to become a Joint Venture Partner as a measure of reviving the Company.

Revamping of MAMC

1089. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) whether the Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) was signed between Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and Coal India Ltd. on 1 June, 2007 for creating a facility in and around Durgapur industrial area for manufacturing underground mining machineries, which

would explore the possibility of acquiring and revamping Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the status of acquirement and revamping of MAMC as envisaged in the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Profit by HEC

1090. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi has started earning operational profit;

(b) if so, the details of current financial health of HEC indicating its potentials;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several private entrepreneurs have committed or have wished to set up heavy industrial units in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of infrastructural impediments found to be existing in Jharkhand;

(f) whether Government is contemplating to enhance the infrastructure in the State in order to make it conducive for heavy industries;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) has started earning operational profit since 2006-07.

(Rupees in crore)

Particulars	2006-07 (Actual)	2007-08 (Actual)	2008-09 (Provisional)	2009-10 (Budget)
Gross Turnover	303.90	412.92	451.12	550.00
Production (Net of duty)	280.81	382.86	412.63	525.84
Operational Profit	6.67	22.31	31.25	35.74
Net Profit	2.86	4.17	16.12	21.55

(c) and (d) There is no specific categorization for heavy industries. However, 539 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed and 3 Direct Industry Licenses (DILs) have been issued for the State of Jharkhand since January 2004 to May 2009.

(e) and (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Braithwaite and Company Ltd., Kolkata

†1091. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Braithwaite and Company Limited situated at Kolkata manufactures only railway wagon at present;

(b) whether this is the reason that all the staff and the officers of the company want its merger with the Railways;

(c) whether Government has received any memorandum in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The core business of M/s. Braithwaite and Company Limited (BCL) situated at Kolkata is manufacturing of Railway wagons, bogies and couplers for Railway wagons. Apart from this, the company is also engaged in fabrication of bridge girders and structural works and entering into crane business and civil construction.

Some of the employees of Braithwaite and Company Limited have sent representation to Ministry of Railway on 16.06.2009 requesting for takeover of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. by Ministry of Railways.

(d) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises proposes to examine the transfer of wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. (BCL) to Ministry of Railways in consultation and with the consent of that Ministry.

The Ministry has requested the Ministry of Railways to consider taking over of the units of Braithwaite and Company Limited.

Literacy among minorities

1092. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take steps to enhance literacy among the minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) One of the National Literacy Goals is to reduce

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

social disparities in literacy. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) has accordingly identified minorities, specially women, as one of its prime focussed groups for literacy.

Recommendation of Yashpal Committee

1093. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yashpal Committee to look into the reforms in higher education in India has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the corruption and nepotism in All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India and University Grants Commission in their functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to scrap the said organisations as per the recommendation of the Committee and instead set up a high powered regulator on the pattern of Election Commission of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The “Committees to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education” constituted by the Government under Prof. Yash Pal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009. The recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and to follow up the Constitutional amendment with an appropriate law for the Commission’s functioning;
- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. Professional bodies like the AICTE, NCTE, MCI, BCI, COA, INC, PCI etc. to be divested of their academic functions, which would be restored to the universities;
- (iii) Curricular reform should be the top most priority of the newly created NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;

- (iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty. While appointing teachers to the universities their affiliation to a particular college should also be specified to emphasize the need for their exposure to undergraduate students;
- (v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;
- (vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and alienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on;
- (vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;
- (viii) New governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;
- (ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in the report within a period of three years failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period of time enriched higher education by their innovations be given recognition and supported appropriately;
- (x) Modern higher education system requires extension facilities, sophisticated equipment and highly specialized knowledge and competent teachers. It would not be possible for every university to possess the best of these infrastructures. Hence, one of the primary tasks of the NCHER should be to create several inter-university centers (IUCs) in diverse fields to create the best of these possibilities and attract the participation of several institutions of higher learning to avail them;
- (xi) Institutions of excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model governance systems for all universities;
- (xii) One of the first tasks of the NCHER should be to identify the best 1,500 colleges across India to upgrade them as universities, and create clusters of other potentially good colleges to evolve as universities;

- (xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;
- (xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;
- (xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice;
- (xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;
- (xvii) Expansion of the higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should be subject to external review once in five years.
- (xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;
- (xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action within a definite time-frame.

(c) and (d) Some complaints have been received against the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) which are being looked into by the vigilance Section of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The information regarding complaints against the Medical Council of India is being collected from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) to (g) The Yash Pal Committee in its Report has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) with constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC). The Committee has further recommended that the status of the Chairperson of the commission should be analogous to that of the Chief Election Commissioner and that of the members should be comparable to the Election Commissioners.

Setting up IITs and Central Universities

1094. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up sixteen new Central Universities and three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) if so, what are these States where Central Universities would be set up;

(c) by when the universities and IITs are expected to be made operational;
and

(d) what is the expected amount of money required for setting up of the universities and IITs separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government had decided to establish sixteen new Central Universities and eight new IITs during the Eleventh Plan period.

(b) Fifteen new Central Universities, including conversion of three erstwhile State Universities, have already been established in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand by enactment of the Central Universities Act, 2009 which came into force on 15.1.2009.

(c) The new Central Universities are expected to start their academic activities from the current academic session itself commencing August-September, 2009. As regards the new IITs, six of them have already started functioning from the academic session 2008-2009 and the remaining two are expected to become functional from the current session 2009-10.

(d) While the financial requirement of fifteen new Universities is estimated at Rs. 3,330 crore to meet the non-recurring as well as the recurring expenditure during the financial years 2008-2009 to 2011-2012, an expenditure of Rs. 760 crore is expected to be incurred on setting up of each new IIT.

Violation of UGC regulations

1095. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has put as many as forty State private universities under scanner after it found several of them having affiliated colleges, off-campus centres and even franchises outside the territorial jurisdiction of their respective States in violation of UGC regulations;

(b) if so, whether deemed university concept needs right direction; and

(c) if so, to what extent the UGC has been able to take action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) All the privately funded State Universities have been

advised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to stop their operations, if any, beyond their territorial jurisdiction as off-campus/study centres/affiliation to colleges and centres operating through franchises which would be violative of the decision of the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prof. Yash Pal Vs. State of Chhattisgarh and others.

(b) and (c) While the privately-funded State Universities are created by State legislatures under State Acts, institutions are declared by the Central Government as 'deemed to be universities' under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and can establish Off-Campus Centres all over India with prior approval of the Central Government. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has commenced reviewing the functioning of existing institutions 'deemed to be universities' via 'on the spot assessment' by its Expert Committees consisting of academic experts in relevant disciplines depending upon the courses being offered by the institutions 'deemed to be universities'.

Provisions for education in Eleventh Plan

†1096. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of provisions proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for primary, secondary, higher education, adult education and informal education with the separate details thereof;

(b) the percentage of provisions more or less in comparison to last Plan;

(c) the separate details of the amount to be fixed for Central Universities, IITs, IIMs, IIITs, and World Class Universities from the proposed allocation for higher education; and

(d) the increase in expenditure due to pay enhancement in consequence of implementation of Sixth Pay Commission, the allocation that will remain for development and whether targets can be achieved from that?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The amount allocated for elementary (primary and upper primary), secondary, higher and adult education during Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan is as under:

(Rs. in crore)			
Sector	Tenth Plan Allocation	Eleventh Plan Allocation	Percentage increase in Eleventh Plan over Tenth Plan
1	2	3	4
Elementary Education	28750	125380	336.10%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
Secondary Education	4325	53550	1138.15%
Adult Education	1250	6000	380.00%
Higher (including Technical and others) Education	9500	84943	794.14%
Total	43825	269873	515.80%

(c) The details of amount allocated for new Central Universities, new IITs, new IIMs, new IIITs and new World Class Universities from the allocation of Rs. 84943 crore for Department of Higher Education are as follows:

Name of the Scheme	Amount proposed within the overall NDC approved allocation for Eleventh Plan (Rs. in crore)
New Central Universities	3000
New World Class Universities	4425
New Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)	3153
New Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)	1114
New Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs)	600

(d) The additional liability arising out of implementation of 6th Pay Commission, will be mainly met from Non-Plan Budget and as such may not have any major impact on the Plan Budget.

New Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan

†1097. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to set up new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the time schedule by which these schools would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Setting up World Class Universities

1098. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has announced that it is going to establish World Class Universities;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any concrete action to establish such Universities after the announcement; and

(c) the probable locations for such World Class Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government is considering a proposal to set up 14 Universities aiming at world class standards at the following locations identified for the purpose:

Sl.No.	Location
1.	Amritsar (Punjab)
2.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)
3.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)
4.	Patna (Bihar)
5.	Guwahati (Assam)
6.	Kolkata (West Bengal)
7.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
8.	Kochi (Kerala)
9.	Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)
10.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
11.	Mysore (Karnataka)
12.	Pune (Maharashtra)
13.	Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
14.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

Spending on education

1099. MS. KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spending on education as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has come down substantially in the fiscal year 2007-08 compared to that of 2002-03, despite a national commitment to provide 6 per cent of GDP for education and to earmark 50 per cent of budgetary allocations for primary education out of that;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government has taken or proposes to take to increase the spending on education to the committed level of 6 per cent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Though Expenditure on education by education and other departments as percentage of GDP has come down slightly from 3.78 in 2002-03 to 3.64 (Provisional) in 2007-08, expenditure on education by education department only as percentage of GDP has increased during the same period from 3.03 in 2002-03 to 3.05 (Provisional) in 2007-08.

(c) During Eleventh Five Year Plan, Ministry of Human Resource Development has been allocated Rs.2,69,873 crore (Rs.1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education and Literacy and Rs.84,943 crore for the Department of Higher Education) which constitutes 19.4% of the total Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation, as compared to 7.7% in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of spending 6% of GDP for education. Overall progress towards this goal would however, also depend on the efforts made by the States.

Inquiry of deemed universities

†1100. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the deemed universities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would get the matter inquired through an independent agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are no irregularities in according sanction and providing grants to the Deemed Universities. All the grants are being released as per UGC guidelines/norms. The Government have already constituted a Committee of eminent academics, independent of the UGC, to review the functioning of institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Setting up new colleges

1101. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new colleges in 2009-10 in educationally backward districts;

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

(c) whether such minority populated districts have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government has any plan to set up new colleges in Amroha, Moradabad, Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh which are minority concentrated and educationally backward; and

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

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

Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh figures in the list of identified educationally backward districts.

Criteria for recognition of private colleges

1102. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently criticised education regulators for the casual manner of giving recognition to private professional colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to cleanse the education system, Government purposes to lay down fresh criteria for the recognition of private colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promoting vocational courses

1103. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether Government has drawn any policy for promotion of vocational courses in secondary schools to tackle problem of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary allocations in Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans for vocational education in schools in Rajasthan and its utilisation;

(d) the total sanctioned and filled-in strength of vocational educational teachers, in different categories in Rajasthan;

(e) the number of students who have taken vocational education in Tenth Five Year Plan in Rajasthan; and

(f) how is overall vocational education scenario in Rajasthan and how does it compare with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in 1988. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to impart vocational education in Government and Government aided higher secondary schools to enhance employability.

(c) to (f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, no grant has been released to the State Government of Rajasthan during Tenth and Eleventh Plan period. Government of Rajasthan has discontinued implementation of the scheme since 1999-2000.

Constitution of Yashpal Committee

1104. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. (Retd.) Yashpal for examining the prevailing higher education system and render suggestion for reforms thereof;

(b) if so, the background of culmination of the committee;

(c) the details about the constitution of the committee, including its constituents, and terms of reference thereof;

(d) whether the committee has since submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(f) whether Government is contemplating to implement the same;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating time-frame proposed, if any, for implementation; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (h) A Committee to “Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education” was constituted by the Government on 28th February, 2008, under Prof. Yash Pal with members is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The terms of reference of the Committee are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). The Committee submitted its Report, the recommendations of which are given in the Statement-III (*See below*). While the other recommendations are under consideration of the Government, establishing an over-arching regulatory authority for over-seeing higher education in all its dimensions has been accorded a priority.

Statement-I

*List of Members of Committee to advise on renovation and rejuvenation
of Higher Education*

1. Prof. Yash Pal,
Chairman,
UGC/AICTE Review Committee,
11-B, Super Deluxe Flats,
Sector-15A, NOIDA — 201301.
2. Prof. (Dr.) N.R. Madhava Menon,
Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations,
Government of India
Vigyan Bhawan Annexe,
Maulana Azad Road,
New Delhi — 11.
3. Prof. Pulin B. Nayak
Deptt. of Economics,
Delhi School of Economics,
Delhi University,
Delhi — 110 007.
4. Prof. L.M. Patnaik,
Vice Chancellor,
Defence Institute of Advanced Technology,
Girinagar, Pune.
5. Prof. Kaushik Basu,
C. Marks Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics and
Director Centre for Analytic Economics, Deptt. of Economics,
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York — 14853.
6. Shri S.V. Giri,
A/2, West Prasanthi — 1,
Prasanthi Neelayam,
Ananthapur Distt. (A.P.).
7. Prof. G.K. Chadha,
(Former V.C. JNC)
Member Economics Advisory Council in the PM
Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.
8. Dr. (Smt.) Malini Bhattacharya,
Member, National Commission for Women,
4, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi.

9. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta,
Chairman, National Assessment and Accreditation Council,
P.O. Box 1075, Nagarbhavi Circle,
Opp. To NSSIU, Bangalore — 560 072.
10. Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat,
Chairman,
University Grants Commission,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi — 110 002.
11. Prof. R.A. Yadav,
Chairman,
All India Council For Technical Education,
Chandralok Building, 7th floor,
Janpath, New Delhi.
12. Prof. Vijay Khole,
Vice Chancellor,
University of Mumbai,
M.G. Road, Fort Mumbai — 400 032.
13. Shri K. Ganesan,
Secretary, Higher Education
Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St. George,
Chennai — 600 009.
14. Dr. Ramdas M. Pai,
Chancellor, Manipal University,
Madhav Nagar, Manipal — 576 104,
Udupi District, Karnataka State.
15. Prof. M. Ananda Krishnan,
Former Vice-Chancellor,
Anna University, 8/15,
V Main Road, Madan Apartments,
IInd Floor, Kasturibhai Nagar,
Adyar, Chennai — 600 020.
16. Prof. M.S. Ananth
Director, IIT, Madras,
Chennai — 600 036.
17. Shri Pankaj Chandra,
Director, I.I.M. Bangalore,
Bannerghatta Road,
Bangalore — 560 076.

18. Prof. Mushirul Hasan,
Vice Chancellor,
Jamia Millia Islamia,
J/139, Uttrakhand,
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
New Delhi — 67.
19. Dr. Subas Chandra Pani,
Secretary, Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi — 1.
20. Smt. Sushma Nath,
Secretary (Expenditure), Department of Expenditure,
North Block, New Delhi — 110 001.
21. Shri R.P. Agarwal,
Education Secretary,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Deptt. of Higher Education,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi — 110 001.
22. Shri Sunil Kumar,
Joint Secretary (Hr. Edn.) and Member Secretary to the Committee,
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi — 110 001.
23. Dr. Krishna Kumar,
Director, NCERT,
Shri Aurobindo Marg,
New Delhi — 110 016.
24. Dr. Kiran Karnik,
Former President, NASSCOM
Q2A Haus Khas Enclave
New Delhi-21

Statement-II

*The terms of reference of the Committee to advise on Renovation and
Rejuvenation of Higher Education.*

- (a) To review the functioning of the UGC/AICTE and to critically assess the role of the UGC/AICTE and their preparedness to provide institutional leadership to the emerging demands of access, equity, relevant and quality of higher education/technical education and the university system.
- (b) To review the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 and various suggestions for

amendments to the said Acts by earlier Committees such as the Prof. Amreek Singh Committee.

- (c) The role of UGC in coordinating standards of higher education *vis-a-vis* the functional role of other statutory bodies such as AICTE, MCI, DCI, NCI, NCTE, DEC, etc.
- (d) An assessment of the requirements of autonomy of the UGC *vis-a-vis* the Central Government and that of the university system *vis-a-vis* the UGC.
- (e) The role of the UGC/AICTE in determining and enforcing standards of higher education/technical education in State Universities and the possibility of introducing a system of incentives and disincentives so that national standards of higher education/technical education not compromised or diluted.
- (f) Recommendations in regard to an effective and efficient mechanism for flow of resources from the UGC to the universities for their timely utilization including a mechanism of feedback thereto.
- (g) The requirement of transparency and efficiency in the functioning of the UGC/AICTE.
- (h) The role of the UGC *vis-a-vis* declaration of institutions to be deemed universities and recommendations for streamlining the process adopted by the UGC.
- (i) Recommendations about the need to change the eligibility criteria for becoming eligible to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act 1956.
- (j) Any other issue arising out of or relating to the above terms of reference and, the functioning of the UGC/AICTE which the Government or the Committee on its own, may desire to look into.

Statement-III

The recommendations of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education.

- (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and to follow up the Constitutional amendment with an appropriate law for the Commission's functioning;
- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. Professional bodies like the AICTE, NCTE, MCI, BCI, COA, INC, PCI etc. to be divested of their academic functions, which would be restored to the universities;

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

scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model governance systems for all universities;

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

Objectives of Operation Black Board

1105. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) the latest status of Operation Black Board scheme;
- (b) whether Government has discontinued the said scheme or it has been clubbed with any other scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has achieved the target of the Operation Black Board scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof and total amount provided by Government for the scheme, State-wise and the amount utilized out of it; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The Plan scheme of 'Operation Black Board' (OBB) ended in the year 2001-02.

The OBB scheme had three interdependent components, namely provision of (i) a building comprising two all weather rooms with separate toilets for boys and girls, (ii) two teachers in every school, (iii) essential teaching learning material. Funds for construction of school buildings were provided mainly from rural development schemes. Funds for other components were provided by the Department of Education. The State- wise funds released and utilized is at Statement.

Statement

*State-wise funds released and utilized under the scheme of operation
black board from 1987-88 to 2001-02*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Funds Released	Funds Utilised
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36717.02	31104.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1002.12	1002.12
3.	Assam	17364.43	14671.44
4.	Bihar	21300.54	16153.88
5.	Goa	274.51	274.51
6.	Gujarat	9682.98	9654.50
7.	Haryana	1316.64	856.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4980.73	4980.73
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6237.89	6090.47
10.	Karnataka	57665.41	56879.43
11.	Kerala	1691.89	1691.89
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33554.21	32461.71
13.	Maharashtra	33182.01	32833.95
14.	Manipur	457.00	276.80
15.	Meghalaya	2730.32	2725.52

1	2	3	4
16.	Mizoram	861.12	861.12
17.	Nagaland	324.11	324.11
18.	Orissa	25950.96	21757.38
19.	Punjab	7219.24	7218.96
20.	Rajasthan	26000.91	25616.70
21.	Sikkim	124.66	124.10
22.	Tamil Nadu	10011.44	9176.66
23.	Tripura	1393.32	1393.32
24.	Uttar Pradesh	40813.40	40813.40
25.	West Bengal	11059.08	10803.08
26.	A. & N. Islands	30.09	12.09
27.	Chandigarh	1.17	1.17
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36.46	17.96
29.	Delhi	427.83	373.84
30.	Daman and Diu	21.44	19.68
31.	Lakshadweep	2.48	2.47
32.	Pondicherry	178.12	177.77
33.	Uttanchal	2566.34	2566.34
34.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
35.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		355179.87	332918.44

Acceptance of Yashpal Committee recommendations

1106. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that Yashpal Committee has made certain recommendations regarding higher education;

(b) if so, the details of these recommendations;

(c) whether Government has accepted those recommendations;

(d) if so, whether recommendations made by Knowledge Commission will also be taken into consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Committee to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009. The recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and to follow up the Constitutional amendment with an appropriate law for the Commission's functioning;
- (ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. Professional bodies like the AICTE, NCTE, MCI, BCI, COA, INC, PCI etc. to be divested of their academic functions, which would be restored to the universities;
- (iii) Curricular reform should be the topmost priority of the newly created NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;
- (iv) It should be mandatory for all universities to have a rich undergraduate programme and undergraduate students must get opportunities to interact with the best faculty. While appointing teachers to the universities their affiliation to a particular college should also be specified to emphasize the need for their exposure to undergraduate students;
- (v) Undergraduate programs should be restructured to enable students to have opportunities to access all curricular areas with fair degree of mobility. Normally, no single discipline or specialized university should be created;
- (vi) The vocational education sector is at present outside the purview of universities and colleges, and alienation of this sector can be overcome by bringing it under the purview of universities and by providing necessary accreditation to the courses available in polytechnics, industrial training institutions, and so on;
- (vii) The NCHER should also galvanize research in the university system through the creation of a National Research Foundation;
- (viii) New governing structures should be evolved to enable the universities to preserve their autonomy in a transparent and accountable manner;

- (ix) Practice of according status of deemed university be stopped forthwith till the NCHER takes a considered view on it. It would be mandatory for all existing deemed universities to submit to the new accreditation norms to be framed on the lines proposed in this report within a period of three years failing which the status of university should be withdrawn. However, unique educational initiatives which have over a period of time enriched higher education by their innovations be given recognition and supported appropriately;
- (x) Modern higher education system requires extension facilities, sophisticated equipment and highly specialized knowledge and competent teachers. It would not be possible for every university to possess the best of these infrastructures. Hence, one of the primary tasks of the NCHER should be to create several inter-university centers (IUCs) in diverse fields to create the best of these possibilities and attract the participation of several institutions of higher learning to avail them;
- (xi) Institutions of excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace-setting and model governance systems for all universities;
- (xii) One of the first tasks of the NCHER should be to identify the best 1,500 colleges across India to upgrade them as universities, and create clusters of other potentially good colleges to evolve as universities;
- (xiii) Universities should establish live relationship with the real world outside and develop capacities to respond to the challenges faced by rural and urban economies and culture;
- (xiv) All levels of teacher education should be brought under the purview of higher education;
- (xv) A national testing scheme for admission to the universities on the pattern of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be evolved which would be open to all the aspirants of University education, to be held more than once a year. Students would be permitted to send their best test score to the university of their choice;
- (xvi) Quantum of Central financial support to State-funded universities should be enhanced substantially on an incentive pattern, keeping in view the needs for their growth;
- (xvii) Expansion of the higher education system should be evaluated and assessed continuously to excel and to respond to the needs of different regions in India in order to ensure not only equity and access but also quality and opportunity of

growth along academic vertical. The NCHER too should be subject to external review once in five years.

(xviii) A National Education Tribunal should be established with powers to adjudicate on disputes among stake-holders within institutions and between institutions so as to reduce litigation in courts involving universities and higher education institutions;

(xix) A Task Force should be set up to follow up on the implementation of the recommended Agenda for Action within a definite time-frame.

(c) The report is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Mandate of AICTE

1107. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

(a) the mandate of the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE);

(b) whether it is a fact that a vast variety of disciplines is covered by the AICTE;

(c) whether the AICTE have expertise to determine, monitor and evaluate the standards of higher educational institutions teaching such vast spectrum of discipline;

(d) whether it is also a fact that certain such disciplines covered under AICTE are also governed by the statutory autonomous councils; and

(e) if so, whether Government would consider withdrawing such disciplines from the purview of AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Section 10 of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, "it shall be the duty of the Council to take all such steps as it may think fit for ensuring coordinated and integrated development of technical education and maintenance of standards and for the purposes of performing its functions under this Act." The disciplines covered by the AICTE are laid down in the AICTE Act and include programmes in the field of Engineering, Technology including MCA, Architecture, Town Planning, Management, Pharmacy, Hotel management and Catering Technology, Applied Arts and Crafts and such other programmes and areas as notified by the Council from time to time.

(c) The Council has constituted ten Boards of Studies which advice the Executive Committee of the AICTE on academic matters falling in their area of concern including norms, standards, model curricula and structure of courses. The Council has also constituted eight

Regional Committees which will advise and assist the Council to look into all aspects of planning, promoting and regulating technical education within its region. Apart from the above the Council also engages the services of faculty members of repute from technical institutions, Universities and institutions of higher learning as members of the Committees to assist the Council in implementation of the mandate under the AICTE Act.

(d) and (e) The AICTE Act mandates the AICTE to regulate technical and management education in the country. Other statutory autonomous bodies, such as, the Council of Architecture and the Pharmacy Council of India regulate the profession of architects and pharmacists respectively. At present there is no proposal to withdraw these disciplines from the preview of AICTE.

Prioritisation of recommendations of Yashpal Committee

†1108. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether Government has received the report of Prof. Yashpal Committee;
- (b) if so, whether Government has also included the recommendations of this committee in the works taken up by his Ministry on priority basis within hundred days;
- (c) if so, the recommendations of the committee that will be implemented within the duration of 100 days; and
- (d) the reaction of Government with regard to the situation emerged due to the rights entrusted to the universities based upon the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities. The other recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

(d) While the recommendation of the Committee in regard to self regulation by Universities has to be examined in all its details, the same is broadly in line with Government's commitment to autonomy for universities.

Contribution of State Governments in education

1109. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Union Government has blamed the State Governments for their failure to increase public spending on education to 6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government's expenditure on the education sector has increased while the expenditure by the States has declined;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take any effective steps to ensure increase in spending by the States on education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) While public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP by Central Government has increased from 0.67% in 2001-02 to 0.91% (Provisional) in 2007-08, the share of States has declined during this period from 3.13% in 2001-02 to 2.73% (Provisional) in 2007-08.

(c) to (e) Expenditure on education in absolute terms has increased over the years by centre as well as States. During Eleventh Plan also, an allocation of Rs.2,69,873 crore has been provided to Ministry of Human Resource Development, which is 4.6 fold increase over Tenth Plan expenditure of Rs.58817 crore. This substantial increase in central plan outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of spending 6% of GDP for education. Overall progress towards this goal would however, also depend on the efforts made by the States. A number of schemes have been initiated by Centre during Eleventh Plan to incentivise expenditure by States such as (i) Setting up of 374 new model degree colleges (ii) Incentivising State Governments for expansion, inclusion and excellence (iii) Special assistance to upgrade institutions which could not get assistance under section 12B of UGC Act, due to not being eligible due to poor infrastructure (iv) National Mission in Education through ICT etc.

Distance mode of education by open/deemed universities

1110. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the open universities and deemed universities are conducting distance mode of education by setting up out of the campus centres;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that some universities got post-facto approval from Distance Education Council (DEC) without having proper permission from the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other concerned bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action that has been contemplated or proposed to be contemplated by his Ministry on such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Open Universities and Deemed Universities as well as other dual mode Universities which are offering distance education programmes, are conducting distance mode of education through out of the campus centres. In the distance mode of education, in order that the students do not have to come to the University campus for attending classes, study centres are established at various locations within the jurisdiction of the University, where students can attend contact classes and clarify their doubts after going through the self study materials.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Chairpersons of University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) was convened last year with Secretary, Department of Higher Education, wherein it was decided that the approval granted by DEC (including ex-post approval) must be reviewed. The University Grants Commission has conveyed to the Vice-Chancellors of 18 deemed Universities that the approval should be granted by DEC to courses and not to the Institutes, and DEC was also requested to give approval strictly as per the provisions contained in the MoU signed between UGC, AICTE and DEC. The relevant clause of the MoU states that "The letter of approval may be issued by the Joint Committee. The letter should explicitly state that this has the approval of UGC, AICTE and DEC. The letter should be jointly signed by Secretary, UGC, Member Secretary, AICTE and Director, DEC".

Control of UGC over State Universities

1111. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the details of the universities set up by the enactment of State Legislatures during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has provided any guidelines to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the control exercised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on such institutions;

(e) whether the UGC can withdraw its recognition from such private universities; and

(f) if so, under what conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) At Statement is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) and (c) State Legislatures are competent to enact laws for establishing Universities with jurisdiction within the State and such State Universities could be without funding by the State Exchequer, *i.e.* private University. The State Governments were requested to keep the directives of the Supreme Court in the matter of Prof. Yash Pal and another versus the State of Chhattisgarh and others in view, while setting up any Private University in the State and any failure to do so would be considered as a violation of the Orders of the Apex Court.

(d) to (f) Under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the mandate of the University Grants Commission (UGC) is to coordinate, determine and maintain the standards of university education and also to provide grants to those universities which fulfill the prescribed standards. Besides, the UGC also regulates the privately funded State Universities through the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which includes provisions for consequences of violations of the regulations by such universities.

Statement

Number of State Universities set up during the period from 30.6.2006 to 1.7.2009

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Universities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	07
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	01
4.	Chhattisgarh	02
5.	Gujarat	03
6.	Haryana	03
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01
8.	Meghalaya	01
9.	Nagaland	01
10.	Rajasthan	12
11.	Punjab	02
12.	Tamil Nadu	05
13.	Uttar Pradesh	04
14.	Uttarakhand	01
15.	West Bengal	03
16.	NCT or Delhi	01
TOTAL		48

Revival of IEDC

1112. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

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

(a) whether Government has replaced the Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) scheme with new scheme viz. Inclusive Education of the Disabled of the Secondary Stage (IEDSS) and stopped giving grants *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2009 for the IEDC;

(b) whether Government is aware that this will lead to non-coverage of many disabled children as the new scheme IEDSS covers courses of only age group 14-16 and not age group 6-18, which was covered under the IEDC;

(c) whether the closure of IEDC will do a gross injustice to substantial number of deserving disabled children; and

(d) whether Government will consider revival of the IEDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) covering disabled children from the age group of 6-18 years has been replaced with a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS). Assistance is being provided under IEDSS from 1st April, 2009

(b) and (c) The Scheme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" provides for the inclusive education of disabled children at the elementary level (6-14 years). IEDSS is meant to cater to the disabled children for their schooling at the secondary stage (classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Vacant posts in Central Universities

†1113. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

(a) the number of posts of the lecturers sanctioned for the universities and colleges of the country and the number of the posts lying vacant out of these;

(b) the vacancies of posts in the Central Universities, Subject-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the shortage of lecturers is the reason for the decline in Higher Education in the country; and

(d) if so, whether Government has formulated any plan to fill these vacancies at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While the subject-wise information is not maintained centrally, a total of 1812 posts of Lecturer against the sanctioned strength of 5507 posts in respect of 19 Central Universities were lying vacant as on 31st March, 2009, as per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Further, as per the available data pertaining to 31st August, 2008 in respect of 8 more Central Universities, 307 posts of Lecturer against the sanctioned strength of 1365 posts were lying vacant. 126 posts of Lecturers — 9 in respect of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya and 117 in respect of newly established eleven Central Universities (other than Central University of Himachal Pradesh) have been sanctioned by the UGC only on 25th June, 2009.

Each Central University is governed by its individual Act of Parliament and the Statutes made thereunder. In terms of the relevant Statutes, the appointments to the teaching posts in a University are made by its Executive Council/Board of Management on the recommendations of a Selection Committee constituted in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes. The Selection Committee includes, *inter-alia*, a nominee of the Visitor. In view of the foregoing, this Ministry's role is limited to providing the Visitor's nominees to the Selection Committees. The Government/UGC have, however, taken various measures to attract bright young people to adopt teaching in higher education as a career, such as enhancing rates of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships by about 50%; disbursement of grant for presentation of research papers in international fora/conferences; permitting the Universities to engage adjunct/guest faculty to meet the shortfall; allowing contractual appointments for Faculty; and allowing consultancy charges to be shared by the Faculty.

Setting up Higher Education Commission

1114. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to form a statutory body called Higher Education Commission subsuming bodies like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Distance Education Council;
- (b) if so, the details of proposed Commission;
- (c) whether medical education will also be part of proposed commission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The "Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education" (Yash Pal Committee) has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) with

constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC). It has also been recommended that the other regulatory bodies in professional education such as the Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Bar Council of India (BCI) etc. should be divested of their academic functions and the universities be made responsible for the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. It has been further recommended that the proposed NCHER may have a seven member board with a full time chairperson.

Universities set up by State Legislation

1115. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

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

(a) the details of the Universities set up by the enactment of State Legislature during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) how many of them are private universities;

(c) whether the Union Government has prescribed any norms regarding financial standing, academic standards, selection of Vice-Chancellors and faculty, composition of Governing bodies and academic bodies of these Universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the available information, the number of State Universities set up during the period from 30.6.2006 to 1.7.2009, is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of State Universities (including Private Universities)	No. of Private Universities
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	07	—
2.	Assam	01	—
3.	Bihar	01	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	02	02
5.	Gujarat	03	02
6.	Haryana	03	—

1	2	3	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01	01
8.	Meghalaya	01	01
9.	Nagaland	01	01
10.	Rajasthan	12	11
11.	Punjab	02	01
12.	Tamil Nadu	05	—
13.	Uttar Pradesh	04	04
14.	Uttarakhand	01	—
15.	West Bengal	03	—
16.	NCT of Delhi	01	—
TOTAL		48	23

(c) to (e) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed regulations, namely, the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which provides, *inter-alia*, that a private university shall fulfill the minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructure facilities, financial viability etc. as laid down by UGC and other concerned statutory bodies. The programme of study leading to a degree and/or a post graduate degree/diploma offered by a private university should conform to the relevant regulations/norms of the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies.

Indian students going abroad

1116. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether a large number of Indian students are going abroad for studies every year causing a huge outflow of capital from the country;

(b) if so, the exact number of Indian students allowed to go abroad for studies in the past three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has any plan to upgrade the Indian Universities and faculties at par with the International ranking and to check outflow of capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No separate information is available in respect of

Indian students pursuing higher education abroad. There are no restrictions on cross-border students' mobility and such mobility can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans, exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies, inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation etc. Another reason could be the interest among students to join some of the universities in the world which have a long history of education and research spread over centuries.

(c) and (d) Upgrading the quality of Indian higher educational institutions and faculty is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system, faculty improvement programme and other reforms are also being implemented in the Eleventh Plan for improving the quality of higher educational institutes and faculty.

Vacant reserved seats in IITs

1117. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that as admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) closed on 24 June, 2009, there were not enough qualified candidates to fill up reserved seats on offer for SC & ST, OBC and physically challenged and about 50 per cent of the seats remained vacant;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that some of such vacant seats were transferred to general category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The details of reserved seats, category-wise, in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in 2009 are as follows:-

Category	Available seats
1	2
Other Backward Castes (OBCs)	1546

1	2
Scheduled Castes (SCs)	1265
Scheduled Tribes (STs)	659
Physically Challenged	251

Of the above, 337 seats for SCs, 458 seats for STs and 207 seats for Physically Challenged are being allotted to students in respective categories who will join a preparatory course of one-year's duration. After completion of the course, they will join the first year programme in IITs. This is a standard practice for many years and the results of this year are similar to the results of previous years.

(c) and (d) 53 out of a total of 1546 seats meant for OBC category could not be filled up with OBC candidates and were converted to general category as per a decision of the Supreme Court.

Quality of food served under MDMS

1118. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) the students have been served adulterated or highly contaminated food in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents which came to the notice of Government in the last one year;

(c) whether NGOs appointed by Government to run the mid-day kitchens across the country are not providing safe meals to students; and

(d) if so, action contemplated by Government in this regard to ensure distribution of safe meals to students under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Certain cases of serving adulterated/contaminated food under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme have come to the notice of the Government during the year 2008-09. The details of such cases are as under:-

1. The newspapers Punjab Kesari, Dainik Bhaskar, Amar Ujala and Navabharat Times on 23.7.2008 reported incident of worms being found in mid-day meal served to children under the MDM Scheme in MCD Primary School, Mukund Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi. An inquiry conducted by the Government of NCT of Delhi revealed that an insect was found in the container of rice supplied by the NGO entrusted with responsibility of

providing mid-day meal in the School. The distribution of rice was stopped and no child fell sick. The NGO had been warned to be careful in future by the Zonal Authorities. An explanation had been called from the concerned school in-charge on the matter for not performing his duties.

2. In Bisur School in Sangli District, Miraj Taluka, Maharashtra, 60 children food poisoned. The State Government has appointed flying squads, Vigilance squads to check quality of Mid-Day Meal.
3. The Bihar Government has reported that in Girls Primary School, Khajbatta a frog was found in the mid-day meal on 25.9.2008. However, no child was reported to be serious ill after the incident.

(c) and (d) No Sir. As and when any instance of supply of sub-standard mid-day meal by NGO comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State/UT Government is asked to inquire into the matter and take strict action against the errant NGO, as also to take appropriate remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such incident in future. Govt. of India does not engage any NGO for preparing and serving mid-day meal to students as overall responsibility of implementing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme lies with the States/UTs.

Semester system in universities

1119. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to introduce the semester system in Universities and allow students enrolled in a programme to earn credits by opting for selective course within the University or even at other Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed reforms will reinvigorate our academic institutions and provide opportunities to our students to learn faster and have the ability to accommodate the diverse interests of students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has suggested from time to time to introduce semester system along with choice based credit system in Universities. However, universities have academic autonomy to consider the suggestion for implementation according to their requirements and perceptions. The proposed academic reforms, including reforms in examination and assessment procedures, admission process and curriculum development, would, if implemented, reinvigorate our academic institutions. The Central Universities Act, 2009 [25 of 2009] establishing new Central Universities provides for academic reforms, including

semester system and choice based credit system in section 6 thereof. The Government have accorded a high priority to extending academic reforms to other Central Universities also.

Academic opportunities for SC/ST pupil

1120. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the SC/ST pupil after passing Tenth class are not getting good academic opportunities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the exact reasons for such position; and
- (d) the steps being taken to encourage and creating awareness among the SC/ST pupil through AIR and TV even in remote and agency areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Various steps have already been taken by the Government to encourage the SC/ST pupils as well as for creating awareness about various opportunities available to them through AIR and TV all over India, including Andhra Pradesh. News Service Division of All India Radio has been giving coverage on the issues affecting the common man and how the various schemes of the Central government provide opportunities for the development of SCs/STs, OBCs, Minorities, etc. Development Communication Division (DCD) of Doordarshan has produced programmes on various subjects, including education. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been imparting its educational programmes through various Gyan Darshan channel and Gyan Vani FM Radio Station. It covers whole of India, including Andhra Pradesh. Further, Society for Andhra Pradesh Network (SAPNET), have provided connectivity to selected state-run educational institutions and a large number of first generation learners at the institutions are getting benefitted from the programmes.

Circulars issued by UGC regarding admission in unapproved colleges/centres

1121. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued circular cautioning students and advised them not to take admission in the unapproved off campus, off shore campus, new developed study centre, colleges and institutions affiliated to deemed universities;
- (b) if so, what are the reasons of issuing such circulars; and
- (c) what is the reason that on the one hand Ministry is recognizing the deemed university and other hand issuing such a circular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Institutions are declared as “deemed to be universities” by the Central Government on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Activities of such “deemed to be universities” are subject to prescribed guidelines. UGC has refrained all the deemed universities from opening any new department/institution/off campus centre/off shore campus without the approval of the UGC/Ministry of Human Resource Development. Further, the institutions ‘deemed to be universities’ have been informed that they should not conduct any course under distance mode without the specific approval of the Joint Committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC. UGC has also put the list of institutions ‘deemed to be universities’ and their approved ‘off-campus’ on its website and have cautioned the parents/students to be careful before taking admission in any unauthorized ‘off-campus’ etc.

As per information gathered from UGC, some of the deemed universities have violated the UGC guidelines and established new departments/new institutions/off campus/study centres without the approval of the UGC. The UGC has accordingly sought explanation from these institutions for further action.

Appointment of Principals in colleges

1122. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about 80 per cent of the colleges affiliated to State Universities have not appointed qualified Principals causing thereby drift in standard of higher education;

(b) if so, what steps would be taken to put the educational house in order; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government may not share the responsibility alongwith the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Appointment to the posts of Principals of colleges falls within the purview of the concerned State Governments. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prescribed eligibility conditions for appointment of Principals and has been reiterating the need for appointing regular qualified Principals by the State Governments. The pay structure of teachers and principals in Central Universities and Colleges thereunder have since been revised by Central Government and higher academic standards have been prescribed. Benefits of pay revision are linked to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

Financial assistance for vocational courses

1123. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme undertaken by his Ministry to give financial assistance for vocational courses in catering technology;

- (b) if so, the guidelines for the financial assistance;
- (c) how many States have received such assistance;
- (d) whether any proposal for financial assistance from the State Government of Kerala has been received; and
- (e) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, envisaged financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for offering various vocational courses in their schools at higher secondary stage including courses on Hotel Management and Catering Technology. However, no assistance has been given to any State/UT since 2007-08. No proposal for financial assistance has been received from the State Government of Kerala during 2008-09.

Establishment of model schools

†1124. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to establish model schools in States by Government;
- (b) if so, the number of proposed schools, State-wise and the basis on which this number has been determined; and
- (c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme envisages setting up of 6000 model schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block. The first phase of the scheme to set up 2500 schools by the State Governments in educationally backward blocks was launched in November, 2008.

Guidelines regarding refund of fees

1125. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the guidelines issued by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) regarding refund of fees to candidates withdrawing from the courses run by the technical institutions approved by it;
- (b) whether Government is aware that large number of colleges refuse to refund fees and confiscate it when students seek withdrawal from the courses run by them; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken for preventing such commercialization of education system?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued Public Notices from time to time (24.04.2007, 14.03.2008 and 18.06.2009), laying down the guidelines for refund of fees to candidates withdrawing from the courses run by the technical institutions approved by it. A copy of the Public Notice issued on 18.06.2009 is placed in the statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) As per information given by the AICTE, 1456 representations/complaints relating to non-refund of fees and/or non-return of original certificates have been received by them (as on June, 2009). Out of these, 656 representations were not related to AICTE and have been forwarded to the concerned organisations. Notices have been issued to the remaining 800 institutions. Out of these, 569 institutions have already complied with the requirements of the Notice. Reminders are being issued by the AICTE in the remaining cases. Non-compliance with the Public Notice is kept in view while granting extension of approvals/increase in intake by the Council so that action can be taken through reduction in intake or by not extending the approvals.

Statement

All India Council for Technical Education

(A Statutory Body of the Government of India)

7th Floor Chanderlok Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

Ph. : 011-23724151-57 Website : www.aicte.

Advt. No. : DPG/06/(02)/2009

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention to AICTE Approved Technical Institutions, regarding matters concerning charging of fees, refund of fees and other students related issues

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been empowered *inter-alia* under section 10 (n) of AICTE act to “take all necessary steps to prevent commercialization of technical education”, In compliance with the provisions under AICTE Act and in the light of directions of Govt. of India issued under section 20(1) of AICTE Act *vide* letter No. (U.1 (A) Section), it has been decided to issue instructions to the AICTE approved Technical Institutions, in the matters concerning students.

Whereas it has come to the notice of the AICTE that AICTE approved Technical Institutions are admitting students to technical education programmes long before the actual starting of an academic session; collecting full fee from the admitted students; and retaining their school/institution’s leaving certificates in original; and

Whereas, Institutions are also reportedly confiscating the fee paid if a student fails to join by such dates; and

Whereas certificates in original are being detained by institutions to force retention of admitted students; and

Whereas the time limit for students to join the course/programmes is also being advanced in some cases unrealistically so as to pre-empt students/candidates from exercising other options of joining other institutions of their choice.

In the event of a student/candidate withdrawing before the starting of the courses, the wait listed candidates should be given admission against the vacant seat. The entire fee collected from the student, after a deduction of the processing fee of not more than Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand only), shall be refunded and returned by the Institution to the student/candidate withdrawing from the programme. It would not be permissible for institutions to retain the School/Institution Leaving Certificate in original. Should a student leave after joining the course and if the seat consequently falling vacant has been filled by another candidate by the last date of admission, the institution must return the fee collected with proportionate deductions of monthly fee and proportionate hostel rent, wherever applicable.

Any violation of instructions issued by the AICTE, shall call for punitive action including withdrawal of approval and recognition of erring institutions. AICTE shall on its own or on receipt of specific complaints from those affected shall take all such steps as may be necessary to enforce these directions.

Aggrieved parents/students are advised to contact/communicate in this regard to Deputy Director (Public Grievances), AICTE.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Promotion of Sanskrit

†1126. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the current education system, the worst sufferers are Indian languages among which Sanskrit language has suffered most that makes us acquainted with the age old antiquity and Indianness and has become obsolete;

(b) if so, whether Government is making any concrete and effective plan for the promotion of Sanskrit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government of India is giving full impetus for development of Indian languages both in schools and universities. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development offers 32 languages, of which 20 are Indian languages including Sanskrit. The Board offers a course of communicative Sanskrit at Secondary level and two courses named as Sanskrit Core and Sanskrit Elective at the Senior Secondary level. About 3519 schools offer Sanskrit at Secondary level and 767 schools at Senior Secondary level. For promotion of Sanskrit, Government has set up institutions like Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan (MSRVVP) at Ujjain for preservation, conservation and development of oral tradition of Vedic studies and study of Vedas through Pathshalas and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSKS), for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

creation and promotion of research facilities and infrastructure for modernizing Sanskrit teaching. The Central Government has also allocated Rs. 17.500 lakh and Rs.4,500 lakh respectively to RSKS and MSRVVP for the Eleventh Plan period, for implementing various schemes for promotion of Sanskrit. In the Eleventh Plan, University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated Rs. 966.5 lakh and Rs. 1,162.5 lakh respectively to Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi for promotion of Sanskrit. A Presidential Award Scheme is also in place to honour eminent Sanskrit scholars under which there are 16 Certificates of Honour and 5 Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for young scholars-total 21 awards annually. UGC also offers Veda Vyas National Sanskrit Award to promote quality teaching/research in Sanskrit.

Map in Government schools

†1127. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the map of the country which is being taught in Government schools of Himachal Pradesh, does not mention Union Territory Delhi and nation's capital New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any action against the State Government and concerned officers for this blunder; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that political map of India in History and Social Sciences textbooks taught in Government schools in the State from Classes I to XII show Capital of India as Delhi/New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Facilities for Municipal Council run schools

1128. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation run primary schools are most neglected and badly managed;

(b) whether Government is serious enough to provide them with infrastructural facilities, trained teachers and proper management for quality education; and

(c) if so, what efforts are being made to raise their standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Under norms for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme infrastructure facilities in the shape of construction of buildings,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

additional classrooms, teacher supports and other programme support is provided to new schools established under SSA programme including that by Municipal Corporation/Councils based on the Annual Works Plan and Budget of the State/UT concerned. Various quality interventions of SSA e.g. free text-books, training of teachers and Learning Enhancement programmes are also extended in such schools.

Vacant posts in schools

†1129. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts in different categories in Government, Central and Navodaya schools in the country have been lying vacant for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for these posts lying vacant;

(c) whether Government has any plan to fill these posts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The details of vacancy position of different category of posts in the three school systems under this Ministry viz. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) during the last three years are given in the Statement (See below). The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not centrally collect and maintain data in respect of schools run by State Government/UT Administration and other Ministries. Retirement, death, resignation, termination from services of employees, opening of new schools and up-gradation of existing schools, etc. are amongst the main reasons for these vacancies. Recruitment of staff to fill up vacancies is a continuous process.

Statement

The details of vacancies of different categories of post in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) during the last three years

Name of Post	Year-wise vacancy position		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)			
Principal	112	32	83
Vice Principal	47	37	22

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
Head Master	123	143	117
Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs)	1541	1019	298
Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs)	1404	1271	545
Primary Teachers (PRTs)	2058	1322	391
Misc. Teachers	747	306	363
Non-Teaching Staff	725	751	930
TOTAL	6757	4881	2749

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)

Principal	33	77	48
Vice Principal	73	97	110
Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs)	566	575	499
Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs)	654	735	786
Misc. Teachers	231	195	284
Non-Teaching Staff	1745	1452	1561
TOTAL	3302	3131	3288

Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA)

Vice Principal	1	Nil	2
Head Master	Nil	2	2
Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs)	Nil	2	2
Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs)	3	7	6
Primary Teachers (PRTs)	13	6	27
Misc. Teachers	5	2	25
Non-Teaching Staff	Nil	Nil	22
TOTAL	22	19	86

Implementation of SSA

1130. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been atrocious and there is almost no monitoring and in case of girl education it is far below than assumed;

- (b) if so, the steps Government is taking for proper implementation of this programme;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many States have diverted SSA funds to sectors and schemes not covered by the SSA; and
- (d) if so, the names of the States and what action Government has taken against those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A vigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is already in place which includes *inter-alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports and review meetings, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, field monitoring by 42 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent Review Missions. The audit arrangements for the State Implementing Societies (SIS) include audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Annual audit by independent chartered accountants and concurrent financial reviews through independent professional bodies. The gross enrolment ratio of girls has increased from 86.9% at primary level and 52.1% at upper primary level in 2001-02 to 107.84% and 69.51% in 2006-07. Dropout rate for girls has declined from 39.88% to 26.56% at primary level and 56.92% to 45.33% at elementary level for the same period.

(c) and (d) In the light of the report on the Performance Audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, and the examination of the points raised therein by the Government of India and State/UT SSA programmes, an amount of about Rs.53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines. There has been no case of embezzlement. In cases of diversion of SSA funds for other educational purposes, the Government of India has directed States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes. The States/UTs have been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future.

Opposition to Madarsa modernization programme

†1131. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the committee constituted by National Minority Commission Education Monitoring Committee to remove deficiencies from the modernization programme in respect of Madarsa modernization;

(b) the number of Madarsas, where revised programme has been implemented on the basis of these recommendations and the number of Madarsas where it can not be implemented;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that some sections are opposing the implementation of modernization programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that non-modernization of Madarsa education has been one of the major reasons for the backwardness of muslim community; and

(e) if so, the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In the light of the findings of the Prime Ministers' High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim community in India (Sachar Committee) and the recommendations of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education (NMCME) set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the erstwhile scheme for Madarasas Modernisation was revised as the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM). The objective of the SPQEM is to provide financial assistance and encourage traditional institutions like Madrasas and Maktabas to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency for classes I-XII. SPQEM also provides for accreditation of Madarasas to National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and vocational education for children in the 14+ age group. In addition, it provides for assistance for computer and science laboratories in Madarasas of Secondary and Higher Secondary level, as also assistance for book banks and science kits at all levels. The revised Scheme was circulated to all State/UT Governments in October, 2008 seeking proposals and is also placed on the website of Department of School Education and Literacy for publicity. No proposal on the reformulated Scheme has been received from any State. The State Secretaries and Directors have been advised to forward proposals as per the parameters of the new Scheme at the earliest. No instance of opposition to the scheme by any section has come to the notice of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Absence of teachers

1132. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted a couple of years ago brought out that 41 out of 100 teachers in Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand remain absent without permission on any given day;

(b) what action has been initiated under various Central Government Schemes for improving teachers' presence in the Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand;

(c) what has been the response of the State Government of Jharkhand to the suggestions and directions given by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the position of utilization of grants given for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) An independent study commissioned by MHRD in 2006-07 in 20 major States, indicated a teacher presence rate of 81.7% at the primary level, and 80.5% at the upper primary level in the country. Jharkhand was not included in this study.

Separately however, the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) has conducted a study on teacher absenteeism in the State, which indicates that the average rate of teacher absenteeism in Government primary schools of Jharkhand is 21%. The State has initiated action, such as vigorous inspection of schools, posting of local teachers in the schools and Village Education Committees (VEC) have been vested with powers to check teacher absenteeism.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for Panchayati Raj bodies to supervise and monitor schools. Government of India has also asked States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability.

(d) The expenditure against funds available in Jharkhand during 2008-09 was 75%.

Anti Ragging Committees in Punjab colleges

1133. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of colleges of all hues in Punjab where Anti-Ragging Committees were not constituted within three months of Supreme Court's guidelines in the matter;

(b) the names of such colleges where such committee has not been formed till now; and

(c) the action taken by the University Grant Commission (UGC) and Government for not forming the committee or by taking delayed action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Punjab, Anti-Ragging Committees have been constituted in all Universities and its constituent colleges in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Deemed university status to agricultural universities

1134. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give deemed university status to some of the agricultural universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the criteria fixed to give such status;

(d) the status of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) universities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the present status of posts filled in each of these universities under SC/ST category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) As per the information furnished by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Education Division), New Delhi, there is no ICAR university in Andhra Pradesh. However, there are three State Agricultural Universities in Andhra Pradesh, viz., Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati and Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University, Venkataramanagudem, which were formed by the legislative acts of Andhra Pradesh State Assembly.

(e) Does not arise.

Promotion of education in Jharkhand

1135. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted review of the existing facilities of Secondary and Higher Secondary level education in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to the demographic feature, quantity and quality of school education facilities, teacher-student ratio and the number of Government and non-Government educational institutions in each district;

(c) the details of fund provided to the State, year-wise during the last three years for implementing the Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme; and

(d) the details of tangible impact thereof in terms of attracting greater number of children to school, reducing the rate of drop-outs, in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the Selected Education Statistics, 2005-06 (with reference date 30.09.2005) compiled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, there were 1162 secondary/higher secondary schools in Jharkhand. District wise break up of the number of schools, enrolment and number of teachers is given in the Statement (*See below*). The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for class IX to XII was 15.54% and Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for secondary and senior secondary schools was 52 and 29 respectively. District wise break up for PTR and GER is not available.

(c) Funds sanctioned to Jharkhand during the last 3 years under Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM) are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)
2006-07	477.32	154.29
2007-08	761.37	217.52
2008-09	675.41	202.98

(d) As per the Selected Educational Statistics, Gross Enrolment Ratio in Jharkhand for classes I-V has gone up from 74.79% in 2002-03 to 111.70 in 2006-07, and that for classes VI-VIII has gone up from 31.46% in 2002-03 to 52.28% in 2006-07. The drop out rate for classes I-V has declined from 50.18% in 2005-06 to 41.86% in 2006-07.

Statement

District wise details of secondary and higher secondary schools in Jharkhand

Sl. No.	District	No. of Secondary/ Higher Secondary Schools	Enrolment (Classes IX to XII)	No. of Teachers (Secondary/ higher Secondary)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Devghar	38	11935	244
2.	Dumka	43	12748	277
3.	Godda	43	9257	214
4.	Sahibganj	34	7455	236
5.	Pakur	19	4998	164
6.	Hazaribagh	92	23506	483
7.	Koderma	26	4907	110
8.	Giridih	57	16666	659
9.	Chatra	37	7538	98
10.	Dhanbad	82	25124	416
11.	Bokaro	70	68119	1736
12.	Ranchi	95	55765	3967
13.	Gumala West	61	13300	487

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Singhbhoom	76	30938	755
15.	East Singhbhoom	179	48895	2968
16.	Lohardagga	25	6580	207
17.	Palamu	54	20389	495
18.	Garhwa	24	8577	195
19.	Simdega	40	6824	260
20.	Latehar	18	6242	140
21.	Jamtara	23	12032	128
22.	Saraikela	26	12594	239
TOTAL		1162	414389	14478

IIT for Kerala

1136. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) being set up in the country;
- (b) whether Kerala has been excluded from this list; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala have requested for setting up an IIT in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A number of State Governments, including the Government of Kerala, have requested for setting up of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in their respective States. Based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), the Government decided to establish three new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South. The Government subsequently, keeping in view the regional imbalance, decided to establish five more IITs in Gujarat, Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Presently there is no proposal to establish an IIT in Kerala, which already has an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and a National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Kozhikode and an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Thiruvananthapuram.

Government control over CICSE

1137. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

(a) whether the Central Government has any control on educational bodies like Council of the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) recognized under Delhi Education Act, 1973;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any Government representative are included in the board of CISCE;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) is an unaided educational body registered under the Societies Registration Act No.XIII of 1860 on 19 December, 1967.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Two representative of Government of India and Directors of Education of the States in which there are schools affiliated to CISCE, are members in the Society of CISCE.

(f) Does not arise.

Infrastructure in professional colleges

1138. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many professional colleges are functioning without even basic infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Approvals are given by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as per norms and standards laid down by it for the various disciplines of Technical Education. The AICTE monitors existing technical institutions for adherence to AICTE norms and standards through yearly Compliance Report, Mandatory Disclosure and Surprise/Random Expert Committee Visits.

(b) Wherever shortage of infrastructure or other norms are observed, the Council takes punitive action including, reduction in intake and placing the institute in the no-admission category after providing reasonable opportunity to the institution to comply with the deficiency.

School drop out rate for SC/ST students

1139. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the SC/ST student's school drop out rate is still increasing;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per data available with the Ministry, the drop out rate of SC students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary (classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages, has decreased from 41.47%, 59.91% and 71.92% in 2002-03 to 35.96%, 53.05% and 69.01% respectively in 2006-07. Similarly, drop out rate of ST students in primary (classes I-V), Upper Primary (classes I-VIII) and Secondary (classes I-X) stages, has decreased from 51.37%, 68.67% and 80.29% in 2002-03 to 33.15%, 62.54% and 78.66% respectively in 2006-07.

(b) and (c) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop out rates. These include, *inter alia*, strengthening of schools, improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers and regular academic support of teachers etc. in addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provisions to promote education of girls through Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalas (KGBV) and National Programme for Education of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as well as children with special needs. The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

The Government of India launched a Centrally sponsored scheme called "National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education" with an objective to promote enrolment of girls belonging to weaker sections of the society, to ensure their retention at least till completion of Tenth class and preferable till XII class, to reduce their drop out at secondary and higher secondary stages.

Private schools as madarsas

†1140. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private schools in Uttar Pradesh are being converted in to madarsas rapidly;
- (b) whether the benefit being given to madarsas by Government is the factor behind this;
- (c) whether it has been investigated into; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The objective of the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM) is to provide financial assistance and encourage traditional institutions like Madarasas and Maktabas to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency. SPQEM provides for appointment of teachers, strengthening of libraries/book banks, purchase of Science Kits, Math Kits and other essential pedagogical equipment, establishment of Science/Computer Labs in Madarsa, conducting in-service teacher training, meeting cost of registration fees/examination fees and cost of study material by NIOS. It also provides for strengthening State Madarsa Boards to enable them to monitor progress in the Madarsa modernisation programme.

Madarasas which have been in existence for three years and registered under Central or State Government Acts or Madarsa Board or with Wakf Boards or NIOS are eligible to apply for assistance under this programme. The Scheme has been circulated to the State Governments in October, 2008. No instance of conversion of private schools into Madarasas in Uttar Pradesh has come to the notice of Government.

Regulatory authority for higher education

1141. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to establish an independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education;

(b) if so, the functions and scope of the said Authority; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) National Knowledge Commission has recommended the establishment of an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) which would be responsible for setting criteria, deciding entry, according degree-granting powers to higher education institutions and for licensing accreditation agencies. The "Committee to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education", constituted by the Government under Prof. Yash Pal has recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), with Constitutional status to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC). It has also been recommended that the regulatory bodies in professional education such as the Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Bar Council of India (BCI) etc. should be divested of their academic functions and the

universities should be made responsible for academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. The need for an overarching independent body for overseeing the entire spectrum of higher education has been accepted by Government as one of its priorities.

Employment of expatriate teachers

1142. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set norms to set up International Schools and a strict policy framework for their functioning in our country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is growing demand for Indian Employment visas for teachers from western countries to be recruited by the so called International schools in India at expatriate salaries and perks for teaching routine subjects like maths, physics etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to prevent foreigners to come to India and occupy such posts, which do not call for any special skills not obtainable in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Currently, there are no specific norms to set up international schools in the country. Such schools are generally affiliated to foreign boards and are set up with requisite approvals.

(b) and (c) Such statistics is not centrally maintained in this Ministry. At present, Indian Missions have been empowered to grant employment visas to foreigners, including foreign teachers coming to India for employment, in conformity with the provisions laid down in the visa manual, and in case of teachers, subject to ceiling prescribed for the relevant schools.

Misuse of SSA funds

†1143. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases have come to Government's notice of misuse and diversion of funds sanctioned to the States under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to retrieve the diverted or misused funds to be used for the purpose for which they have been sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Performance Audit report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, indicates that an amount of Rs. 53 crores can be classified as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines. The Government of India has directed the States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes.

In addition, reports from States have indicated instances of financial irregularities. Andhra Pradesh reported an embezzlement of Rs. 14.98 crores under DPEP/SSA accounts in 2006-07. An FIR was lodged and the State CID investigated the matter. The State Government suspended three accounts officials and transferred another three out of the State Project Office of SSA. In Haryana (2005-2007), 11 officials involved in financial irregularities have been proceeded against wherein services of two officials have been terminated. In Karnataka, action has been taken against 21 officials and an amount of Rs. 8.58 lakhs recovered from them. In West Bengal an amount of Rs. 517.80 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn by eight officials in one district, where the CID has arrested seven persons and proceedings are underway. In Gujarat (2007-08) action was taken against two officials involved in financial irregularities and Rs. 15.98 lakhs recovered. Nine officials have been suspended in Rajasthan on complaints of misuse of SSA funds and other irregularities. In Himachal Pradesh, FIR was lodged on a complaint of misuse SSA funds and an amount of Rs.3.02 lakhs has been recovered.

The Government of India has issued strict instructions to States/UTs to recoup the inadmissible expenditure and to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. Complaints received on financial irregularities are investigated by States and corrective action taken on a regular basis. Government of India has laid down a Financial and Procurement Manual in SSA to streamline financial management systems. Government of India is also monitoring the use of SSA funds through annual State/UT audits, independent concurrent financial reviews and field monitoring through social science institutions.

100 days programme

1144. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of 100 days programme of his Ministry;
- (b) what special educational schemes are being launched for the Minorities;
- (c) what suggestions have been received in this regard; and
- (d) what is Government's view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of 100 days programme of Ministry of Human Resources Development is at Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) to (d) After taking into account various suggestions and the Government Policy in the matter, details of special educational schemes launched for the minorities are at in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

The first 100 days

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A. Legislative Initiatives

1. An autonomous overarching authority for Higher Education and Research based on the recommendations of Yashpal Committee and National Knowledge Commission;
2. A law to prevent, prohibit and punish educational malpractices;
3. A law for mandatory assessment and accreditation in higher education through an independent regulatory authority;
4. A law to regulate entry and operation of Foreign Educational Providers;
5. A law to establish a Tribunal to fast-track adjudication of disputes concerning stake holders (teachers, students, employees and management) in higher education;
6. A law to further amend the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, to strengthen the Commission;
7. A law to amend the Copyright Act, 1957 to address the concerns relating to copyrights and related rights of the various stake holders.

B. Policy Initiatives

1. Formulation of a 'Brain-Gain' policy to attract talent from across the world to the existing and new institutions;
2. Launching of a new Scheme of interest subsidy on educational loans taken for professional courses by the Economically Weaker Students;
3. Strengthening and expansion of the Scheme for Remedial Coaching for students from SC/ST/minority communities, in higher education;
4. 'Equal Opportunity Offices' to be created in all universities for effective implementation of schemes for disadvantaged sections of the society;
5. A new policy on Distance Learning would be formulated;
6. Regional Centre/Campus of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak to be started in the state of Manipur;
7. Model degree colleges would be established in 100 districts with significant population of weaker sections and the minorities;
8. 100 women's hostels would be sanctioned in higher educational institutions located in districts with significant population of weaker sections and the minorities.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER INITIATIVES

1. Review of the functioning of the existing Deemed Universities;
2. Operationalizing newly established 12 Central Universities and 2 new IITs;
3. Academic reforms (semester system, choice-based credit system, regular revision of syllabi, impetus to research, etc. which are already mandated under the Central Universities Act, 2009) to be introduced in other Central Educational Institutions;
4. Modernisation of Copyright Offices;
5. 5000 colleges/university departments to be provided with broadband internet connectivity under the “National Mission on Education through ICT”;
6. Assistance would be provided to States to establish at least 100 new polytechnics (over and above assistance already provided for 50 polytechnics in the last financial year) in districts without any polytechnic at present. States would also be assisted for the construction of 100 women’s hostels in the existing polytechnics and for upgrading 50 existing polytechnics;
7. Approvals would be obtained for establishing 10 new NITs in the un-served States so that every State has one earmarked NIT;
8. Operationalising 700 revamped Community Polytechnics for skill development of rural youth;
9. Direct credit of scholarship into the bank accounts of 41,000 boys and 41,000 girls every year, under the new Merit Scholarship Scheme for students in the universities and colleges.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

A. Legislative

1. All steps will be taken to enact the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill. This will be followed by notification of the 86th Constitutional Amendment in the official gazette.
2. Evolve consensus for establishment of an All India Madarsa Board.

B. Policy

3. Attempt to formulate a policy framework for PPP in school education evolve a variety of PPP models, and apply them as feasible.
4. Further the use of ICT in secondary schools and in open/distance schooling through broadband connectivity.
5. Evolve a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education in consultation with all stakeholders and in accordance with NCF, 2005.

C. New Initiatives/Expansion

6. Explore possibilities of setting up an independent, accreditation body in the area of school education.
7. Push the process of examination reform in accordance with NCF-2005. This will include making the class X examination optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a board certificate) to take an internal school assessment instead.
8. Introduce a system for replacement of marks by grades in schools affiliated to the CBSE for the secondary classes *i.e.* IX and X.
9. Recast the National Literacy Mission to focus on women.
10. Awareness generation and intensification of efforts in the area of Madarsa/Maktab modernisation and skill development for Muslim children.

Statement-II

Special educational schemes being launched for the Minorities

- (i) The University Grants Commission (UGC) schemes for remedial coaching to students from minority communities to enable them to compete for various examinations for recruitment in services covered under Central and State Governments and for preparation for the National Eligibility Test (NET) is being strengthened and expanded.
- (ii) The Aligarh Muslim University would be provided assistance to establish 5 campuses in areas of significant minority population in the country.
- (iii) A scheme to establish "Equal Opportunity Office" in all universities shall be implemented to bring all schemes related to the disadvantaged sections of society *i.e.* SCs, STs, OBCs Minorities and persons with disabilities under one umbrella for effective implementation.
- (iv) State Governments shall be assisted to set up new degree colleges in at least 50 districts with significant population of minorities, SCs and STs.
- (v) 100 new women's colleges/hostels would be sanctioned by the UGC in higher educational institutions with priority to those located in districts with concentration of weaker sections including minorities, STs and SCs in order to increase access opportunities for women.
- (vi) Under the revised Scheme "Appointment of Language Teachers", 100% Central assistance is given to State/UTs for salary and honorarium to Urdu teachers. The revised scheme has been circulated on 17.3.2009 to all States/UTs with the request to send proposals for appointment of Hindi/Urdu/Modern Indian Languages (MIL) teachers as per the revised guidelines of the scheme.
- (vii) The erstwhile scheme of Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme (AIMMP) has been revised into two district schemes *w.e.f.* November, 2008.

- (a) The Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) has been introduced to bring about qualitative improvement in madarsas to enable children to attain standards of the national education system in formal education subjects.
- (b) The scheme for Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutions (IDMI) has been introduced to provide augmented infrastructure in private aided/unaided minority schools/institutions in order to enhance quality of education of minority children.

Permission for opening technical institution in Madhya Pradesh

†1145. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposal received by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) from Madhya Pradesh to open Technical Colleges during the last two years;
- (b) the number of colleges for which the permission to open was granted by All India Council for Technical Education out of such proposals;
- (c) the details of pending proposals to open colleges and the reasons for not granting permission in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the proposal will be granted permission by the AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the information given by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), during 2008-09 and 2009-10, a total of 141 and 157 proposals were received from Madhya Pradesh to open Technical Colleges.

(b) Out of these 298 proposals, 133 have been granted approval by the AICTE.

(c) and (d) The remaining 165 proposals have not been granted permission due to deficiencies relating to infrastructure, faculty and other norms laid down by the AICTE. These proposals will be granted permission only after the deficiencies have been rectified. The applicant can rectify the deficiencies within the three year block period and get approval for setting up the institution.

Education initiatives in Jharkhand

1146. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal for opening Kendriya Vidyalaya in every district of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any plan to start courses in Mines and Mineral Technology in each of the Regional Engineering Colleges; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) All the Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) have been taken over by the Central Government in 2003. Presently, courses in Mining Engineering are available in National Institute of Technology (NITs) at Rourkela, Raipur, Surathkal and Nagpur. The NITs are autonomous bodies, declared as Institutions of national importance under NIT Act, 2007 and as such are empowered to start courses of their own choice.

Enrolment of disabled children in SSA

1147. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disabled children are entitled to enroll in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the number of such children enrolled in last three academic years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has done any review of progress of these children enrolled in SSA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The number of disabled children enrolled in the last three academic years, State-wise, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The review of the progress of these children enrolled in SSA is done on regular basis through Quarterly National Workshops and regular field visits from the National level to ensure that disabled children are actually attending schools. An independent Joint Review Mission reviews the progress of all components of SSA twice a year.

Statement

Enrolment of Disabled Children in SSA

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Disabled Children Enrolled in 2006-07	Disabled Children Enrolled in 2007-08	Disabled Children Enrolled in 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127851	148328	150004

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3858	5953	5953
3.	Assam	66780	51623	61790
4.	Bihar	153636	214372	214374
5.	Chhattisgarh	26113	29085	40286
6.	Goa	1343	1647	1544
7.	Gujarat	61224	62411	62406
8.	Haryana	20966	20431	20431
9.	Himachal Pradesh	24217	22875	23011
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	23080	24225	23080
11.	Jharkhand	27073	34893	34893
12.	Karnataka	117401	97169	106980
13.	Kerala	129972	121335	129077
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85332	84121	98553
15.	Maharashtra	345241	354134	347932
16.	Manipur	4739	4234	4234
17.	Meghalaya	4942	7646	6158
18.	Mizoram	4033	5374	5458
19.	Nagaland	3160	2949	2949
20.	Orissa	114276	126507	118826
21.	Punjab	24603	34909	35764
22.	Rajasthan	145131	250855	226961
23.	Sikkim	0	606	708
24.	Tamil Nadu	94802	89062	103133
25.	Tripura	3741	2982	2964
26.	Uttar Pradesh	251536	243098	330135
27.	Uttarakhand	10510	10026	13764
28.	West Bengal	115834	148602	128548
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	642	682	815
30.	Chandigarh	1296	4344	4507

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	164	164
32.	Daman and Diu	73	91	91
33.	Delhi	3128	8621	8581
34.	Lakshadweep	20	272	272
35.	Puducherry	2359	2700	2983
TOTAL :		1998912	2216326	2317329

Campuses of foreign universities in the country

†1148. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign universities and technical educational institutes who have setup their campuses in India during the last three years;

(b) the details of places where these institutes have been setup, State-wise and Institution-wise;

(c) the role of Government as a regulator or controller regarding fee structure, programme and faculty of these educational institutes; and

(d) the status of availability of employment for the students passing out from these institutes and their standard in comparison to the universities of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In the absence of any regulatory mechanism covering all the foreign educational institutions, no authentic information is available with the Government about exact number of foreign universities operating in the country.

A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions is under consideration of the Government.

Delegation of power to PRIs

1149. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme for capacity building and financial and administrative empowerment of Panchayati Raj representatives;

(b) whether Government would enact a law for their greater say and role in the grassroot administrative work; and

(c) whether Government would make it mandatory for the State Governments to delegate the grassroot administrative work to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the following Schemes/Programmes for capacity building, and empowerment of Panchayati Raj representatives:

- (i) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) to assist the States and Union Territories for training to elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) so that they can effectively perform the functions and schemes entrusted to them. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments and NGOs for the following:

- Provision of training infrastructure, such as establishment of distance learning facilities through satellite (SATCOM) and receiving stations.
- Supporting actual training of elected representatives and officials of PRIs.

The financial assistance to State Governments is provided on 75:25 basis under the scheme. In case of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the central assistance is 100% in deserving cases and such proposals are processed only after the recommendations of the State Government concerned are received.

- (ii) Under the capacity building component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, funds are allocated to States at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per BRGF district, for the purpose of undertaking the capacity building of elected Panchayat representatives, officials and other stakeholders in BRGF district. The State Governments are required to designate nodal authority(ies) for planning and implementation of the capacity building plans. The Ministry releases the funds to the State Governments against their capacity building plans. The capacity building plans of different States proposed for creation of training infrastructure, *e.g.*, modernisation of the training institutes, provision of computers, satellites studios, etc. and conducting various training courses for the elected and non-elected functionaries of Panchayats and other items.

- (iii) Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA), *inter alia*, provides for training/sensitization programme for multi-term Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) and Elected Young Representatives (EYRs).

(b) and (c) As per the Constitutional mandate in Part IX of the Constitution, States are competent to legislate in this matter.

Financial power of Zilla Parishad

†1150. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zilla Panchayats have been constituted in all the districts of the country in pursuance of the provision of three-tier Panchayati Raj system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether it is also named as Zilla Parishad in some parts of the country;
- (c) whether the method of constituting Zilla Panchayat or Zilla Parishad is same in all the States;
- (d) the financial powers available with these bodies; and
- (e) the measures to be taken by Government to bring parity amongst Zilla Panchayats and Parishads in the country and to delegate more financial power to them?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) District level Panchayats, also called Zilla Panchayats or Zilla Parishads, are mandated across the country where Part-IX of the Constitution applies. Details of constitution of District level Panchayats are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Articles 243B and 243C of Part-IX of the Constitution lay down some basic provisions such as mode of elections and reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women which are mandatory in all parts of the country where Part-IX applies. The issue of reservation for Backward Class of citizens in Panchayats is decided by the States as mandated in the Constitution.

(d) and (e) Financial powers assigned to the district level Panchayats vary from State to State. In some States, district level Panchayats have been given powers to impose taxes and fees while in others, they have been given powers to accord administrative sanction to expenditure within prescribed limits. Devolution of financial powers to Panchayats vests with the States. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States for enhancing the financial powers and resource base of Panchayats.

Statement

Constitution of district level Panchayats in various States of the country

Latest Status in respect of number of district level Panchayats in States/UTs

Sl. No.	State	District Level Panchayat Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	38
5.	Chhattisgarh	16
6.	Goa*	2
7.	Gujarat	25

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12
10.	Jharkhand**	22
11.	Jammu and Kashmir***	
12.	Karnataka	29
13.	Kerala	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48
15.	Maharashtra	33
16.	Manipur	4
17.	Orissa	30
18.	Punjab	20
19.	Rajasthan	32
20.	Sikkim	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	28
22.	Tripura	4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	70
24.	Uttarakhand	13
25.	West Bengal	18
Union Territories		
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
27.	Chandigarh	1
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	1
29.	Daman and Diu*	1
30.	Lakshadweep*	1
31.	Puducherry*	1
TOTAL		543

*Two Tier Panchayati Raj System.

**Jharkhand elections have not been held.

***Jammu and Kashmir elections have not been held after adoption of the Panchayat Act.

Reservation for women in PRIs

1151. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to enhance the reservation for women to 50 per cent in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and when Government is going to bring the amendment; and
- (c) whether it is confined to Members only or it would be applicable for Chairperson as well?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Government intends to take steps to enhance reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions to 50 percent. Details are under consideration.

Amendment in Registration Act

1152. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to amend Registration Act, 1908 in order to bring in more transparency in the matter of registration of deeds of sole, gift mortgage and other deeds involving transfer of land; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.

Roads in Madhya Pradesh

†1153. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of roads approved for Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY) during last three years;
- (b) the total length of these approved roads, the amount approved for these roads and the amount released out of that;
- (c) the progress of these approved roads at present alongwith the details of the roads completed yet incomplete and under construction; and
- (d) whether the approved roads are being laid as per their fixed schedule and by when these would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) 321 road works measuring 1396.445 km. and valued at Rs. 392.62 crore have been sanctioned during the last five years for Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Funds under the Programme are released by this Ministry to the State and not district-wise. During the period 2000-09, a sum of Rs.6523.26 crore has been released for implementation of PMGSY in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The State Government has reported that 153 road works have been completed 149 are under construction, 14 under tender process and 5 road works have been taken up by other Departments.

(d) The State Government has reported that 65 roads were completed within the scheduled time. 88 roads were completed in the extended time period. 149 roads are expected to be completed by March, 2010. 14 roads are under tendering process.

Rural development in Bihar

†1154. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Bihar under various components for rural development during current financial year;

(b) whether it has been considered while making allocation that backward States should be given priority in developmental programmes;

(c) the details of fund allocated to various districts of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) component; and

(d) by when all the habitations having population of 1000 people would be connected with concrete roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The amount of central allocation to Bihar under various components for rural development during the current financial year 2009-10 are Rs. 258.99 crores for Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Rs. 2240.39 crores for Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Rs. 17.57 crore for District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Administration. Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has not been finalized.

(b) The allocation of funds under the rural development schemes is done on the basis of pre-determined criteria framed by the Planning Commission, which include poverty ratio reflecting the backwardness of the States.

(c) and (d) Funds under PMGSY are allocated by the Ministry of Rural Development to the States and not to districts. During the period from 2000-2009, a sum of Rs.2935.05 crore has been released to Bihar for implementation of PMGSY. It is targeted to connect all unconnected habitations having population of 1000 persons and above in plain areas by March, 2011.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Inclination of agriculture labourers towards NREGS

†1155. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that since the launch of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) labourers engaged in cultivation have shown inclination towards this scheme;
- (b) if so, whether Government has conducted any study in respect of its adverse effects on agriculture production; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Any registered rural household, including those engaged in cultivation, may demand employment under NREGA. Employment is provided on demand not exceeding 100 days in a financial year. The registered rural household is free to avail any other employment opportunity available to them.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry has not conducted any study regarding adverse effects of NREGS on agriculture production.

(c) Does not arise.

PMGSY fund to Madhya Pradesh

†1156. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated to the Madhya Pradesh in the current year under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) whether allocation has been reduced this year against previous year; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) State-wise allocation of funds is normatively made under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) only in respect of allocation provided for the programme out of the accrual of cess (diesel). For the current year (2009-10), State-wise allocation for the programme out of cess (diesel) would be finalized as soon as the budget estimates for the current year are approved by the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Bharat Nirman Yojana

1157. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing Bharat Nirman Programme effectively;
- (b) if so, the details of developmental activities under this programme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the funds released and spent in each State especially for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Bharat Nirman Programme launched in 2005-06 for building infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas, has six components, namely irrigation, rural housing, rural roads, drinking water in rural areas, rural electrification and rural telephony. The progress of its implementation during the last four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is as under:-

Sl. No.	Component	Bharat Nirman Target	Achievements
1.	Irrigation	100 lakh ha.	60.13 lakh ha.
2.	Rural Housing	60 lakh	71.76 lakh
3.	Rural Roads		
	(i) Habitations	59,564	31,924
	(ii) Upgradation (in lakh Kms.)	1.94	1.55
4.	Drinking Water Supply		
	(i) Uncovered Habitations	55,067	54,430
	(ii) Slipped Back Habitations	3,31,604	3,57,822 *
	(iii) Quality-affected habitations	2,16,968	2,59,628 **
	Total	6,03,639	6,68,073
5.	Rural Electricity (in lakhs)	1.25	1.18
6.	Rural Telephone connectivity (No. of villages)	66822	57240

*Higher achievement reported cumulatively as some states have reported coverage of habitations other than those included in Bharat Nirman Programme.

**Projects completed: 46344; Ongoing projects: 2,13,284

(c) State-wise information including Andhra Pradesh regarding funds released/spent for the four year period, 2005-06 to 2008-09 under Bharat Nirman is given in Statements-I, II and III (See below).

Statement-I

Bharat Nirman Drinking Water, Rural Housing and Rural Road Components

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	ARWSP (Drinking Water)		IAY (Rural Housing)		PMGSY (Rural Roads)	
		Released	Expendi- ture	Released	Expendi- ture	Released	Expendi- ture
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1223.32	1223.32	1689.83	2023.53	1959.04	2003.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	518.26	393.24	71.25	63.22	445.68	475.11
3.	Assam	638.89	672.34	1447.92	1661.22	2690.99	2660.09
4.	Bihar	905.37	536.91	4756.82	5775.15	2935.04	2568.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	336.90	309.28	299.05	290.25	3723.51	3477.99
6.	Goa	4.75	4.75	7.50	8.84	10.15	5.32
7.	Gujarat	843.35	612.55	781.87	893.51	779.55	792.16
8.	Haryana	316.36	316.36	112.83	141.78	847.05	829.11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	547.09	546.53	40.66	52.31	1218.44	1162.90
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1196.27	1053.98	137.34	111.12	410.79	390.75
11.	Jharkhand	264.17	282.34	540.56	530.47	775.62	737.35
12.	Karnataka	1216.46	1205.17	617.22	602.48	1468.22	1431.84
13.	Kerala	315.09	304.47	341.01	398.61	246.63	246.25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	979.82	868.94	522.26	803.65	6523.26	6476.63
15.	Maharashtra	1746.52	1653.92	999.97	1372.01	2301.26	2272.00
16.	Manipur	134.85	112.77	40.16	31.42	203.46	209.88
17.	Meghalaya	201.62	209.26	43.99	54.61	159.61	138.38
18.	Mizoram	161.78	145.02	23.28	29.16	341.48	313.55
19.	Nagaland	138.73	111.62	67.63	90.95	261.75	241.73
20.	Orissa	706.66	590.30	964.52	1039.83	3625.01	3476.73
21.	Punjab	220.69	185.67	123.40	117.65	861.72	871.12
22.	Rajasthan	2384.56	2461.27	401.12	496.99	6384.51	6173.92
23.	Sikkim	81.72	51.05	12.02	16.69	378.82	318.94
24.	Tamil Nadu	724.22	591.23	642.24	925.78	673.55	668.18
25.	Tripura	173.22	178.52	148.70	170.46	696.14	577.80
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1584.90	1394.41	2142.05	2646.87	5452.54	5453.77
27.	Uttaranchal	324.05	283.51	107.73	146.83	424.41	465.45
28.	West Bengal	902.73	889.10	1233.58	1212.65	2520.81	2353.36
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.48	4.7218	4.05	2.14		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	1.17	0.54		
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0.03		
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	1.43	1.62		
33.	Puducherry	0.00	0.05	0.75	1.82		
TOTAL		18809.82	17192.59	18323.92	21714.19	48319.03	46792.71

Statement-II

Bharat Nirman — Irrigation and Electrification components, Funds Released

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	Irrigation	Electrification
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2997.75	434.49
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	126.14	277.3
3.	Assam	548.49	614.8
4.	Bihar	191.41	2173.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	308.37	204.84
6.	Goa	73.62	0
7.	Gujarat	1305.82	81.7
8.	Haryana	9.17	75.2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	267.38	87.5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	666.75	232.21
11.	Jharkhand	19.27	1647.6
12.	Karnataka	1093.47	517.2
13.	Kerala	26.91	21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1190.53	412.7
15.	Maharashtra	3862.99	145.23
16.	Manipur	557.67	57.32
17.	Meghalaya	28.29	32.2
18.	Mizoram	108.61	79.4

1	2	3	4
19.	Nagaland	107.71	65.02
20.	Orissa	1634.06	1121.2
21.	Punjab	49.36	60.4
22.	Rajasthan	437.05	596.01
23.	Sikkim	7.47	44
24.	Tamil Nadu	43.18	100.8
25.	Tripura	62.61	7.93
26.	Uttar Pradesh	681.19	3007.11
27.	Uttanchal	802.48	553
28.	West Bengal	38.49	906.7
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		
31.	Daman and Diu		
32.	Lakshadweep		
33.	Puducherry		
	TOTAL	17246.20	13556.46

Statement-III

Funds Released for Telephone Component under Bharat Nirman

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Funds Released (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.65
2.	Assam	15.72
3.	Bihar	0.00
4.	Jharkhand	1.39
5.	Gujarat (including Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	8.94
6.	Haryana	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.16
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.35

1	2	3
9.	Karnataka	0.00
10.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	38.41
12.	Chhattisgarh	8.83
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	15.96
14.	NE-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	1.68
15.	NE-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	0.93
16.	Orissa	7.62
17.	Punjab	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	34.47
19.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	0.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0.00
22.	Uttanchal	5.53
23.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	0
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
TOTAL		148.64

Employment for rural poor under NREGA

1158. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States under flagship scheme National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) have been able to provide employment since its implementation to the rural poor to the fullest extent;

(b) if so, the details of such States; and

(c) if not, the details of such States and the reasons therefor and what action Government is taking against those States since unemployment is the burning issue in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) NREGA was implemented in 200 districts with effect from 2.2.2006 and 130 additional districts were covered under the Act during 2007-08. All the remaining rural areas of the country have been covered under the Act with effect from 1.4.2008. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in a year to every rural household whose adult

members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Thus, NREGA is demand based. Number of households provided employment depends on the number of households who demand employment. As per reports received from the States. 2.10 crore households were provided employment during 2006-07; 3.39 crore during 2007-08; 4.49 crore during 2008-09 and 1.59 crore households have so far been provided employment during the current year. State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement-I

State-wise details of households provided employment so far

Sl. No.	State	No. of households provided employment			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Upto May, 09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2161395	4803892	5699557	2726239
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16926	4490	59221	3295
3.	Assam	792270	1402888	1877393	707975
4.	Bihar	1688899	3859630	3822484	965179
5.	Chhattisgarh	1256737	2284963	2270415	756171
6.	Gujarat	226269	290691	850691	222535
7.	Haryana	50765	70869	162932	25859
8.	Himachal Pradesh	63514	271099	445713	108063
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	121328	116800	199166	29652
10.	Jharkhand	1394108	1679868	1576348	244417
11.	Karnataka	545185	549994	896212	176378
12.	Kerala	99107	185392	692015	152029
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2866349	4346916	5207665	1835824
14.	Maharashtra	353024	474695	906297	328407
15.	Manipur	17880	112549	381109	68817
16.	Meghalaya	96627	106042	224263	80263
17.	Mizoram	50998	88940	172775	49094
18.	Nagaland	27884	115331	296689	76336
19.	Orissa	1394169	1096711	1105429	157062
20.	Punjab	31648	49690	147336	35240

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Rajasthan	1175172	2170460	6373093	3087192
22.	Sikkim	4107	19664	52006	8385
23.	Tamil Nadu	683481	1234818	3288796	1328914
24.	Tripura	74335	423724	549022	73712
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2573245	4096408	4336466	942997
26.	Uttaranchal	134312	189263	298741	52120
27.	West Bengal	3083757	3843335	3025854	1638504
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NA	NA	5975	2243
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NA	NA	1919	1549
30.	Daman and Diu	NA	NA	0	0
31.	Goa	NA	NA	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	3025	1022
33.	Puducherry	NA	NA	12264	0
34.	Chandigarh	NA	NA	0	0
TOTAL		21015411	33889122	44940870	15885473

NA—indicates not applicable as NREGA was implemented in the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008

Drinking water supply in Rajasthan

†1159. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount likely to be allocated by Government in the year 2009 to Rajasthan under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Supply Mission for funding of potable water schemes in various districts affected due to lack of quality drinking water; and

(b) the details of the districts of the State alongwith the quantum of amount targeted to be given for Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Projects by Government in the year 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) The allocation for 2009 has not been finalized pending passing of the Union Budget. However, an *ad-hoc* release of Rs. 33273.18 lakh has been released to the State of Rajasthan under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India only provides technical and financial support to States in this

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

regard, through Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Funds are allocated to all States from the Centre as per the inter-State allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States consider specific proposals received from various districts and approve them in conformity with the Scheme Guidelines. As the proposals from the districts are not received at the Center, details of amounts targeted to be given district-wise are not maintained.

Rural water supply in Maharashtra

1160. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount allocated to Maharashtra, under various rural water supply schemes during last three years till date;
- (b) the details of amount utilized by the State during this period and achievements made thereof;
- (c) the total number of villages with assured potable water supply; and
- (d) the time frame for covering remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) The central funds allocated and utilized by Maharashtra during the last three years, along with the achievement during the period is as follows:

Year	Allocation (Rupees in lakh)	Utilization (Rupees in lakh)	Achievement (Number of habitations covered/addressed with potable water supply)
2006-07	36152.00	34870.89	6152
2007-08	40440.00	37838.33	11824
2008-09	57257.00	60396.20	22636

The allocation for 2009-10 has not been finalized pending passing of the Union Budget. However, an *ad-hoc* release of Rs.19685.00 lakh has been made to the State for the year.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that out of a total of 97218 habitations in the State, 77425 habitations have assured potable water supply. The time frame for covering the remaining villages according to the State Government is two years *i.e.* 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Roads in Himachal Pradesh

1161. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated in the last three years for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Swarozgar Yojana (PMGSY) to Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any complaint of construction of roads deviating from the norms of PMGSY?

(c) if so, the roads that do not conform the norms and the action envisaged against the people/agency for violation of norms; and

(d) the reasons for not adhering to the timeline for construction of roads and the punitive action taken against those responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The amount allocated and released during the last three years under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to Himachal Pradesh is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation (Cess)	Releases
2006-07	82.00	139.90
2007-08	87.00	320.58
2008-09	87.00	268.90

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the records available in National Rural Roads Development Agency, upto June 2009, two complaints for use of inferior quality material and irregularities by contractor in construction of road works under Pradhan Gram Sadak Yojana in Himachal Pradesh have been received in National Rural Roads Development Agency. In one case, the matter was got investigated through a team of National Quality Monitors. As per the report of the team, no major irregularities were noticed. The second complaint has been sent to State Government for enquiry and appropriate action as per programme guidelines. Also, a court case regarding awarding of work for package No.HP-03-58, for C/o Salauni Deoth Sidh road is pending in Shimla high Court.

(d) The reason for not adhering to the timeline for construction of roads are mainly topographic constraints limited seasons, private land disputes due to small land holdings and involvement of forest land. However, where the fault is at part of contractor, Punitive actions have/are being taken against the contractors by invoking the provisions of relevant clauses of the contract agreement.

Livelihood opportunities in rural Jharkhand

1162. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted review of the scope of livelihood opportunities of the families in rural Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of its finding;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) the details of BPL and APL population in Jharkhand, district-wise;

(e) the details of BPL and APL persons employed under the NREG Scheme, season-wise since its inception indicating the volume of wage disbursed through postal/banking channel and those directly in cash, separately, in each employment season;

(f) the nature of verification carried out to ascertain authenticity of these disbursement and to detect pilferage of fund, if any; and

(g) the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) No overall review of scope of livelihood opportunities of the families of rural Jharkhand has been conducted by the Government. However, under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), there is a provision for identifying key livelihood activities in each block by the Block Level SGSY Committee taking into account local availability of resources, profile of the poor families and potential link plans prepared by NABARD as well as any other survey carried out by various banks or other such organizations, and also taking into account the backward and forward linkages related to the livelihood activities.

(d) The estimates of the population living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) are made by the Planning Commission at the national and state level at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of the percentage and number of person living below the poverty line is available from the Planning Commission for the year 2004-05. According to this, in 2004-05, 116.4 lakh persons (40.3%) were living Below the Poverty Line and 172.1 lakh persons (59.7%) were living Above the Poverty Line in Jharkhand. District-wise estimates are not available.

(e) A registered rural household irrespective of BPL or APL may demand employment under NREGA which guarantees 100 days of employment, in a financial year. Therefore, data for BPL and APL households is not maintained separately under NREGA. Further, household is the basic unit for providing employment under NREGA. Arrangement for payment of wages through Bank accounts/Post Offices has been put in place. The details of number of households provided employment, cumulative expenditure on wages during 2006-07 to 2009-10 (upto May, 2009) under NREGA and details of wages disbursed through Bank accounts/Post Offices during 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto May-09) are as under:

Year	No. of Households provided employment	Cumulative expenditure on wages (Rs. In lakhs)	Amount of wages disbursed through Bank accounts/Post Offices (Rs. In lakhs)
2006-07	1394108	41286.36	—
2007-08	1679868	61595.90	—
2008-09	1576348	67843.60	54778.36
2009-10	244417	7282.50	6976.45

(f) and (g) With a view to ensure transparency, payment of wages under NREGA through Banks/Post Offices has been made mandatory. States have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. Social Audit has so far been done in 2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats. A comprehensive Web-based MIS www.nrega.nic.in has been implemented which places all data in public domain for verification. As per reports from the States, 148.28 lakh Muster Rolls have been verified, 4.15 lakh works have been inspected at district level and 22.42 lakh works have been inspected at block level.

PMGSY funds in Andhra Pradesh

1163. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released any funds for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the funds from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released and spent in rural areas especially in East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam; and

(d) the targets fixed and achieved especially in Andhra Pradesh under such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of funds released for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from cess and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to States including Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Details of amount released and spent in rural areas of East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam, as per information furnished by the State Government, are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

District	Amount released to the District from APSRRDA	Expenditure
Visakhapatnam	77.17	62.94
East Godavari	142.10	126.41
West Godavari	97.84	82.20
Khammam	86.11	83.33

(d) The target fixed and achieved in Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are indicated below:

Length (km.)

Year	Target	Length completed
2007-08	2551	1657
2008-09	2500	1885

Statement

The total amount released from Cess and NABARD up to 31.03.2009

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	States	Total Amount Released from Cess upto 31.03.2009	Total amount released from NABARD upto 31.03.2009	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1507.79	451.25	1959.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	338.84	106.84	445.68
3.	Assam	1423.50	350.00	1773.50
4.	Bihar	1943.69	991.35	2935.04
5.	Chhattisgarh	1540.21	988.62	2528.83
6.	Goa	10.15	0.00	10.15
7.	Gujarat	549.88	229.67	779.55

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	615.65	231.39	847.04
9.	Himachal Pradesh	635.06	375.22	1010.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	410.79	0.00	410.79
11.	Jharkhand	666.95	56.95	723.90
12.	Karnataka	833.59	634.63	1468.22
13.	Kerala	171.56	75.07	246.63
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3511.60	1860.54	5372.14
15.	Maharashtra	1321.26	980.00	2301.26
16.	Manipur	203.46	0.00	203.46
17.	Meghalaya	143.71	15.90	159.61
18.	Mizoram	301.48	40.00	341.48
19.	Nagaland	196.04	65.71	261.75
20.	Orissa	2312.27	92.30	2404.57
21.	Punjab	651.51	210.21	861.72
22.	Rajasthan	3866.03	1674.65	5540.68
23.	Sikkim	217.86	160.96	378.82
24.	Tamil Nadu	584.87	88.68	673.55
25.	Tripura	376.14	320.00	696.14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2944.47	1962.03	4906.50
27.	Uttaranchal	386.38	38.03	424.41
28.	West Bengal	2057.10	0.00	2057.10
Total		29721.83	12000.00	41721.83

Indira Awas Yojana

1164. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 lakhs rural houses were constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana from 2004-09;

(b) the total expenses incurred to construct these houses;

(c) how many of these houses were constructed in Punjab and what was the total amount spent on them; and

(d) what was the criteria for selection of States for construction of such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) During the years from 2004-2009, 86,97,736 rural houses were constructed under India Awaas Yojana (IAY) by incurring an expenditure of Rs.24982.21 crore.

(c) Out of these houses, 50759 houses were constructed in Punjab with utilization of Rs.126.46 crore.

(d) There is no provision of selection of States as Indira Awaas Yojana is an allocation based scheme. The funds provided for the scheme during the year, are allocated to the States/UTs (Except Delhi and Chandigarh) by assigning 75% weightage to the housing shortage and 25% to poverty ratio.

Roads in Rajasthan

†1165. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of roads in Kilometers laid under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Rajasthan during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(b) the total amount allocated under this head to the State Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) The length of roads laid under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Rajasthan during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 are 9887.50 Kms. and 10349.92 Kms. respectively.

(b) The amount allocated to State for Rajasthan for PMGSY out of the total amount received from accrual of cess on HSD and releases made during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Allocation (Cess)	Releases*
2007-08	234.00	1646.64
2008-09	234.00	1771.32

*Release includes the amount released from the World Bank loan and NABARD loan.

Social audit of flagship schemes

1166. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of various loopholes in the flagship schemes under his Ministry particularly in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to have a social audit of the schemes to curb leakage of funds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to effectively implement the flagship schemes under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) As a result of active monitoring of implementation of NREGA, various procedural gaps relating to maintenance of records, work planning, wage disbursement etc. have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Section 17 (2) of NREG Act provides that the Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all projects under the scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat. Social audit brings transparency in implementation of NREGA. Accordingly, States have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. So far, State Governments have reported that Social Audit has been done in 2.19 lakh Gram Panchayats.

(e) The following steps have been taken for effective implementation of the scheme:

(i) Generating Awareness

To generate greater awareness among rural households about NREGA, intensive IEC activities have been undertaken. These include use of print as well as electronic media.

(ii) Staffing

States have been instructed to appoint dedicated staff for NREGA. Salary of such dedicated staff is borne by the Central Government out of the admissible administrative expenditure admissible under the Act.

(iii) Strict Vigilance and Monitoring

Implementation of NREG Act is monitored on regular basis. National level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. Professional institutions such as IIMs, IITs, Agricultural Universities and other Social Sciences Institutes have been engaged to assess the implementation of NREGA in the States.

(iv) Transparency

- Wage payment to unskilled workers is to be made through Banks and Post Offices.

- States have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months.
- A comprehensive Web-based MIS www.nrega.nic.in has been implemented which places all data in public domain.
- A Citizen Information Board has been introduced. This board is to be displayed at all prominent Places.

(V) Grievance redressal mechanism

A grievance redressal mechanism has been set up. National toll-free telephone Helpline under NREGA has been established which receives complaints and queries relating to NREGA. States have also been requested to set up similar helplines.

Objectives of TSC

†1167. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has failed to achieve its targets and objectives;

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

(c) the details of the targets set and the targets achieved for the period between the years 1999–2009, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the budget allocated and the amount spent for the said period State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) No, Sir. Rural Sanitation coverage has more than doubled from 21% in 2001 to 58% of the projected rural population in 2009.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is a demand driven programme, as such, no annual targets are set for States under the programme. The State-wise physical objectives of the programme and the performance since 1999 till 9th July 2009 is at Statement-I (See below).

(d) State wise budget allocation is not made under TSC. Funds are released against the project outlay on the basis of progress made by project districts. Funds released from centre under TSC and expenditure made against it since 1999 till 9th July 2009 State-wise is at Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*The physical objectives of the programme and the performance since 1999 till
9th July 2009, State-wise*

Figures in units

Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

Sl. No.	State	Project Objectives							
		IHHL BPL	IHHL APL	IHHL Total	San. Comp.	School Toilets	Toilets for Bal.	RSM	PC
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6521091	3629688	10150779	575	113861	15040	220	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	115560	18301	133861	318	3944	1866	39	0
3.	Assam	2220017	1161020	3381037	211	34772	16819	115	0
4.	Bihar	6195779	4975535	11171314	2362	76581	6595	364	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	1553540	1811886	3365426	618	48549	10167	95	6
6.	D and N Haveli	2480	0	2480	12	0	0	1	0
7.	Goa	17935	27388	45323	150	731	547	3	0
8.	Gujarat	2070056	2041521	4111577	1632	22425	22505	94	0
9.	Haryana	550500	1234597	1785097	1300	7309	6820	10	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	216421	630065	846486	1235	17723	10406	59	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	598614	702110	1300724	986	23108	940	79	4
12.	Jharkhand	2327306	1402189	3729495	1203	42687	11472	249	0
13.	Karnataka	2507923	3050138	5558061	1305	35698	24086	301	6
14.	Kerala	961831	111911	1073742	1090	3600	4957	98	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3636365	4289857	7926222	1603	85568	14320	285	28
16.	Maharashtra	3505909	6307374	9813283	7749	87436	55850	288	27
17.	Manipur	194887	68367	263254	386	3919	1201	35	0
18.	Meghalaya	202722	66414	269136	290	8859	1580	36	0
19.	Mizoram	59679	16861	76540	560	3219	912	20	0
20.	Nagaland	167193	31176	198369	257	2672	1238	25	0
21.	Orissa	4485050	2571598	7056648	818	70663	25160	289	0
22.	Puducherry	18000	0	18000	0	26	16	3	0
23.	Punjab	623198	532768	1155966	411	7464	3274	81	0
24.	Rajasthan	1960903	5023430	6984333	1544	68134	21198	317	0
25.	Sikkim	51302	35712	87014	789	1604	340	12	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	4214089	4030794	8244883	1295	40828	25470	244	0
27.	Tripura	434316	124747	559063	226	4939	6024	31	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	8217302	12276854	20494156	2352	241424	96967	389	25
29.	Uttarakhand	441631	444670	886301	470	3925	1601	71	10
30.	West Bengal	5029415	4104101	9133516	1140	134981	50630	338	32
GRAND TOTAL		59101014	60721072	119822086	32887	1196649	438001	4191	139

Project Performance							
IHHL BPL	IHHL APL	IHHL Total	San. Comp.	School Toilets	Toilets for Bal.	RSM	PC
3986716	2080422	6067138	907	97560	5342	418	23
19889	2306	22195	32	3440	1198	5	0
386586	79276	465862	2	12468	1962	57	119
1333371	465593	1798964	564	39851	910	380	689
644352	555998	1200350	140	43388	7378	66	11
37	0	37	1	0	0	0	0
16231	17522	33753	0	436	58	0	0
1500365	1617839	3118204	1669	23666	21028	344	2
518206	1168511	168617	996	7140	5739	94	9
160972	537197	698169	144	5585	2327	19	2
227760	47602	275362	483	10463	64	12	0
890155	118782	1008937	82	31453	2164	224	490
987287	1099400	2086687	519	35467	23751	208	14
929804	142689	1072493	764	3245	3187	62	24
1729233	2209854	3939087	595	73607	16895	354	28
1879123	3359944	5239067	2986	80194	53014	1505	48
8459	5996	14455	91	1233	147	17	2
30434	2961	60045	51	1808	165	1	0
56890	13979	70869	304	3219	912	0	0
36052	1830	37882	169	849	109	11	0
1848710	322893	2171603	22	55490	15443	283	7180
1983	0	1983	30	0	16	2	0
111704	383036	494740	63	6725	718	7	0
511529	1736119	2247648	339	48545	8319	177	32
58104	36496	94600	913	1606	416	0	0
3144808	2453350	5598158	1544	37582	23878	194	65
410120	112773	522893	162	4079	4349	139	432
4982288	5094586	10076874	2307	201745	64050	242	74
191540	166870	358410	53	2103	294	24	1
4418517	1936253	6354770	473	55783	13408	353	209
31021225	25796727	65817952	16405	888730	277241	5198	2992

IHHL: Individual Household Latrine

San. Comp: Sanitary Complex

PC: Production Centre

APL: Above Poverty Line

BPL: Below Poverty Line

RSM: Rural Sanitary Mart

Bal: Balwadi

Statement-II*Funds released from Centre and amount spent under TSC from 1999 till**9th July 2009, State-wise*

(Rupees in Lakh)

Financial Year	Release Amount	Expenditure
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh		
1999-2000	417.24	0
2000-2001	771.39	0
2001-2002	1877.09	405.21
2002-2003	1600.87	393.96
2003-2004	4660.35	7191.17
2004-2005	3362.27	3277.33
2005-2006	4300.09	1835.40
2006-2007	9455.20	4571.57
2007-2008	878.78	4091.37
2008-2009	1391.81	4227.67
2009-2010	11078.44	301.21
STATE TOTAL	39793.53	26294.88
2. Arunachal Pradesh		
1999-2000	25.48	0
2000-2001	73.98	0
2001-2002	52.80	0
2002-2003	0	13.68
2003-2004	10	54.32
2004-2005	90	7.61
2005-2006	382.42	9.23
2006-2007	0	105.70
2007-2008	0	282.91
2008-2009	1530.16	277.38
2009-2010	0	49.99

STATE TOTAL	2164.84	800.8
1	2	3
3. Assam		
1999-2000	133.22	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	410.38	0
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	199.31	75.88
2004-2005	254.95	152.34
2005-2006	1355.65	98.56
2006-2007	337.74	521.30
2007-2008	4256.13	875.78
2008-2009	8310.66	4114.05
2009-2010	726.18	827.75
STATE TOTAL	15984.22	6665.67
4. Bihar		
1999-2000	445.14	0
2000-2001	678.69	0
2001-2002	1663.56	0
2002-2003	1548.70	0
2003-2004	0	524.69
2004-2005	120	402.63
2005-2006	5796.27	1348.55
2006-2007	830.23	3350.98
2007-2008	9554.97	5794.58
2008-2009	7150.57	7140.02
2009-2010	0	1466.72
STATE TOTAL	27788.13	20028.17
5. Goa		
1999-2000	0	0

2000-2001

0

0

1	2	3
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	0	0
2004-2005	134.67	0
2005-2006	0	0
2006-2007	0	142.28
2007-2008	37.65	0
2008-2009	0	7.65
2009-2010	0	0
STATE TOTAL	172.32	149.93

6. Gujarat

1999-2000	359.10	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	0	189.74
2002-2003	94.65	13.68
2003-2004	0	65.72
2004-2005	3690.44	84.80
2005-2006	188.79	2708.12
2006-2007	4976.36	3754.78
2007-2008	8528.33	4193.76
2008-2009	978.81	4344.62
2009-2010	3036.91	1049.42
STATE TOTAL	21853.39	16404.64

7. Haryana

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	214.23	0
2001-2002	62.06	71.07
2002-2003	402.90	25.90
2003-2004	62.06	237.56

1	2	3
2004-2005	811.13	304.86
2005-2006	9.97	558.75
2006-2007	2334.61	1441.39
2007-2008	2755.14	2038.66
2008-2009	1069.09	1152.75
2009-2010	0	383.82
STATE TOTAL	7721.19	6214.74

8. Himachal Pradesh

1999-2000	6.85	0
2000-2001	19.91	0
2001-2002	26.76	23.41
2002-2003	79.29	0.72
2003-2004	0	24.76
2004-2005	50	29.29
2005-2006	641.06	62
2006-2007	27.01	470.94
2007-2008	1024.50	355.13
2008-2009	679.70	466.90
2009-2010	0	307.21
STATE TOTAL	2555.08	1740.36

9. Jammu and Kashmir

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	122.05	0
2001-2002	0	6.44
2002-2003	0	1.64
2003-2004	76.48	12.49
2004-2005	1044.88	11.80
2005-2006	0	0
2006-2007	0	703.33

1	2	3
2007-2008	1791.20	429.37
2008-2009	1115.82	989.93
2009-2010	0	2.74
STATE TOTAL	4150.43	2157.82

10. Karnataka

1999-2000	536.05	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	0	31.61
2003-2004	0	249.28
2004-2005	461.99	76.62
2005-2006	5752.61	1902.23
2006-2007	1924.30	3035.37
2007-2008	1383.75	2659.55
2008-2009	3176.18	1843.62
2009-2010	5571.04	497.88
STATE TOTAL	18805.92	10296.16

11. Kerala

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	308.09	0
2001-2002	741.98	0
2002-2003	439.27	432.51
2003-2004	864.13	1280.87
2004-2005	805.53	496.83
2005-2006	736.90	911.17
2006-2007	363.18	673.83
2007-2008	2229.06	1408.58
2008-2009	388.99	719.59
2009-2010	975.45	311.55

STATE TOTAL	7852.58	6234.94
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1	2	3
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12. Madhya Pradesh

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	772.55	0
2001-2002	219.17	12.92
2002-2003	644.93	320.43
2003-2004	4425.96	1314.43
2004-2005	2242.97	2633.83
2005-2006	2024.68	1605.88
2006-2007	4386.49	3180.88
2007-2008	6793.58	6247.67
2008-2009	9767.83	7524.65
2009-2010	0	2269.61
STATE TOTAL	31278.16	25110.3

13. Maharashtra

1999-2000	1113.62	0
2000-2001	1195.96	0
2001-2002	0	15.54
2002-2003	591.37	1091.25
2003-2004	725.05	900.95
2004-2005	3493.05	1795.93
2005-2006	1494.98	2805.59
2006-2007	8719.53	5648.90
2007-2008	6785.73	6951.51
2008-2009	3526.29	5062.78
2009-2010	0	249.93
STATE TOTAL	27645.58	24522.38

14. Manipur

1999-2000	0	0
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2000-2001	48.08	0
2001-2002	0	0

1	2	3
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	103.56	5
2004-2005	0	0
2005-2006	0	0
2006-2007	90.81	14.83
2007-2008	748.44	126.34
2008-2009	99.83	494.20
2009-2010	0	58.29
STATE TOTAL	1090.72	698.66

15. Meghalaya

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	221.37	0
2004-2005	0	0
2005-2006	73.40	0
2006-2007	550.06	124.91
2007-2008	0	284.53
2008-2009	578.30	346.44
2009-2010	0	203.91
STATE TOTAL	1423.13	959.79

16. Mizoram

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	11.51	0
2004-2005	60	5.12

1	2	3
2005-2006	209.33	0
2006-2007	647.91	727.84
2007-2008	182.70	243.44
2008-2009	679.15	336.57
2009-2010	0	169.30
STATE TOTAL	1790.6	1482.27

17. Nagaland

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	118.33	0
2001-2002	0	18.48
2002-2003	13.79	0.23
2003-2004	0	161.41
2004-2005	62.69	0
2005-2006	79.37	0
2006-2007	89.61	31.53
2007-2008	170.05	229.92
2008-2009	99.78	170.88
2009-2010	1059.27	7.69
STATE TOTAL	1692.89	620.13

18. Orissa

1999-2000	243.06	0
2000-2001	971.06	0
2001-2002	567.83	143.65
2002-2003	1113.85	62.64
2003-2004	284.16	1602.89
2004-2005	4582.48	1021.02
2005-2006	2346.29	1815.81
2006-2007	5465.48	3499.85
2007-2008	5858.40	5508.23

1	2	3
2008-2009	7204.33	3966.11
2009-2010	0	1393.36
STATE TOTAL	28636.94	19013.56

19. Punjab

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	94.25	0
2001-2002	142.17	72.34
2002-2003	52.67	80.42
2003-2004	0	19.88
2004-2005	699.94	0.07
2005-2006	194.06	16.54
2006-2007	0	0
2007-2008	0	146.21
2008-2009	223.18	66.76
2009-2010	0	71.7
STATE TOTAL	1406.27	473.92

20. Rajasthan

1999-2000	333.45	0
2000-2001	1285.23	0
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	265.62	0
2003-2004	119.12	205.46
2004-2005	700.86	751.08
2005-2006	4353.91	1213.98
2006-2007	1148.29	3126.98
2007-2008	3191.56	2492.64
2008-2009	2516.85	2232.06
2009-2010	4352.64	665.36

STATE TOTAL	18267.53	10687.57
1	2	3
21. Sikkim		
1999-2000	17.98	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	124.42	0
2002-2003	17.98	121.96
2003-2004	38.36	29.07
2004-2005	74.07	29.13
2005-2006	344.90	246.63
2006-2007	137.64	279.21
2007-2008	0	57.90
2008-2009	254.86	0
2009-2010	0	0
STATE TOTAL	1010.21	763.9
22. Tamil Nadu		
1999-2000	513.67	0
2000-2001	834.25	0
2001-2002	1703.78	1366.97
2002-2003	2192.49	164.21
2003-2004	2768.98	4713.72
2004-2005	2972.06	3230.84
2005-2006	7786.94	3494.15
2006-2007	4873.92	3596.93
2007-2008	2243.15	5404.73
2008-2009	473.31	2427.37
2009-2010	6166.18	674.16
STATE TOTAL	32528.73	25073.08
23. Tripura		
1999-2000	0	0

2000-2001

253.66

0

1	2	3
2001-2002	364.63	47.75
2002-2003	249.56	137.91
2003-2004	819.21	983.31
2004-2005	368.73	379.90
2005-2006	361.72	393.05
2006-2007	0	320.61
2007-2008	882.41	58.82
2008-2009	158.76	740.63
2009-2010	0	1.64
STATE TOTAL	3458.68	3063.62

24. Uttar Pradesh

1999-2000	170.49	0
2000-2001	1572.25	0
2001-2002	2292.21	1063.11
2002-2003	2272.40	0
2003-2004	3120.44	3545.46
2004-2005	3475.35	3219.96
2005-2006	11619.82	4721.86
2006-2007	17210.53	13632.48
2007-2008	15085.11	16466.30
2008-2009	38139.95	25679.19
2009-2010	0	1634.97
STATE TOTAL	94958.55	69963.33

25. West Bengal

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	1472.2	0
2001-2002	1481.15	7.56
2002-2003	1528.88	0
2003-2004	1181.10	2262.73

1	2	3
2004-2005	1566.85	2389.29
2005-2006	4640.37	1838.94
2006-2007	945.99	1796.80
2007-2008	9056.89	3725.40
2008-2009	3047.06	2894.19
2009-2010	0	837.54
STATE TOTAL	24920.49	15752.44

26. D & N Haveli

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	0	0
2002-2003	3.15	0
2003-2004	0	0
2004-2005	0	1.67
2005-2006	0	0
2006-2007	0	0
2007-2008	0	0
2008-2009	0	0
2009-2010	0	0
STATE TOTAL	3.15	1.67

27. Puducherry

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	47.42	0
2002-2003	0	0
2003-2004	0	29.69
2004-2005	47.42	12.30
2005-2006	0	5.10
2006-2007	0	0.14
2007-2008	0	0

1	2	3
2008-2009	0	23.74
2009-2010	0	0
STATE TOTAL	94.84	70.97

28. Uttarakhand

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	34.62	0
2002-2003	151.16	0
2003-2004	13.40	8.60
2004-2005	503.23	64.98
2005-2006	97.50	65.50
2006-2007	157.40	497.17
2007-2008	664.36	427.36
2008-2009	861.89	478.15
2009-2010	773.98	80.5
STATE TOTAL	3257.54	1622.27

29. Chhattisgarh

1999-2000	0	0
2000-2001	0	0
2001-2002	229.33	0
2002-2003	175.64	0
2003-2004	0	177.15
2004-2005	1100.17	134.53
2005-2006	2663.38	140.180
2006-2007	4677.48	3201.40
2007-2008	5158.04	5939.38
2008-2009	1144.14	3042.53
2009-2010	0	252.46

STATE TOTAL	15148.18	12887.63
1	2	3
30. Jharkhand		
1999-2000	284.61	0
2000-2001	199.13	0
2001-2002	632.71	0
2002-2003	223.87	0
2003-2004	284.61	280.17
2004-2005	1946.71	198.16
2005-2006	2077.87	588.82
2006-2007	2747.69	3318.54
2007-2008	1909.95	2674.82
2008-2009	3188.20	3001.85
2009-2010	0	818.82
STATE TOTAL	13495.35	10881.18
GRAND TOTAL	450949.17	320636.80

Proposals under Missing Link Scheme

†1168. MS. ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under Mission Link Yojana received by the Central Government;

(b) the details of proposals approved out of them;

(c) the objective of the scheme;

(d) the details of the districts of Madhya Pradesh which would be benefited under the scheme;

(e) whether the proposal is pending with the Central Government;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) by when this scheme would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) Proposals under “Missing Links” are part of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which seeks to provide all-weather road connectivity to the unconnected eligible

habitations in the rural areas. If some portions of the roads are required to provide full connectivity

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to the eligible habitations under PMGSY, which was left out in the proposals sanctioned earlier, then such road works are considered as “Missing Links”. During the year 2007-08, 220 such missing links of length 1085.36 km were sanctioned by the Ministry for Madhya Pradesh. 43 districts have benefited by these missing links. The list of these districts has been given at Statement (See below).

(e) to (g) No proposal for missing links of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh is currently pending in the Ministry.

Statement

Districts benefitted by Missing links

Sl.No.	Name of the district
1	2
1.	Anuppur
2.	Ashoknagar
3.	Barwani
4.	Balaghat
5.	Betul
6.	Bhind
7.	Burhanpur
8.	Bhopal
9.	Chhatapur
10.	Chhindwara
11.	Datia
12.	Dhar
13.	Dindori
14.	Guna
15.	Gwalior
16.	Harda
17.	Hoshangabad
18.	Indore
19.	Jabalpur
20.	Jhabua

- 21. Katni
 - 22. Khargone
-

1	2
23.	Khandwa
24.	Mandsoure
25.	Morena
26.	Narisinghpur
27.	Neemuch
28.	Panna
29.	Rewa
30.	Raisen
31.	Rajgath
32.	Shajapur
33.	Satna
34.	Schore
35.	Sconi
36.	Sheopur
37.	Shahdol
38.	Shivpuri
39.	Sidhi
40.	Singroli
41.	Ujjain
42.	Umaria
43.	Vidisha

Beneficiaries of NREGS

1169. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the ambitious scheme of Government *i.e.* National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is not being actually implemented on the ground and the reality is that the benefit is not going to the targeted group; and

(b) if so, the steps being envisaged by Government to curb corruption in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As per reports received from the State Governments, 2.10 crore households were provided employment under NREGA during 2006-07, 3.39 crore during 2007-08, 4.49 crore during 2008-09 and 1.59 crore have so far been provided employment during the current year.

(b) With a view to ensure transparency in the implementation of NREGA, the Ministry has taken the following steps.

- (i) Wage payment to unskilled workers is to be made through Banks and Post Offices.
- (ii) States have been directed to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months.
- (iii) A comprehensive Web-based MIS www.nrega.nic.in has been implemented which places all data in public domain.

Funds to rural development in Rajasthan

†1170. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount allocated to Rajasthan for rural development during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has any special proposal for the border districts of the State like Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Amount of Central allocation and release to Rajasthan under major rural development programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years (*i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Under Desert Development Programme (DDP), Special Projects were launched in problem areas of 10 districts of Rajasthan including Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner. The Department of Land Resources has so far sanctioned a total number of 1233 special projects in these three districts (Jaisalmer-434, Barmer-442 and Bikaner-357) for the treatment of an area of 6.165 lakhs hectares. 473 special Projects have so far been completed and the remaining 760 projects are at various stages of implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Central allocation and funds released to Rajasthan under major rural development programmes during last three years
(2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Schemes	Central allocation			Central Release		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	—	—	—	78041.00	105600.00	652157.00
2.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)	3375.71	5149.28	6087.48	3222.55	5072.68	6087.47
3.	Sampoorna Grammen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)	12542.23	9439.21	—	15960.83	5663.52	—
4.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	22900.00	23400.00	23400.00	114167.00	164664.00	177132.00
5.	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	6392.56	8878.84	12429.38	6617.51	8888.57	18111.46
6.	Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)	—	—	—	2582.00	1396.00	181.00
7.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	—	—	—	16025.00	9818.00	21687.0
8.	Integrated Watershed Development Projects (IWDP)	—	—	—	4276.00	4845.000	4526.00
9.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	41489.68	60672.00	97013.00	31466.300	60672.00	97182.66
10.	Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)	—	—	—	1148.29	3191.56	2516.85

NREGA, DPAP, DDP, IWDP and TSC are demand driven schemes. State-wise allocation is not done.

Computerization of land records

1171. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme for computerization of land records;
- (b) if so, whether the scheme has been implemented in Goa;
- (c) the essential features of the scheme;
- (d) the financial assistance, if any, received by the State Government of Goa in the last three years; and
- (e) the exact nature of work undertaken by the State Government under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally-sponsored scheme of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) was being administered up to 2007-08. The scheme was being implemented by the State Government of Goa. However, the CLR scheme has been merged with the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) approved during 2008-09. Computerization of land records is covered under the NLRMP.

(c) The salient features of the NLRMP are the following:

- The NLRMP has been conceptualized as a major system and reform initiative that is concerned not merely with computerization, updating and maintenance of land records and validation of titles, but also as a programme that will add value and provide a comprehensive database for planning developmental, regulatory and disaster management activities by providing location-specific information, while providing citizen services based on land records data.
- A system for concurrent and continuous updating of land records based on current changes will be in operation in all the tehsils, taluks, revenue circles, etc.,. Simultaneously, steps will be taken for comprehensive survey/re-survey of land using modern technology like High Resolution Satellite Imagery, aerial photography, electronic total stations, GPS etc.
- A major focus of the Programme will be on citizen services, such as providing records of rights (RoRs) with maps; other land-based certificates such as caste certificates, income certificates (particularly in rural areas), domicile certificates; information for eligibility for development programmes; land passbooks, etc.
- The activities to be supported under the Programme, *inter alia*, include computerization of the records of rights (RoRs), digitization of maps and updating of land records, survey/resurvey using modern technology including aerial photogrammetry, computerization of registration, automatic generation of mutation notices, inter connectivity amongst revenue offices and connectivity between registration and revenue offices along with training and capacity building of the concerned officials and functionaries.

- The programme is to be implemented in a time-bound manner and it is expected that all the districts in the country will be covered by the end of the Twelfth Plan. Further, all the activities under the NLRMP are to converge in the district and district will be the unit of implementation.
- Under the Programme, the Central Govt. is providing financial assistance to the States — 100% for the Components of Computerization of textual and Spatial land records, training and capacity building, 50% for survey/resurvey and modern record rooms and 25% for computerization of Registration offices and their connectivity to revenue offices.
- It has been decided that the Central share shall be released in two installments, the first installment being 75% of the sanctioned amount. Upon utilization of 60% of the first installment, States/UTs will be eligible to get the second installment of 25%.

(d) Funds have not been sought by the Govt. of Goa under the NLRMP so far. However, funds amounting to Rs. 90.00 lakh were released under the Computerization of Land Records scheme to the State Govt. during 2007-08.

(e) The State Govt. has reported to have undertaken computerization of land, records, digitization of cadastral maps, scanning of old land records, etc. under the CLR scheme.

Unclaimed waste oil containers at ports

1172. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that waste oil containers in large numbers are lying in various ports unclaimed;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether there are any guidelines to check such situation;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some waste oil containers are lying at some ports. Port-wise details of such containers are as under:-

Sl.No.	Port	Details
1	2	3
1.	Tuticorin Port	284 drums containing 60.750 MT of waste oil imported by M/s Sakthi Fuels, Tanjore, through 3 containers from Qatar are lying in Tuticorin Port Trust.

1	2	3
2.	Kandla Port	Only one container weighing 18.945 MT of waste oil is lying unclaimed/uncleared at Kandla Port Trust.
3.	Cochin Port	9 Nos. of 20 feet containers of Furnace oil are lying uncleared at the container terminal of Cochin Port since 20.2.2003. Also, one container containing pitch oil in barrels is lying at the port container freight station.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified rules namely the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans Boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 for handling import/export; treatment/storage/disposal transport and movement of hazardous waste including waste oil.

Besides the above rules, the Supreme Court of India has issued orders dated 14.10.2003 in the writ petition No. 657 of 1995 which dealt with the alarming situation created due to dumping of hazardous wastes, their generation and irreversible damage being caused to the environment because of improper waste. A monitoring committee has also been constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to oversee the compliance of the orders. Quarterly progress review reports are being filed by the Committee before the Hon'ble Court.

Maritime Universities

1173. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the proposed Maritime Universities to be set up by Government in different States;
- (b) the funds allotted for this purpose in the current fiscal year;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to set up more such universities to meet the growing demand for trained personnel in the shipping sector; and
- (d) the steps proposed to expand maritime sector education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The Government have established an Indian Maritime University (IMU), at Chennai on 14/11/2008 by an Act of Parliament *i.e.* Indian Maritime University Act, 2008 (22 of 2008) with Headquarter at Chennai and campuses at Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam.

(b) As per the accepted Estimates for 2009-10, a sum of Rs. 53.80 crore has been provided to IMU under Plan Scheme. In the Non-Plan, Rs. 9.00 crore has also been provided for providing grants in aid to IMU during 2009-10.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to set up more Maritime Universities in the country. Requirement of more Universities would depend on the experience gained from establishing the Indian Maritime University and other enabling factors like availability of land, resources and presence of Maritime Institutes in the region.

Port development projects

1174. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to speed up port infrastructure development, his Ministry has decided to award over 20 major port development projects in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down for awarding the project development task;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of the firms or companies to which ports development task was awarded during the past three years; and

(e) the achievements and progress of task being handled by those firms or companies?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to award 22 Projects through private investment mainly under Public Private Partnership (PPP) to speed up port infrastructure development during the current financial year. The details of these projects are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir. The PPP projects are awarded as per criteria specified in the Model Request for Qualification and Request for Proposal.

(d) The details of the projects which have been assigned by the ports to various companies/firms for the last 3 financial years are in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) Most of the projects are at different stages of construction as per the provisions specified in the respective Concession Agreements signed between the companies/firms and Port authorities.

Statement-I

List of projects for award during the current financial year in the Major Ports

Sl.No.	Name of project proposed to be awarded
1	2
1.	Mechanisation at HDC berth no 8 at Kolkata Port
2.	Mechanisation at HDC berth no 8 at Kolkata Port
3.	Multi purpose berth at Paradip Port Trust Project-1
4.	Multi purpose berth at Paradip Port Trust Project-2
5.	Mechanisation of Cargo Handling Project-1 at Paradip Port

1	2
6.	Mechanisation of Cargo Handling Project-2 at Paradip Port
7.	Installation of Mechanised handling facilities for fertilizers at EQ 7 in the Inner Harbour at Vizag
8.	Mechanised Coal handling facilities at General cum cargo berth in the Outer Harbour of at Vizag
9.	Container Terminal at outer Harbor OR1/OR2 at Vizag
10.	Development of East berth at vizag (since split in to following two projects — 2 RFQs issued) (1) Development of North Cargo Berth in East Dock (2) Development of South Cargo Berth in East Dock
11.	Installation of Mechanised handling facilities at WQ 8 at Vizag
12.	Development of Dry Port and Multi Model Logistic Park at Chennai
13.	Creation of Mega Container Terminal at Chennai
14.	Construction of North Cargo Berth No-II at Tuticorin
15.	International Bunkering Terminal-Construction of Multi-purpose Liquid Terminal at Cochin
16.	International Cruise Terminal Cum Public Plaza Cochin
17.	Development of standalone container handling facility with a quay length of 330 m North of NSICT Terminal at JNPT
18.	4th Container Terminal at JNPT
19.	Development and operation of 3 conventional cargo terminal at Indira Dock- at Mumbai
20.	Creation of berthing and allied facilities of Tekkra near Tuna (outside Kandla Creek)-Phase-I
21.	Setting up of Single Point Mooring (SPM) and allied facilities off Veera in Gulf of Kutch — Kandla
22.	Development of Container Terminal at NMPT

Statement-II

Details of Assigned Projects.

1. Paradip Port Trust—

Deep Draught Iron Ore terminal

Awarded on BOT basis to M/S Blue Water Iron Ore Terminal Pvt. Ltd., a consortium of Noble Group Ltd., Gammon Infrastructure Project Ltd. and MMTC.

2. **Chennai Port Trust—**

Development of 2nd Container Terminal

Licence awarded to Consortium of Port of M/s. Singapore Authority (PSA) and M/s. South India Corporation Agencies Limited (SICAL).

3. **Ennore Port Ltd.--**

(a) Development of Coal Terminal to handle 8 MTPA Coal for users other than TNEB.

The licence awarded on BOT basis to M/S Chetnad International Coal Terminal Private Ltd., a consortium of South India Corporation Ltd., Portia Management Services Ltd. and Navayuga Engineering Ltd.

(b) Construction of Iron Ore Terminal

The Licence awarded on BOT basis to M/S SICAL Iron Ore Terminals Ltd., a consortium of SICAL Logistics Ltd., L&T Infrastructures Development Projects Ltd. and MMTC Ltd.

4. **Cochin Port Trust--**

Captive LNG Port and Re-Gasification Terminal at Puthuvypeen.

Awarded on BOT basis to M/S Petronet LNG Limited (PLL).

5. **Mumbai Port Trust--**

Construction of Off Shore Container Terminal.

The Licence awarded on BOT basis to the consortium of M/s Gammon India Ltd., Gammon Infrastructure Ltd. and Dragados Spain which formed a Company viz M/s Indira Container Terminal Private Limited.

6. **Kandla Port Trust—**

Development, Operation, Management and Maintenance of Berth No.11 and 12 as Container Terminal.

Awarded to M/s. ABG Kandla Container Terminal Limited.

Regulation of ports

1175. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA :
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up an authority to regulate the functioning of major ports along the coastline of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the authority would be given powers to monitor performance standards of the port authorities and also to check smuggling activities at the ports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Shipping was formed to examine the role of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), Mumbai, *vis-a-vis* its performance regulation, the organizational structure and the statutory framework for the purpose of strengthening of Tariff Authority for Major Ports. The Committee has finalized the draft Major Ports Regulatory Authority Act, 2009 and the same has been hosted on the website for inviting comments/views of the various stakeholders on the proposed Act. The Act, if enacted, will be a successor to the provisions currently enshrined in the Major Ports Act, 1963 in so far as the working of Tariff Authority for Major Ports is concerned. No final decision on the issue has yet been taken.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I lay on the Table:

(i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

(1) G.S.R. 227 (E), dated the 31st March, 2009 publishing the Kolkata Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

(2) G.S.R. 428 (E), dated the 18th June, 2009 publishing the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

(3) G.S.R. 198 (E), dated the 25th March, 2009 publishing the Kolkata Port Trust Employees (Pension) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 181/15/09]

(ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:

(1) G.S.R. 448 (E), dated the 26th June, 2009, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Amendment Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 179/15/09]

(2) G.S.R. 449 (E), dated the 26th June, 2009, regarding Registration of Fishing Boats under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 180/15/09]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of the NACIL, New Delhi and related papers

III. Report (2007-08) of the Commission of Railway Safety and related papers

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

Sir, I lay on the Table

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under sub-section (3) of Section 14-A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together with Explanatory Note:

- (1) G.S.R. 68 (E), dated the 2nd February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2009, together with delay statement.
- (2) G.S.R. 94 (E), dated the 13th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (3) G.S.R. 101 (E), dated the 19th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (4th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (4) G.S.R. 126 (E), dated the 25th February, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (5th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (5) G.S.R. 150 (E), dated the 4th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (6th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (6) G.S.R. 165 (E), dated the 12th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (7th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (7) G.S.R. 167 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (8th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (8) G.S.R. 168 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (9th Amendment) Rules, 2009.
- (9) G.S.R. 254 (E), dated the 16th April, 2009, publishing the Aircraft (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 94/15/09]

- II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (II) (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 282/15/09]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers under Section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989:

- (a) Annual Report of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 2007-2008.
- (b) Statement by the Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 96/15/09]

I. **Accounts (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow and related papers**

II. **Account (2006-07) of University of Allahabad and related papers**

III. **Report and Accounts (2006-07 and 2007-08) of various educational institutes and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table:

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Act, 1994:

- (a) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2004-2005 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 190/15/09]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2005-2006 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 190A/15/09]

- (c) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2006-2007 and the Audit Report thereon.

(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. 190B/15/09]

II. (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) under Section 32 of the Allahabad University Act, 2005, of the Annual Accounts of University of Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007 and the Audit Report thereon.

(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. 192/15/09]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Statement giving reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the Mizoram University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 371/15/09]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Uttarakhand Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad, Dehradun, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 194/15/09]

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), U.P. Education for All Project Board, Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 196/15/09]

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 197/15/09]

(v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 198/15/09]

(vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT), Northern Region, Kanpur, for the year 2007- 2008, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 193/15/09]

(vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008, 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. 191/15/09]

(viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, 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. 195/15/09]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

II. Report and Accounts (2007-08) of NHB, New Delhi and related papers

III. MOU (2009-10) between Government of India and SPMCIL

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

Sir, I lay on the Table

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), under Section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

(1) F.No.LAD-NRO/GN/2008-2009/34/154082, dated the 13th February, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2009.

(2) No.LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/05/163525, dated the 19th May, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investor Protection and Education Fund) Regulations, 2009.

(3) No. LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/09/165992, dated the 10th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2009.

(4) No. LAD/NRO/GN/2009-10/10/166936 dated the 20th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Facilitation of issuance of Indian Depository Receipts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 144/15/09]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 of the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Housing Bank (NHB), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 141/15/09]

- III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 143/15/09]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table:

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) G.S.R. 437 (E) dated the 22nd June, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Diethyl Thio Phosphoryl Chloride, commonly known as DETPC, originating in or exported from, the Peoples Republic of China into India.
- (2) G.S.R. 438 (E), dated the 22nd June, 2009, seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Phosphoric Acid of all grades and all concentration (excluding Agriculture or Fertiliser grade), originating in or exported from the People's Republic of Korea into India.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 158/15/09]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

- (1) S.O. 496 (E), dated the 16th February, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (2) S.O. 549 (E), dated the 25th February, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (3) S.O. 564 (E), dated the 27th February, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.

- (4) S.O. 731 (E), dated the 13th March, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (5) S.O. 823 (E), dated the 24th March, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of Australian Dollar and Swedish Kroner into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (6) S.O. 867 (E), dated the 27th March, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (7) S.O. 889 (E), dated the 31st March, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (8) S.O. 1059 (E), dated the 28th April, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (9) S.O. 315 (E), dated the 12th May, 2009, regarding India-Singapore Trade Agreement (Safeguard Measures), Rules 2009.
- (10) G.S.R. 1223 (E), dated the 15th May, 2009, publishing the Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.
- (11) S.O. 1358 (E), dated the 27th May, 2009, regarding Exchange rate of conversion certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (12) S.O. 1381 (E), dated the 29th May, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 21/15/09]

- (13) S.O. 1385 (E), dated the 30th May, 2009, publishing the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the Preferential Trade Agreement between the Governments of MERCOSUR Member States comprising the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Republica Oriental del Uruguay and the Republic of India) Rules, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 22/15/09]

- (14) S.O. 1455 (E), dated the 15th June, 2009, regarding Revision of Tariff Value on Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, and certain other items based on international prices.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 21/15/09]

(15) G.S.R. 174 (E), dated the 17th March, 2009, publishing the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 156/15/09]

(iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. 171(E), dated the 17th March, 2009, publishing the Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2009, under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 157/15/09]

(iv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) under Section 31 of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

(1) No. LAD-NRO / GN /2009-2010/07/165404, dated the 5th June, 2009, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2009.

(2) No. LAD-NRO/GN/2009-2010/04/163097, dated the 13th May, 2009, regarding regulation 3 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Certification of Associated Persons in the Securities Markets) Regulations, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 142/15/09]

Memorandum of Understanding (2009-10) between Government of India and various Limited Companies

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 313/15/09]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and the NEPA Limited for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 312/15/09]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) and the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL) for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 314/15/09]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) and the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library. See No.L.T. 316/15/09]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Manohar Joshi stating that he is unable to attend the House due to some personal reasons. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence from 13th July to 7th August, 2009, of the current (217th) Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent till the end of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No Hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE BOARD FOR SEAFARERS

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): Sir, I move the following Motion:

That in pursuance of clause (i) of Rule 4 read with Rule 6 of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963 (as amended) framed under sub-section (2) of Section 218 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Act No.44 of 1958), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers in the vacancy caused due to the retirement of Shri K. Chandran Pillai from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 2009.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, before we take up the Calling Attention, I want to inform the Members that the Member who initiates a Calling Attention should not take more than seven minutes and the other Members who are called by the Chair should not take more than five minutes each. Members should restrict themselves to strictly seeking clarifications. I also want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that not more than one hour is spent on the Calling Attention. So, we have to finish this Calling Attention within one hour. I am sure the Members will keep in mind the time constraint and restrict their clarifications to the limit that I have mentioned. Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar to call the attention of the Minister.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Deteriorating financial condition of Air India and action taken by the
Government**

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation to the deteriorating financial condition of air India and action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission, shall I make the Statement or lay it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is the Statement?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it is being circulated. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir I will read it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Start reading.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the Government liberalised the civil aviation sector keeping in view the rapid increase in the demand for both domestic and international air services. The demands of economic growth, trade and infrastructure development placed upon this sector an immense requirement for increase in capacity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can highlight it. It is being circulated.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I will read it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have sought the permission. I am told to read out.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, as per the procedure, when the attention is called of a Minister, he should read the Statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is reading the Statement.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I am reading it. Removal of constraints in capacity, both in terms of the number of routes as also number of aircraft was urgently needed. From only 100 aircraft available before the turn of the century, the number has grown to approximately 400 today. During this time, the annual growth projections in capacity were about 30 per cent. Thus, apart from liberalising to allow more airline operators in the market, a fleet expansion plan was conceived for Air India and Indian Airlines.

The competition that ensued afforded better service to the Indian public as also much more economical and affordable prices. In this backdrop, Air India also needed to compete at the enhanced levels of service expected by today's passengers. The ageing fleet of the national carriers needed replacement, and, towards this end, orders for 111 aircraft were placed upon M/s. Boeing & Airbus for its fleet replacement and expansion programmes. Until then the two airlines were beset by image problems, with old aircraft and frequent delays caused by technical defects. The cost structure of operating old aircraft thus impacted upon the profitability of the airline.

Even in the backdrop of this order for new aircraft, and 50 of them having joined service, approximately half the combined fleet is over 15 years old. While the airline began the process of modernisation, its losses have been mounting because of the present economic recession which has lowered seat occupation factors tremendously as well as forced all airlines, worldwide, to drop fares in the highly competitive market. This has lowered yields, causing all airlines to suffer operating losses. Losses in Air India thus reflects a common economic problem of all airlines worldwide. Worldwide economic losses expected in the year 2009-10 are expected to be around \$9 billion. Before the merger, the erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines had incurred a loss of Rs. 541.30 crores and Rs. 230.97 crores respectively during 2006-07. In 2007-08, the combined airline posted a loss of Rs. 2226 crores and during 2008-09, the expected loss is approximately Rs. 5000 crores. The accumulated losses of NACIL as on 31st March, 2009 is likely to be in the range of Rs.7200 crores.

It may also be brought that the equity base of Air India is only Rs.145 crores. The Government, in the past, has never assisted Air India, unlike Governments in other countries assisted their airlines when in similar difficulty. In the post merger period, a plan for an IPO was mooted but the market conditions then were not conducive to this process. It is in this background that an equity infusion and soft loan by the Government as a measure of softening the adverse financial situation is contemplated. It may also be brought out that over the past year there has been a surge in oil prices that has adversely impacted the cost of operations in the airlines and deteriorated its financial position further. The airline has also suffered from high fixed cost as also high expenditure on insurance, interest on working capital, aircraft loan, and on leasing of aircraft, that have not been matched with corresponding percentage increases in revenue.

The airline has also had to incur huge cost for operating non economic flights in national interest that have not been compensated for by adequate revenue. These include flights to the North-East region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, transportation of the Army troops, transportation of Haj pilgrims, disaster relief and other unprofitable but necessary operations that have been entirely in the country's interest.

The airline has adopted various measures to improve its financial position. Some of these are enumerated below:

- (i) Rationalization of routes to cut losses on traditionally loss making routes.
- (ii) Rescheduling/cancellation of future aircraft deliveries.
- (iii) Return of leased capacity at the earliest.
- (iv) A complete rationalization of manpower and productivity linked incentives including large-scale redeployment of staff to curb infructuous expenditure.
- (v) Reduction of contractual employment.
- (vi) Review of all agreements on all technical and operational matters.

(vii) Constitution of a turnaround Committee comprising representatives from Senior Management and Unions to look at all areas of cost reduction, including closure of all offline officers and reduction of employees at foreign stations.

(viii) Aligning all operational and technical agreements to reflect present market conditions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar. Please seek only clarifications from the Statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, this Statement is only confusion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever confusions you have, on that only you seek clarifications. Whatever is contained in the Statement, from that only you seek clarifications.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, that I will do. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I will do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this Statement is only confusion. Where is the question of clarification now?

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे लगा था कि मंत्री महोदय के बयान के बाद शायद कुछ नहीं बोलना पड़े, लेकिन यू0पी0ए0 की यह एक विशेषता हो गई है जैसे ममता जी ने कहा, पिछले पांच सालों के बजटों पर व्हाइट पेपर निकालने की नौबत है, क्योंकि जो दिखाया था, वह था नहीं। वैसे इस स्टेटमेंट में जो वास्तविकता है, उसे छिपाने की कोशिश की है। इसमें इससे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं है। मैं चार बातें गिनाना चाहता हूँ। एयर इंडिया की जो स्थिति है, उसका मुझे मंत्री महोदय से इसका खुलासा चाहिए। पहले तो मर्जर की बात है। जैसे अभी शोभना जी ने एक सवाल में पूछा था कि मर्जर किसलिए किया था, क्या वह सफल रहा, तब मंत्री महोदय ने क्या कहा था? The Civil Aviation Minister facilitated the merger saying that he is the custodian of the airline. Then why did the merger fail? He had also accepted that the results were not according to the expectations. दुनिया में मर्जर होते हैं। वे उदाहरण देते हैं, जेटसहारा का हुआ, किंगफिशर-डक्कन का हुआ। वे आइडेंटिटी सेपरेट रखते हैं, रूट रखते हैं, मुनाफे के लिए रेशनेलाइजेशन, ब्रैण्ड सेपरेट रखते हैं। उन्होंने KLM and Air France का भी उदाहरण दिया था। वहां protection of brand किया कि नहीं? वहां routes रथोर Government help मिली की नहीं? मर्जर तभी सफल होता है, जब यह सब कुछ किया जाता है। यह क्यों नहीं किया गया? अगर ये दोनों कंपनियां पार्लियामेंट के कानून और निर्णय के तहत बनी थीं, तो मर्जर की बात पार्लियामेंट के सामने क्यों नहीं उठाई गई? यह मुद्दा बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस मर्जर के कारण लॉसेज बढ़े हैं, प्रोफिट नहीं हुआ है।

दूसरी बात fleet acquisition की है। कोई भी दुकानदार कोई खरीद तभी करता है, जब उसके पास मांग है, उसके पास पैसा है, उसके पास फाइनेंशियल क्लोजर हो सकता है। सरकार कहती तो है कि एयर इंडिया को आजादी है, वह निर्णय करे, लेकिन ये 110 एयर क्राफ्ट लेने का निर्णय किसने किया था? आप 45,000 करोड़ का ऑर्डर पुट कर रहे हैं, जबकि बोरोइंग 15,000 करोड़ है और लॉसेज 5000 करोड़ हो गए हैं। ऐसे में जो पचास क्राफ्ट आकर खड़े हैं, क्या वे यूज में हैं? मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि इसका इंट्रस्ट चालू है, लेकिन यह जो फ्लीट है, यह काम में नहीं है। पायलट नहीं है, इसलिए फ्लीट काम नहीं कर सकता है। अगर मर्जर करना था, तो मंत्री महोदय यह बताएं कि एयर इंडिया के लिए Boeing और इंडियन एयरलाइन के लिए Airbus दो अलग-अलग विमानों का ऑर्डर क्यों दिया गया? एयर लाइन्स के पास एक ही टाइप का विमान होता है, उसका

उपयोग होता है, जिससे pilots, fares सभी में बचत होती है, लेकिन आपने जान-बूझकर जो दो अलग-अलग ऑर्डर दिए, उसका आपको खुलासा करना पड़ेगा। आपने रूट की बात कही है। आपने पहले लिखा है कि लॉसेज कम करने के लिए हम रूट्स को रेशनेलाइज कर रहे हैं। आप कौन-से रूट कर रहे हैं? मैं आपको एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का तीन साल का टाइम टेबल देता हूँ। आपने कैसा रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन किया है - अभी हमारे एक सदस्य भाई ने बताया था कि जो प्रोफिटेबल टाइम है, जो actual demand है, वे सारे एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के कैंसिल हो गए। मैं इस पर white paper चाहता हूँ। आप बताइए कि रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन प्रोफिटेबल रूट का हुआ था। मैं आपको Gulf एयरलाइन्स का उदाहरण देता हूँ। गल्फ में आपने Air India एक्सप्रेस शुरू की। यह सबसे ज्यादा प्रोफिट देने वाला रूट था। यह आपने Indian express से शुरू किया ताकि लोगों को फायदा मिले, लेकिन जब डिमांड थी, तब आपने एयर इंडिया का पूरा लॉस कर दिया। सर, बाइलेटरल एक बड़ा घोटाला है। इसका भी मंत्री महोदय को खुलासा करना चाहिए कि रूट्स को जो bilateral rights दिए हैं, वे कैसे दिए हैं। bilateral rights के तहत एक आंकड़ा बताता हूँ। Emirates के 185 फ्लाइट्स हर रोज आठ जगहों पर इंडिया में आते-जाते हैं, लेकिन हमारे केवल 20-25 जा रहे हैं। ये कैसा बाइलेटरल का खुलना है? ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): तब ..**(व्यवधान)**। आपकी सरकार थी...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं शुक्ल जी...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : आप बीच में क्यों बोल रहे हैं..**(व्यवधान)**। क्या...**(व्यवधान)**... आप मंत्री बन गए हैं?...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, उस समय माननीय सदस्य कहां थे? वे इधर थे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Shukla. ...**(Interruptions)**... ठीक है...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : उपसभापति जी, एक ही फिगर बताना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने जो रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन किया है, उसके कारण डोमेस्टिक में एयर इंडिया का जो चालीस परसेंट शेयर था, वह अब चौदह परसेंट बन कर रह गया है। क्या यह तुम्हारा रूट रेशनेलाइजेशन है? इसे कैसे करेंगे? इससे ज्यादा **(समय की घंटी)** अन्तिम बात यह है कि करप्शन कितना खाएगा?...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : सर, वे अच्छा बोल रहे हैं, उन्हें पूरा बोलने दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to follow the time. ...**(Interruptions)**... I request the hon. Members that they have to stick to the time-limit. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : सर, मेरे दो ही सवाल हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have a long list of hon. Members. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर : सर, सवाल दो ही हैं। करप्शन कितना है? A-Z, हर चीज में करप्शन, 17 हजार के रेवेन्यू में 3 हजार का करप्शन। कैसे चलेगा? हर बार, हर कांट्रैक्ट में तलवार और डोगरा कौन हैं, क्या हैं, कैसे नाम आते हैं, इसका भी खुलासा हो। इसलिए आज एयर इंडिया की जो हालत है, इसके लिए सरकार जिम्मेदार है और मंत्री जिम्मेदार है। अब वे विश्वामित्र की भूमिका में जाना चाहते हैं। **(समय की घंटी)** विश्वामित्र जी ने कहा कि यह मेरा पाप नहीं है, यह पाप तुम्हारा है। इसका खुलासा होना चाहिए।

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before starting my clarifications on the financial condition of Air India, I wish to pose a very basic question to the hon. Minister what is the need for the Government to run airlines. It is not the job of the Government. The Government should act as a regulator and keep the field open for private operators to run the industry on competitive basis.

The Government has already approved purchase of some aircrafts for the Air India. Aircrafts as of now are running empty. Do you think there is a need for review of this purchase order? What is the position of delivery? How many are remaining to be delivered? Whether there is any change in the stand of the Air India to acquire more aircrafts particularly in view of the fact that no business is on the card? What is the use of having more aircrafts?

Air India has a very good ground handling staff, engineering services and cargo operations. What efforts have been made to utilise these expertise to earn more revenue for the Air India?

Extra passengers on board by Air India on a fully loaded flight has been the headlines on newspapers for the past few days. I understand that some inquiry has been instituted in that particular flight from Mumbai to Mangalore. But later on, it was also reported that it is quite routine in Air India. Kith and kin of bureaucrats in the Civil Aviation Ministry, pilots and cabin crew members are generally obliged to be accommodated in the jump seat of the cockpit and foldable seat for crew.

श्री उपसभापति : आपने अपना सवाल कर लिया न!

श्री ओ.टी. लेपचा : सर, भारत सरकार और मंत्री जी ने सिक्किम के लिए एयरपोर्ट की जो sanction दी है, उसके लिए मैं सिक्किम की जनता की ओर से उन्हें बधाई और धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। साथ-साथ मैं एक जानकारी भी चाहता हूँ कि यह कार्य कब खत्म होगा और यह एयरलाइन कब स्टार्ट होगी?

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यही प्रश्न करना चाहूँगा कि जो यह merger किया गया था, जिसका उद्देश्य था कि खर्चों में कमी होगी और सारी चीजें सही होकर सही रूप में चलेंगी, माननीय मंत्री महोदय को तो व्यापार का बहुत अनुभव है, तो यह loss 2226 करोड़ से बढ़ कर 5 हजार करोड़ क्यों हो गई? क्या ratio चल रहा है, हर एयरक्राफ्ट के ऊपर कितने कर्मचारी काम कर रहे हैं? क्या कारण है कि आज एयर इंडिया के पास जो विमान हैं, उनमें से 15 प्रतिशत विमान कार्ययुक्त नहीं हैं, उन्हें कार्य में नहीं लिया जा रहा है, वे खराब पड़े हुए हैं? यदि ऐसी स्थिति होगी, तो वे किस प्रकार से एयर इंडिया को लाभ में ला पाएंगे? इसी प्रकार लगभग 69 विमान 15 साल से ज्यादा पुराने हैं, जिसके कारण सुरक्षा कारणों से लोग एयर इंडिया पर नहीं चलना चाहते हैं और प्राइवेट एयरलाइंस पर चलना चाहते हैं। प्राइवेट एयरलाइंस मुनाफा कमा लेती हैं, लेकिन हमारी एयर इंडिया नुकसान में चल रही है। इसमें क्या किया जाए? इसके अलावा अभी प्रश्न-प्रहर में भी जो बात कही गई थी कि जो समय-सारिणी बनती है, उसके अनुसार जो सही समय हैं, सही रूट्स हैं, उन पर एअर इंडिया प्लान नहीं करती है और उन पर प्लेन नहीं चलाए जाते हैं। इसके लिए कौन से अधिकारी जिम्मेदार हैं एवं उन अधिकारियों पर क्या कार्यवाहियां की जा रही हैं?

मैं आपका ध्यान एक और चीज की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा कि आज से 15-20 साल पहले कलकत्ता, कानपुर, अहमदाबाद और मुंबई के लिए बोइंग का एअरक्राफ्ट चलता था और फुल बुकिंग के साथ चलता था। क्या कारण है कि उस रूट को बंद कर दिया गया अनेकों बार कहने पर भी उसे नहीं चलाया गया। मुझे लगता है कि जो निर्णय लिए जाते हैं, वे राजनीतिक दृष्टि से लिए जा रहे हैं, कॉमर्शियल दृष्टि से नहीं लिए जा रहे हैं, जिनके कारण आज यह एअरलाइन्स लॉस में चल रही है।

इसी के साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूँगा कि एअरलाइन्स स्टाफ को कितने फ्री टिकेट्स दिए जा रहे हैं? एअरलाइन्स स्टाफ के द्वारा अपने आप को फ्री टिकेट्स के माध्यम से बहुत अधिक ओबलाइज किया जा रहा है,

इसलिए मैं उसके बारे में जानकारी चाहूंगा। जब तक यह नहीं किया जाएगा, तब तक आपकी एअरलाइन्स मुनाफे में नहीं आ सकती है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इन सारी चीजों के ऊपर हमें जानकारी दें। आज भी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सिंगापुर एअरलाइन्स मुनाफे में चल रही है, ब्रिटिश एअरवेज़ मुनाफे में चल रही है, तो फिर यह घाटे में क्यों चल रही है? मैं यह सारी जानकारियां चाहूंगा।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं कुछ मूल प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगा और Basically, I read the answer of the hon. Minister and I would not like to complicate the matter further.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, clarifications only.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it's a clarification. सर, मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि जब 2007 में मर्ज किया गया, तब पार्लियामेंट को और पूरे देश को यह बताया गया कि दो चीजों से ही इंडियन एअरलाइन्स और एअर इंडिया का भविष्य सुधर जाएगा। इस देश में अगर हमें अपने प्राइवेट सेक्टर के एअरलाइन्स को, अपने नैशनल कैरियर को जिंदा रखना है तो we should go for merger and we should go for fleet acquisition. यह दो बातें कही गईं और सबने कहा कि आप जितना जल्दी इसे करना चाहते हैं, करिए। इसके बाद जो accentor consultant एपॉइंट किया गया, उसने कहा कि आप मर्जर में यह-यह कदम उठाएं जिससे आपको 2009 तक 600 करोड़ का मुनाफा हो जाएगा एवं 2010 तक 1000 करोड़ का मुनाफा हो जाएगा। लगातार उसके विषय बताए गए और साथ-साथ बहुत कुछ कहा जाता रहा। इस देश में हमने यहां तक देखा है कि आज तक इस देश की जितनी भी प्राइवेट एअरलाइन्स हैं, चाहे जेट हो, इंडिगो हो, स्पाइस जेट हो, उनमें वे तमाम कर्मचारी भर्ती हैं, जो इंडियन एअरलाइन्स और एअर इंडिया में काम करते थे और आज इस देश की लगभग सभी एअरलाइन्स को प्रमुख रूप से वही लोग चला रहे हैं। सवाल यह उठता है कि आखिर ये कर्मचारी, जो कल तक उसमें काम करते थे और जो आज दूसरी एअरलाइन्स को इतने बढ़िया से चला रहे हैं, इस देश की अपनी एअरलाइन्स को क्यों नहीं चला पा रहे हैं? यहां तक कि मंत्री महोदय के समय पिछले साल सीएमडी प्रबंधन के तहत पहले जिस व्यक्ति को सीएमडी बनाया गया था, उसे वहां से सैक कर दिया गया और उसी बोर्ड के दूसरे व्यक्ति को इस बार सीएमडी बनाया गया है। जिस आदमी को सैक किया गया था, आज वह जा करके भारत सरकार के दूसरे मंत्रालय में सचिव बन गया है। सरकार इस बात का जवाब दे कि आखिर यह नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया क्या है कि जिसको एक काम के लिए आप निकम्मा समझते हैं, उसे दूसरी जगह ला करके भारत सरकार के सचिव के पद पर बैठाते हैं? आखिर यह प्रक्रिया क्या है और मध्य में किस प्रकार से आप सीएमडी को बदलते रहते हैं? इसके पहले रघु मैन्नन नाम के एक व्यक्ति को सीएमडी बनाया गया था, उसके निर्णयों के बारे में हम यहां चर्चा नहीं करना चाहेंगे। आखिर में आपने मर्जर किया, आपको याद होगा कि इस देश में 25 साल पहले जब वायुदूत को इंडियन एअरलाइन्स में मर्ज किया गया था, आज तक उसका विवाद इंडियन एअरलाइन्स से समाप्त नहीं हुआ है। अभी जो मर्जर हुआ है, एअर इंडिया और इंडियन एअरलाइन्स का, ये दोनों बिल्कुल भिन्न हैं। दो इतनी बड़ी संस्थाओं को मर्ज करके अगर आप एकता लाना चाहते हैं, यह असंभव है। जिस दिन आपने यह तय किया कि इसका मर्जर करेंगे, उसी दिन आपने यह भी तय कर लिया कि इस एअरलाइन्स को समाप्त किया जाना है।

महोदय, अंत में मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि तीन विषय हैं, एक तो आज कर्मचारियों की संख्या लगभग 32,000 है और किसी भी सूरत में 32,000 कर्मचारियों के साथ यह एअरलाइन्स मूल रूप से चल ही नहीं सकती है। आपके पास ऐसी कौन सी व्यवस्था है? क्या कारण है कि सरकार कर्मचारियों की संख्या कम नहीं कर सकती और इस flab को हटा नहीं सकती? आपके सामने आज जो दो निर्णय हुए, एक तो मर्जर के बाद 32,000 कर्मचारी और दूसरा जो 100 जहाज आप खरीदकर लाए, उसके कारण 40,000 करोड़ में आपका डेटसर्विसिंग 5000 करोड़ का है। किस प्रकार से आप इस 5000 करोड़ का और अपने कर्मचारियों का निर्णय करेंगे? आखिर

यह मर्जर किया तो उसका परिणाम क्या हुआ? मैं पीएमआई के बारे में चर्चा नहीं करना चाहूंगा, इनके सीएमडी ने एक hub-and-spoke operation शुरू किया, क्योंकि जो भी सीएमडी आता है, उसे यह लगता है कि मुझे इस एअरलाइन्स का पूरा ज्ञान है और मैं इसको दुरुस्त कर दूंगा। इस तरह सब उसे अपनी-अपनी तरह चलाते हैं। Indian Airlines and Air India have become a laboratory for IAS officers of this country. इन लोगों ने इसको एकदम लैब बना लिया है कि हमें सब चीजों का ज्ञान है और मंत्री जी को ही समझाया जाए कि किस प्रकार से इस संस्था को चलाना है। इस तरह कई वर्षों से बराबर यह एक लैबोरेटरी की तरह काम कर ही है। इस लैब से निकलने वाला हर आदमी दुनिया की अन्य सभी एअरलाइन्स को चलाता है, लेकिन अपनी एअरलाइन्स को ही नहीं चला पाता है।

महोदय, इन सब घटनाओं के बारे में यह पूरी चर्चा बहुत कम है। यह विषय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और इस पर एक ज्वाइंट पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी बैठनी चाहिए। इस पर तो यह तय होना चाहिए कि आखिर इतनी बड़ी संस्था को इस तरह से मरने देने के लिए किसको जिम्मेवार ठहराया जाए?

आखिर ये परिस्थितियाँ क्यों उभर कर आई? महोदय, सरकार के साथ हमारा पूरा समर्थन रहेगा, लेकिन अगर हम फिर से इसे चलाने की बात करते हैं, अगर फिर से इसको देने की बात करते हैं और इसके दो वर्षों के बाद फिर आकर आप कहते हैं कि यह विफल हुआ, तो फिर उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार होगा? आज तक के निर्णयों के लिए कौन जिम्मेवार है? आने वाले दिनों में अगर इसमें फिर विफलता होती है, तो उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार होगा? महोदय, इसीलिए मैं मंत्री जी से यह आग्रह करूँगा कि यह विषय बड़ा संवेदनशील है। You need to address these issues comprehensively. There are many issues involved. अगर इनका आप अध्ययन करेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि हर निर्णय, जो पिछले 4 सालों में **...(समय की घंटी)...** Indian Airlines और Air India के सम्बन्ध में लिए गए, इनमें हो सकता है कि नीयत अच्छी हो, लेकिन जो परिणाम उभरकर आए, जिस प्रकार से लगातार back door arrangement-- जब Air India और Indian Airlines के कर्मचारियों को अपने बच्चों को या अपने लोगों को नियुक्ति में कठिनाई होने लगी **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री उपसभापति: श्री भारतकुमार राऊत।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: क्योंकि बाकी लोग कम आए, **...(व्यवधान)...**

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

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: तो आपने पहले वायुदूत को Indian Airlines में मर्ज कर दिया और पीछे से लोगों को ले आए। आज आप Air India Express ले आए। आपने Alliances को Indian Airlines में मर्ज किया। Back door से लगातार नियुक्तियाँ करते चले गए। इसमें कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी। जिस प्रकार से लगातार नियुक्तियाँ करते गए, आज जो स्थिति है, वह आपके सामने है, महोदय। यह ज़रा इन सब प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे दें। धन्यवाद।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, let me tell you that I am the President of most of the Air India Employees Unions, and, more than 20,000 employees are covered under these Unions. So, I have the *locus standi* to speak to you on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are disclosing the interest. **...(Interruptions)...**

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, I would not like to repeat what the previous speakers have spoken about. Only thing about which I would like to say is that to take the airline out of the problem, the first measure you took was to defer the date of wages of the employees. उससे कितना

हुआ? आप बोल रहे हैं कि वे 500 करोड़ बचा रहे हैं। जहाँ पर 17 हजार करोड़ का घाटा चल रहा है वहाँ पर employees पर axe लगाकर क्या मिलने वाला है?

I think, the problem is somewhere else and you are trying to find remedy in some other area. More than the wages of the employees, these are the incentives of the employees because the productivity-linked incentives are actually deferred wages. Because the airline does not increase the wages, the productivity-linked incentives are given.

So, why do you trouble the poor employee? The problem is lying somewhere else. As Mr. Rudy has pointed out, our demand is to know as to why has this airline gone in red. Who is responsible? There has to be a parliamentary enquiry to know as to who has brought this airline to this pass, and, to suggest measures so that this type of situation does not arise in future. So, Sir, our demand is to have a parliamentary inquiry. Thank you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of fact that we feel at home with two sectors, namely, railway and civil aviation, because we have a sense of belonging when we happen to travel on these sectors. I am so sorry to say that I was under the impression that something is wrong somewhere but it is seen that everything is wrong everywhere in civil aviation. This is the way in which I look at this issue. When we look at details, the Minister may try to justify that the loss and other disturbing features are due to the rise in fuel costs, economic slowdown and the heavy borrowing etc.

These may be his general reasons. On the other hand, when we look upon the issues, we could see that there is low productivity, poor utilization of the aircrafts, low-operating efficiency, inviting competition and losing our market by releasing four lakhs seats per week to foreign airlines. It is surprising to note that out of 177 aircrafts operated, only 13 are earning profit. So, we are in debt-trap etc. So, what I am trying to understand is....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't understand. You put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, for the aircraft which is flying between Amritsar to London, the crew has to come from Bombay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malaisamy, clarification please. Please seek only the clarification on the statement.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, to illustrate my clarification, I will take a minute.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The flight which is running from one place to other, the air crew has to come from various places. Sir, what I am trying to ask is this. What is wrong with the institution? Whether it has something to do with the organisational structure or manpower or operation.

Sir, you have said that several measures have been taken. I am inclined to ask whether the measures, which you have listed in your statement, are adequate or whether they are going to be effective. I am inclined to ask whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India will come out of the red within a timeframe.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Ultimately, it lacks leadership; it lacks financial management; it lacks administrative management; and it lacks technical management. Everything is bad. Do something to retrieve it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am just skipping those who have already participated in the Question Hour. If there is still some time left, I will give them the opportunity. Kindly help others.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is an alarming increase in the losses that it is incurring. It has increased from Rs. 2,226 crore to Rs.5,000 crore, and now it is expected to reach Rs.7,200 crore.

The airline has adopted various measures to improve its financial position. The Minister has stated these. One among them is reduction of contractual employment. Another is, closure of all offline officers and reduction of employees at foreign stations.

Sir, providing employment is an essential thing which has to be carried on. Hence this thing does not seem to be practically acceptable.

I would suggest this to the hon. Minister. Why does not the Ministry concentrate on attracting more passengers towards the Indian Airlines by way of services, which are extended to the passengers by other private airlines? An initiative by the Minister would help the Indian Airlines to get more revenue.

I would also like to know when the merger of the two airlines was done whether the merger of the IT was also undertaken.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, एअर इंडिया में निर्मित आर्थिक दुर्दशा के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि यह वैश्विक घाटे का परिणाम है, लेकिन जिस तरीके से उसका प्रबंधन चल रहा है, उस आधार पर मैं कह सकता हूँ कि एअर इंडिया और इंडियन एअरलाइंस के merger के बाद वहां अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों के बीच आपस में जिस तरह का सामंजस्य होना चाहिए, वह कदापि नहीं है। उसका दुष्परिणाम यह हो रहा है कि एअर इंडिया की कार्य-क्षमता में कमी आयी है, भ्रष्टाचार पैदा हुआ है और आर्थिक क्षति हुई है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इसे गहनता से देखें।

महोदय, एअर इंडिया की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए, इस में turnaround करने के लिए मंत्री जी ने एक स्पेशल बोर्ड के गठन की बात भी कही है। उन्होंने कहा है कि इस बोर्ड में अध्यक्ष श्री रतन टाटा और अन्य सदस्य होंगे। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इस बोर्ड में और कौन-कौन सदस्य होंगे, यह भी बताने का कष्ट करें।

महोदय, एअर इंडिया की कार्य-शैली के बारे में CAG ने भी टिप्पणी की है कि जिस तरह की कार्य-शैली एअर इंडिया की चल रही है, उसके आधार पर निश्चित रूप से उस में घाटा होगा। उन्होंने इस की कार्य-शैली के

बारे में कहा है कि Frequent Flyer Scheme में Security control पर्याप्त नहीं है जिस के कारण उन लोगों को लाभ मिला है जो eligible नहीं हैं। इस स्कीम के तहत टिकटों का दुरुपयोग हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान गया है कि नहीं? अगर उनका ध्यान गया है तो इस बारे में अब तक क्या किया गया है? Frequent Flyer Scheme के अलावा भी CAG ने एअर इंडिया की अन्य खामियों को उजागर किया है, जिस में Catering Services की खामियों की तरफ ज्यादा जोर दिया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि Catering Services में बिजली की आवश्यकताओं को परखे बिना ज्यादा पैसा खर्च किया जाता है व ज्यादा दामों पर चीजें ली जाती हैं। महोदय, इन सारी चीजों की तरफ भी CAG ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। इस संबंध में किस प्रकार की कार्रवाई की जा रही है? यह भी बताएँ, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

यह बात भी सामने आई है कि एयर इंडिया की वर्किंग में उड्डयन मंत्रालय का ज्यादा हस्तक्षेप होता है। इसलिए स्वतंत्रतापूर्वक ठीक तरीके से कार्य करने की जो आवश्यकता होनी चाहिए, वह पूर्ण नहीं हो पा रही है। इसके अंतर्गत यह बात भी लायी गई है। अगर मंत्री जी इन सारी चीजों के बारे में स्पष्ट करेंगे, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will straightway request the hon. Minister to clarify some points. It is a very detailed statement. It is very clear. But, still, being a national airline, is it true that lot of social activity has to be taken by Air India like flights to North-East Region, flights to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, flights to Agathi and Lakshadweep and transportation of Army troops to Ladakh and Srinagar? When you take these kinds of responsibilities, are the private airlines also obliged to handle these kinds of activities or they have an advantage? When you transport Army troops, is it not the responsibility of the Defence Ministry to pay for it? Or this may go as subsidy from this Ministry.

Sir, similarly, for many years, I believe, from 1984 or 1985, maybe for 15-20 years, no new aircrafts had been purchased. Now, I compliment him that when we needed new aircrafts, they have been purchased because unless we have them, we will not be able to compete. But, in the process, the depreciation becomes very large in the first few years. This is well taken. But, I would like to know from hon. Minister about 'rescheduling and cancellation of future aircrafts deliveries' which he has mentioned in his statement. If he can give some details as to out of 111, how many are coming, how many are rescheduled and how many are not coming, it will really help us.

Then, Sir, most of the airlines in the world are losing. There is no doubt about it. But, that does not mean that we also become inefficient. Losing at what level? Suppose, somebody is losing Rs.5 crores and somebody is losing Rs.5,000 crores, so, if he can give some details about it, it will really help us. Sir, companies paying in time for the oil all over the world are not getting any credit. Those who are not paying in time are getting the credit. What is the status of Air India in this respect? (*Time-bell rings*)

Sir, the employees ratio is 230 against one aircraft. Does it include outsourced employees also? What is the world average? It is about 110. If that is so, what is his plan to re-plan this so that

we do not have the excess staff? He has mentioned about redeployment of staff. By what time? Sir, the programme that he has given...(*Time-bell rings*).... Sir, have I taken five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is not five minutes. Maximum is five minutes. Depending upon the time, it is three minutes now.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, you mentioned five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I mentioned maximum. There are others also. It has to end by 1 o'clock. Please conclude.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I am only seeking clarifications. All right, Sir. Give me whatever you like. You are the boss. Sir, he has even a number of schedules. I just want to know the time-bound programme of various measures. These are very vaguely given. Unless the time-bound programme is given, it will be very difficult for us to judge. Sir, the last point is, on the one hand, they are saying there is excess capacity, on the other hand, we have three extra passengers in some aircraft. During this, I hope, he can clarify this also. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also seek clarifications. Firstly, I have an apprehension which I would like to share with the hon. Minister that call somebody a bad name and make a ground to sell it out. Definitely, the Minister spoke very clearly that we want to retain our national carrier. I think, that should be the spirit. Secondly, in his statement, it is given that in 2006-07, the loss is Rs.772 crores. Then, in 2007-08, the loss trebled. But, till that time, the recession had not come. So, what exactly is the reason? Even next year, it was doubled. And, now, we are expecting Rs.7,200 crores by March end, 2009. What is the exact reason? Could you kindly enlighten us?

Secondly, it appears from the reply to the question that we have undertaken merger for strengthening the whole national carrier, but we are not prepared for it or we have not made adequate preparation, in advance, to go in and take the benefit of the merger. So, the IT integration problem arises. Even after two years of the merger—in April, 2007, the merger took place—in 2009 June or July, we could not integrate the IT. What is the reason? You kindly clarify that.

Thirdly, a soft loan has been infused. Whether, while infusing the soft loan, we will be getting additional return out of using that loan. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Stop the cross talks, please.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: The debts are bigger than the burden of the benefit of the loan derived. Whether that operation was done with due diligence; please clarify.

And the last point is, again, I will insist, please do not brush aside the apprehension. The profitable routes are being sacrificed. There are complaints. I can give you a specific example. On Calcutta-Hyderabad route, all the private airlines are going full, but Indian Airlines are not

operating in the morning! Similarly, the Calcutta-Kanpur example is there. ...*(Interruptions)*... The information has been supplied by our Union colleagues there that, at least, on 62 routes, the Air India and Indian Airlines sacrificed. *(Time Bell rings)* When we are operating on the loss-making routes for social responsibility, particularly in the matter of...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: ...profitable routes and profitable slots, the Air India requires a discriminatory favourable treatment... *(Time Bell rings)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The next one is Shri Sabir Ali.

....and that is not discrimination because we are sacrificing revenue on the other non-profitable routes. I suggest henceforth....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; it is not a clarification. It is an address. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: This is the question. ...*(Interruptions)*....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a clarification.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I am seeking clarifications only. Whether the Government will consider monetising the social oriented services on non-profitable routes, monetising that to show the....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sabir Ali; the next one.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:difference in the balance sheet so that the loss....
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:that has been shown will go down.

SHRI SABIR ALI (BIHAR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak. सर, मुझे सिर्फ यह कहना है कि अभी मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपने क्वेश्चन आवर में कहा कि हमारे यहां system की कमी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह कौन सा system है, जिसकी कमी आपके यहां है और यदि system की कमी है तो उस system को uplift करने के लिए, उसको improve करने के लिए आपने किसी को tender दिया है या tender करने वाले हैं और वे लोग कौन हो सकते हैं, जो इस system को सही करेंगे? दूसरी बात यह है कि मुझसे पहले सब लोगों ने अपनी बातों को रखा है, लगभग सब बातें आ गई हैं और सब लोग यह जानते हैं कि हमारा जो national carrier है, वहां पर जितने भी crew members होते हैं या ground staff होता है, उसमें crew members की जो उम्र होती है, मुझे तो लगता है कि किसी-किसी की तो मां और दादी की उम्र होती है। आप बाहर चले जाएं, दूसरे carriers को देखें उनकी जो appearance होती है, उनकी जो services हैं, उनके respect में हमारी national carriers में, चाहे वह एयर इंडिया हो या इंडियन एयरलाइंस हो, even आप एयरपोर्ट पर किसी से पूछें या आप कोई information लेना चाहें तो वह अच्छे तरीके से नहीं मिलती है। मैंने लगभग 20 साल में जितनी बार भी एयर इंडिया या इंडियन एयरलाइंस से सफर किया है, कभी भी किसी स्टाफ को मुस्कुराते हुए नहीं देखा। क्या आप उनको ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... किसी को नहीं देखा, this is

the fact. When you talk to them, it appears as if they are doing the obligation to you and the way they will react in the aircraft. If you ask for water, they will take ten minutes to bring the water for you! आप उनसे कोई question पूछ लें, वे उसकी reply नहीं करते हैं, लगता है घरों से झगड़ा करके आए हैं। आप एयर इंडिया से उतर जाएं, आपका जो सामान आना है, दूसरी एयरलाइंस से अगर वह 15 मिनट में आता है तो आपको 45 मिनट wait करना पड़ता है। क्या आप उनको salary नहीं देते हैं और यदि देते हैं तो उन पर कड़ाई क्यों नहीं करते हैं? आपके यहां कई प्रकार की समस्याएं हैं। आप ही के लोग जो बाहर रहते हैं, आप उनसे पूछिए, वे एयर इंडिया से सफर करना नहीं चाहते। आप इसकी वजह को क्यों तलाश नहीं करते हैं? मंत्री जी, मैं जानता हूं कि आपने एक टर्म पूरा किया है और दूसरे टर्म में भी आप आए हैं, लेकिन चार-पांच साल गुजर गए, आज तक आपने इसकी खोज नहीं की कि आपके यहां स्तर क्यों नहीं बढ़ाया जाता, आपके यहां efficiency क्यों नहीं लाई जाती, उसमें क्या difficulties हैं?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री साबिर अली : सर मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : आप ज्यादा समय ले चुके हैं।

श्री साबिर अली : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इनकी efficiency का स्तर अच्छा करने के लिए और आपके यहां जो दादी हैं, उनको हटाने के लिए आप कोई कदम उठाना चाहते हैं या नहीं? अगर आप इसे करेंगे, तो कैसे करेंगे?

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, it was reported that the airline industry the world over lost, in all, 10.8 billion dollars last year. The Air India, with just half per cent of the world fleet capacity, was reported to have lost over one billion dollars. I don't understand it. Everybody is talking about the reported figures. We are now in July. Why don't we have the exact figures of the losses? There is a serious apprehension that the balance-sheets are cooked up. It is like the Satyam saga. I think that there should be some kind of a Parliamentary Committee to go into the exact figures as to what are the losses of the Air India so that we can find a solution. I hope the Minister will consider my suggestion and call in outside auditors to verify the figures which are being given out by the Air India. I want to know by which time we will have a clarity about the exact losses of the Air India.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, Sir — when he is a Minister who has been considered, during the last five years, by various surveys to be one of the best Ministers — whether he can do more for the following items. Some of them are very tough. We know, as Mr. Naresh Gujral has said, the aviation industry in India is suffering and losing money more than all the private sector companies abroad. It is bleeding.

One, you are running, as you have said, uneconomic sectors for social reasons. Why are you not demanding more money from the Government and getting fully paid for that? I don't see any reason why it should not get paid. It is not correct. Otherwise, they should be allowed to stop flying.

Second, due to discrimination against the foreign airlines we are suffering on ATF, Aviation Turbine Fuel. The Finance Minister is not here. But something has to be done for the Indian airlines. The Indian aviation sector should not suffer at the cost of foreigners who are getting the benefit.

The third is the most difficult situation. I am happy to learn that an Advisory Board is being constituted. As an owner, I also keep control on my companies. So, in the main Board, statutory Board, 50 per cent — I hear; I have no official statement — of the people will be independent directors, whether it is Ratan Tata or whoever it is. They should be independent. To be in order, you keep 50 per cent of your Government people. Today it is 100 per cent Government people. This is not correct, Sir. Once you have that kind of a Board, leave them alone. Otherwise, how do you restructure an airline? How do you rationalise anything? My friend, Mr. Bharatkumar Raut, says don't touch them. It is the politicians who have interfered and made these 33,000 people unhappy. I was the Chairman of the Indian Airlines from 1986 to 1989. (*Interruptions*)... Maybe, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy and I will talk separately. Whatever be the reason, if the management is defective, sack them. If the politicians have done something in the past, you can't undo that. But now please let the Board function. That is the way it happens all over the world, even in public sector companies like Renault. Don't interfere. If they want to restructure and rationalise, let them do it and face the music. You are afraid of a strike. When I was the Chairman, we couldn't permit to a strike. The country would have come to stop. Now we should not worry about a strike.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: But I don't want to be unfair to the employees. If a strike has to be taken, you have to take it and give them a good VRS or you will have to close the airline. Otherwise, it is the taxpayers' money that is going down the drain. Please answer these questions, Mr. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Condpan. Just one clarification.

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Sir, I have found here that flying of Indian Airlines and Air India in the North-Eastern Region is a loss. I fail to understand it when so many private airlines are operating in the North-Eastern Region. Are they not losing? I want to know from the hon. Minister. If the Air India and the Indian Airlines are incurring losses in the North-Eastern Region, what about the other airlines? What is the justification?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri D. Raja. Just one clarification.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Air India, being the national carrier, is the pride of our nation. My point of clarification or question to the Minister is this. I have my own experience with the Air India and I would like to travel with the Air India only. The Air India does not fly in profitable routes as we expect it. I had to stay in Kolkata because there was no Air India flight from Kolkata to

Chennai. The reply talks about noneconomic flights. I think the Government should have a political will. The Government should have pride in the Air India. The Government should see to it that our national air carrier becomes viable and profitable. I hope the hon. Minister will consider these suggestions and proposals and will implement them. The Government should have a political will to protect the Air India, the interest of the Air India and the interest of the country. Please do not treat it as any other airline in the country. The Air India is the pride of the nation. It needs to be safeguarded and protected. Thank you.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, the hon. Minister has referred to rationalisation of manpower. What do you mean by 'rationalisation'? Does it mean you can dismiss or retrench or transfer anybody? What is the exact meaning of 'rationalisation'? Thank you.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh): I would like to know only one thing from the hon. Minister. How does he compare the Air India *vis-à-vis* the low cost airlines, Indigo and Spice Jet? To my knowledge, Indigo and Spice Jet are doing quite well. They are low cost airlines. How do you compare the Air India with these two airlines? Thank you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, it is reported in the newspapers that 15 per cent of the total aircraft are lying idle. It is one of the causes of loss. Is it a fact? Thank you.

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : सर, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है कि एयर इंडिया घाटे में चल रही है। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि जितने भी प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स हैं, अगर हम उनको कहते हैं कि मेरा Second class का टिकट है, इसको First class में कर दीजिए, तो वे नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन आप इस चीज़ को examine कीजिए कि एयर इंडिया में किसके कहने पर, किसकी रिकमंडेशन पर daily कितने-कितने ऐसे केस जाते हैं? सर, एयर इंडिया को जो रूट्स दिए गए हैं, वे घाटे के रूट्स हैं, इसलिए मैं आपके द्वारा यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गृह मंत्रालय भी अर्द्धसैनिक बलों को सीमा पर पहुंचाने के लिए जो प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स को यूज़ करता है, उसके बजाय इनको वह काम दो, ताकि उनको पहुंचाने का काम ये करें और इससे ये लाभ कमा सकें।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, many hon. Members have sought clarifications. I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members and of the entire House. I thank the hon. Members for expressing the sentiments that Air India is a national carrier and we must do everything possible to restore its past glory and to make it an efficient and profitable organisation in future.

Let me start with one or two issues raised by Shri Javadekar. Many other Members also have expressed similar sentiments. He mentioned a couple of issues. But let me first go to fleet acquisition. I do want to reiterate, I said it during Question Hour also, that last time, when planes were bought for the Indian Airlines and the Air India, it was done during the Prime Ministership of Late Rajiv Gandhi. At that time, there was no competition to both the national carriers. It was a time when we had monopoly and whatever we gave to passengers, was accepted. Of course,

there were good people running the organisation, at that time. There is no denying the fact that they did great service to our nation. After 1993-94, when the Indian aviation sector was thrown open to competition, we saw a flurry of activity in this sector, and many private airlines started operations.

Over a period of time, naturally, as the pie grew bigger, the share of Air India, which was 100 per cent earlier, could not have been maintained, and it started reducing. Eventually, with the advent of competition, newer planes started coming into the Indian air space. Competition brought in better service standards which were, probably, not offered at the same level by the erstwhile Indian Airlines, or, the Air India. Consequentially, there was a slight decline from year to year. In 2004, when the UPA Government came, we took a conscious decision that we must protect the future of Air India. We wanted Air India to continue in the public sector. I would just like to inform Shri Javadekar and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy that one or two years prior to 2004, when we took over, a decision had been taken by the NDA Government to privatise, to sell off Air India...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: There is a correction. If you allow me to intervene, I would like to respond...*(Interruptions)*... It is a completely wrong statement. If the Minister allows, I will correct him.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Let me complete. I don't have to offer any clarification for the simple reason that it was a well-documented decision. There was a public tender, and there were companies which had participated in that tender. It is only after the last minute withdrawal of the only lone bidder left in the fray, — I can mention it; there is no secrecy; Tata Singapore was the joint bidder — after they withdrew from the fray, that the process of selling off Air India, or, to say, the disinvestment of Air India, was withdrawn. And, then, there was a change in Government. Our Government took a conscious decision saying, "Yes; we want to run Air India as a national carrier. We will not allow disinvestment in this Airline." However, in the long-term interest of Air India, if it has to compete, then, it will have to be given newer aircraft; it will have to have a fleet augmentation programme. In 2005-06, and, as all of you know, including 2007 up to 2008, the Indian aviation sector was showing a robust growth. And, I am not trying to take away some good initiatives taken by you or by your predecessors. So, why are you suddenly getting agitated when I am just trying to tell you what the factual position is? Now, this arises out of the questions that you raised as to whether we are going in for acquisition, in what scale and why it is needed. I have to give you the answer. If the Air India, or, the erstwhile Indian Airlines, now, after merger, has to be successful and has to compete, then, how can you operate an Airline with older aircraft which are 15 or 20 years old? Even after the acquisition of 51 aircraft out of 111 so far, the Air India's more

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than 50 per cent fleet are 15 years and older. Out of that, there are 21 aircraft which require major overhaul. This is just to indicate that after all this so-called talk of acquisition, etc., we have not yet received the full aircraft in the quantum that is required. It is a programme which will go on till 2012. In spite of that, this is the situation, that we still operate with a lot older aircraft than any of the competitors of Air India.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : जो आया है, वह यूज़ नहीं हो रहा है, इसके बारे में बताएं।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I cannot explain everything in one sentence. I am just trying to shortlist two or three key issues which have been highlighted by a large section of the House. Fleet acquisition was one thing. You asked as to who did it. Well, a company decides what it wants. If you think all the Airlines, across the world, use only one fleet type, I am sorry, that answer is not correct. It is advisable to have one fleet type. But many airlines, which operate on long haul and short haul, operate on multi-fleet type. I can name Lufthansa; I can name British Airways; I can name any number of major airlines in the world which operate more than one fleet type of aircraft. That having been the case, acquisition was something which the Airlines decided based on the projections it had made. The Government's job was to support that acquisition programme. And you know that there is a well laid down process in Government for acquisition. It does not happen overnight just because a few people in Air India decided it, or, a file came to the Minister and he was in a rush to buy aircraft. All sorts of insinuations are flying here and there. I am just trying to say that it was through a well laid-out governmental process. It goes through all the checks and balances in the system and that is when this fleet acquisition programme was given the green signal. Even today, out of the 11 billion dollars worth of aircraft, only about four billion dollar worth of planes have started flying in the Indian skies. So, when you say that future acquisition or future fleet augmentation needs to be re-thought of, I don't think that is an issue before the Government. It is purely the decision of the management. If they feel tomorrow that they need to rationalise their acquisition programme, defer or delay deliveries, I don't think, I, in the Ministry, or, the Government as a whole, am going to take any objection to that kind of a suggestion. That is purely for them to decide. But, also, let me tell you that, talking of depreciation, one of the reasons, when earlier losses were not being reported, was that planes were already fully written off. Twenty year old planes! Naturally, all of us who understand — Mr. Rahul Bajaj as a businessman — would appreciate that the written-off value would be there after five or ten years. Therefore, all these years, Air India or Indian Airlines did not really have depreciation on its books. The current year's depreciation is close to Rs. 1300 crores. These are also factors which will contribute to losses in the initial years. This has to be understood. Any new factory or new project which starts,

in the initial years, the depreciation is higher on the books. So, that is one of the reasons. I am not saying that is the only reason. This is not a justification for losses, but this is one of the things that I wanted to explain to you from the question arising or the clarification being sought about the fleet acquisition programme.

Coming to the merger, let me just be very candid about it. Merger is, again, not a figment of imagination of the Minister or Ministry or of a few people. Merger was a very detailed exercise which was undertaken. Mergers are not new. Mergers have taken place across the world, whether it is an airline or in other kinds of businesses. And, therefore, to say that merger by perception or per se is absolutely a wrong or a disastrous exercise that was undertaken would be unfair. Merger was done with a well laid down process. A world-class consultant was appointed and those presentations were made to the management as well as to the Ministry. To that extent the Government was also very cautious. An Empowered Group of Ministers of the highest order was constituted. The Committee of Secretaries went into it many times over. It was only after a detailed exercise that the consent for merger was given. Let me be very honest; every section of the employees of both the carriers was consulted and a large section of the employees had supported the merger. It is all right to say that now, if suddenly some section of the employees come and keep complaining about something which has gone wrong, they should also do some self-introspection...

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: You have not fulfilled the promises you made earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please, let him complete. You have said whatever you wanted to say, Mr. Raut. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: If there is something lacking, we can correct it. I am not trying to say that everything here was as it was tailor-made. But the fact is that everything was well-thought of; every section of the employees was spoken to. I have myself undertaken that exercise along with the management. So, let us not say that every thing was done knee-jerk, without any application of mind. Yes, some of the things may not have worked out to the best possible advantage which was thought of. But to say that merger...*(Interruptions)*... I am telling you that the merger has not succeeded, as I have mentioned earlier, because of some issues like IT integration. But I also would like to request Mr. Bharatkumar Raut, who represents a large section of the employees, Mr. Raja and anybody who has an association with the trade unions, that they should try to explain things to the employees. Why is this resistance coming for the merger? Do you mean to say that a stand-alone Indian Airlines or a stand-alone Air India would have been able to compete in the global air space? After all, Jet Airways, King Fisher, all, are now starting to fly international; they are both domestic carriers and international carriers. International carriers coming to India do not service only Mumbai and Delhi any more like in the past; they go to Bangalore, they go to

Hyderabad, they go to Chennai. Can you say that tomorrow a stand-alone Air India or a stand-alone Indian Airlines would have done the job? The answer is, no. Therefore, if anything has not worked to the best of our expectations, that does not mean that the intentions or the thought process are faulty. The execution and implementation may require correction.

That is why I am saying that it is not correct to say the merger is ill-conceived and the merger has not worked. Yes, I agree, it could have worked better; I agree, it has not worked to our satisfaction, but to say that it is completely out of sync would not be correct. I would like to say one more thing. A lot of Members have said, bilaterals have been entered into, a lot of routes have now been given away to foreign airlines, to private airlines. I would like to state that bilaterals is an on-going process. By the very definition of the word, 'bilaterals' means, it is two-way traffic. It does not mean that a plane comes from Singapore or Dubai or London or Frankfurt and flies into India as many times as they want. They do come, so are we entitled to fly there. When the Government went in for opening up the international routes for private domestic carriers, we took a couple of key important decisions. What were those decisions? The decision was that the Gulf will still be for three more years protected for our national carrier. What stops the national carrier from mounting more and more flights into the Gulf? Nobody stops them. Contrary to the view that you take that everything is decided in the Ministry or by the Minister, I am sorry to say that most of the decisions on routes, to fly or not to fly and the capacity entitlements are purely left to the management. It is for them to decide. Therefore, bilaterals is an on-going process. A lot of Members of the House come from various States, not only from Mumbai, where you and me come from. Somebody represents Chennai. Would it not be fair to say, if somebody says that if Air India does not operate out of Chennai into any western country, and if British Airways wants to fly into Chennai, shall the Government of India say, 'no'? If tomorrow, in Bangalore with such a large IT industry, if Lufthansa or British Airways or Emirates or the Singapore Airline wants to fly into Bangalore, and if our national carrier does not fly out of Bangalore into any other city, would it not be fair to allow these airlines to operate into Bangalore? What is the logic? Ultimately, the logic is, more and more connectivity. In this House, minus this debate, so many times, I have heard Members expressing their view as to why their city is being connected internationally, why not I have a flight into Amritsar, why not I have a flight into Jaipur, why not I have a flight into Udaipur. Any number of such questions do arise, and this is the aspirational change in the country. People want more connectivity. I would also like to see my national carrier being able to perform all the obligations it is supposed to perform. But, in the absence of its ability to do so, if that space is taken by domestic Indian carriers or by international carriers, what is the harm? Ultimately, it leads to better connectivity, more choice to the consumer, better fares, better service. Is that not a hallmark, and is that not an achievement in the last few years? Can anybody in this House say that

India is not better connected than before? Can anybody in this House say that Indian infrastructure has not improved than what it used to be in the past? Can anybody in this House say that lower fares are not now the order of the day? Is competition not giving you better service? This is the fact of life. But, at the same time, we have only focussed on Air India and said everything. I have many times stated it. I get questions and people try to put me in the dock, and ask me everything about Air India. I have sometimes to defend myself by saying that I am also the Minister of Civil Aviation. I am not just the Minister for the Air India, and I am saying this with anguish. I don't like to say that. But, at the same time, if every issue of connectivity or people's aspiration cannot be met only by the national carrier, this role will have to be performed by others also. This is a fundamental decision taken by the Government. Everybody has accepted it since 1993 onwards. This is the process of liberalisation. And that is why my request to the hon. Members is this. Yes, Air India, the erstwhile Indian Airlines do have some systemic problems. We do wish to support it. The Government in its earlier five years and even now support it. When these issues of the problem of Air India came up, I took it to the hon. Prime Minister. He also mentioned and with a great sense of pride I can say here that he said, 'Praful, this is our national carrier. It is our national pride. We will do everything possible to support Air India and bring it back to profitability, and do everything possible to see that it becomes a better organisation.'

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity in informing the Members that there is a change happening. The global economic slowdown has also affected the aviation sector. Today, in spite of our lower fares, many flights are not going to their capacity. Today the airlines, all of them, have started cutting on capacities. Hon. Mahendra Mohanji or some other Member was talking about the British Airways making money, I am sorry. I was in London. The Chairman of the British Airways met me. They were equally in a dire state, I would say. Most airlines across the world are facing financial difficulties. Even domestic airlines in the private sector in the country are facing financial difficulties. Yes, it is a public carrier, it is a national carrier, therefore, the issues of Air India will rightly be debated on the floor of Parliament. But to say that these are issues only of Air India is not right. Yes, Air India has slightly a larger problem because of certain legacy cost, because of higher manpower cost, because of the systemic issues which plague the airline. But I can assure you in the days ahead the Government will do everything possible to support the management. And I would like to tell you, Mr. Bajaj, and I repeat this, you have been a former Chairman of Indian Airlines, I on behalf of the Government am making this categorical statement that we want to bring in more transparency into the working, we want to give them more autonomy. If you say the Government interferes on daily basis, the answer is 'no'. People may have that perception. Now, I cannot take away that perception because the answers

to any issues of Air India are only to be answered by the Minister in Parliament. To say that the Minister or the Government is at arm's length from the Airlines, it cannot happen in a public sector. But, on the other side, we would like to give it more and more autonomy; we would like to have, at least, half of the Board to be, as you rightly said, of independent directors, people of eminence of highest order who have a track record to be brought on the board. We want to have an international advisory board on the lines, which most global airlines do have. We also want to have a professional chief operating officer selected through a global search, working below the CMD. We want to do a few things...*(Interruptions)*... That is also fine. ...*(Interruptions)*... These are the clarifications; I cannot give you anything more than this. I am trying to be as explanatory as possible. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I can assure you again that we do not come into the picture as to which route the airlines should operate. These are purely commercial decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tapan Sen, there will be no end to this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I do not want to deny what you are saying because I have no idea. But I would also like to state that this is not something, which we do as a part of the Government. This is a company. On the one side, we talk of autonomy and, on the other side, we talk of this. I do not think it is possible for me to do it personally. Yes, I would voice your sentiments to the management of Air India and tell them that if there is something which the hon. Member has pointed out, please look into it. If there is merit in it, it should be looked into in a time bound manner. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would also like to say very categorically ...*(Interruptions)*... I am trying to answer what Mr. Javadekar has stated and most Members have followed and taken a cue. He talked about Air India express. Low cost is now the order of the day. Please remember it. Somebody mentioned why Indigo and Spice Jet are doing better. The fact is that the low cost airlines are there because the market is becoming price sensitive; anywhere in the world you see whether it is the UK or the US, these low cost airlines are doing much better than the legacy carrier. That is why the Air India express is something, which the management thought in 2005 that they needed to take that space which have been ultimately taken over in the international arena also. I can name you Tiger Airways, Silk Air, Air Arabia, Air Asia, Al Jazeera and so many such airlines now fly Dubai, all these are the low cost airlines carriers of all these major international airlines or their subsidiaries. That is why Air India express is also conceived as one of the low cost arm of Air India to take on international competition. As of now the LCC space is moving into the domestic area also with the advent of Indigo and Spice Jet, as also Jet Light and as also Kingfisher Airlines, the Air India express will also have to take on a more meaningful role in the LCC segment within the country.

I am just trying to give these clarifications and if there are indications of corruption, Mr. Javdekar, please illustrate them, we will give it the highest priority. If there is any issue which bothers you, please let me know, let the House know, I will be willing to sit with you and I will be willing to go into any level of probe if there is any issue which is highlighted and which is proven that it is correct. I will be the first person to be happy to assist in getting rid of this kind of a problem which hits the airline. With these words, whatever issues the Members have raised would have been satisfied. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, in Calling Attention, it is not a question and answer session and the Minister is not obliged to answer every question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, then we need more opportunity to talk on this. There are many issues raised by the Minister... Sir, he has given an explanation to many issues, which were raised, and they are completely off track. The country must know. When he talked about Air India Express you covered the entire market created by Indian Airlines. There was competition created within the company. There are many issues, which he has raised, and it needs a threadbare discussion. The country cannot be allowed to...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to have a structured discussion of Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, there are many issues which deserve an answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree that there are many issues. It cannot be solved in one hour Calling Attention. So, let there be a Short Duration Discussion. You give the notice.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir,... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, the Ministry is not obliged to answer every point. You see the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, shall we have a lunch break?

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

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The House then adjourned for lunch
at seventeen minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at eighteen minutes past two of the clock,
The VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): First, we have a statement from the Minister regarding accident at Delhi Metro site. Shri Saugata Ray will make the statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accident at Delhi Metro site on 12th July, 2009

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): Sir, as reported by the DMRC, a launching girder, along with a portion of Metro viaduct (under construction), collapsed at Zamrudpur near East of Kailash in South Delhi at about 5.00 a.m. on 12-07-2009. A total number of 6 workers, including one Junior Engineer of M/s Gammon India Ltd., who are the contractors for this portion of Central Secretariat-Badarpur Corridor, died in the accident. Out of those dead, three were trapped in the debris. Another 15 workers are injured out of whom two are seriously injured.

A compensation of Rs. 5 lakh is being paid to the kin of all the deceased in addition to the compensation under the Workman Compensation Act. Those who are grievously injured will be paid a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh and those injured - a compensation of Rs. 50,000.

The traffic on the road has been closed at Kailash Colony T-Point, LSR College-Bluebell School T-Point and Amar Colony police station. Rescue operations are in full swing, involving six cranes of capacity 250 tonnes and one crane of capacity 400 tonnes, gas cutters, over 100 engineers drawn from all Metro sites apart from police and civil defence personnel.

The restoration of partial traffic was delayed on 12th July, 2009 (night) due to rain. While removing the launching girder with the help of 4 cranes, at around 11.40 a.m., on 13th July, 2009, one of the cranes failed, leading to toppling of one crane and breaking of boom of two cranes, thus further delaying the restoration work. Six workers suffered minor injuries and were taken to AIIMS trauma centre. All of them were discharged, in the evening, from the hospital. Partial traffic has been restored at 06.00 a.m. on date. A help line, No. 23414461, has been started to inform the public about the developments.

Estimated direct loss, due to the accident, is Rs. 6 crores. The accident is likely to cause delay to this portion of the project by about 3 months. However, the overall target of commissioning of the Central Secretariat-Badarpur corridor, that is, September, 2010 would remain unchanged.

A high-level four-member committee has been constituted to investigate into the incident. The members are: Prof. A.K. Nagpal of the Civil Engineering Department, IIT, Delhi; Prof. (Mrs.) P.R. Bose, Professor of Structural Engineering, Delhi College of Engineering; Mr. Steve Lowry, Project Director, General Consultants, DMRC; and Mr. Rajan Kataria, Chief Engineer (Design), DMRC as coordinator.

The Committee is to submit its report within ten days, that is, by 22.07.2009.

The Committee will go into the causes leading to the accident, including checking design, workmanship, quality of material used, method of construction and precautionary measures to be taken at other work sites.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, those who want to seek clarifications are requested to please put pointed questions because of paucity of time.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, just a few lines as a background. Mr. Minister, I just wish to draw your kind attention to the fact that in the last eleven years, since the DMRC is in operation, construction and execution both, 69 workers have lost their lives and 52 have been injured. These workers, who put in nearly twelve hours a day, from poor States, including my State, Bihar, have got no union rights at all. What we hear is — this is the most important clarification I would like to seek from you — that in the mad rush for completion before the Commonwealth Games of 2010 the hurried pace of the work is creating a lot of problems. And, there is a reason as to why we have got ground to suspect this. It is because phase-I consisted of 65 kilometres and it took eight years to complete. While, phase-II consists of 128 kilometres and you have given a target of only four years. Things should be expedited; one cannot have any trouble with that, but not at the cost of safety, at the cost of the whole durability of the structure. We have got highest regard for Mr. Sridharan. He has done good wonders in the past. But what we suspect is, in the mad rush for all this, safety norms are being violated, structural safety is being violated. All the safety training required to be given, I am sorry to say this, is being completely ignored. Fatigue is not there only among the personnel. Fatigue is also in the instruments, whether it is a crane or other things. Why I am saying so because day-before-yesterday six people lost their lives. You have considered that. Now, yesterday, what happened, you sent three cranes, in a busy part of Delhi, to lift that without understanding the capacity of those cranes to lift that heavy girder. This only shows that *ad hocism* is prevalent safety norms are being completely ignored. Now, kindly see a situation, which is very important. Fortunately, the accident took place in the morning. If it had been in the peak traffic time, the loss would have been 50 times more. Therefore, these are issues. Today, I heard that some pillar has also fallen in Mumbai. Now, Mr. Minister, I would like to have one more clarification of far-reaching importance. Earlier, the design was being given by the DMRC itself. Now, the design has also been outsourced to the contractors to save money or time or whatever the case may be. Now, they sub-lease the work. I don't wish to give the honour of taking the name of any contractor on the floor of this House. But there are contractors and contractors. Some contractors have very poor record. In Hyderabad, a particular fly over collapsed there as well. The same contractor has been given contracts here as well. Again, the collapse which we noticed day-before-yesterday was handled by that contractor. Certainly, the people of the country, the people of Delhi, particularly, would like to be assured that safety norms are not violated. The Government has to

ensure that safety norms will not be violated. There is a mad rush for Commonwealth Games. We are all for success of Commonwealth Games, Mr. Minister, but please don't make safety the casualty in that process.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please put your questions.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Therefore, I repeat my questions one by one. What are the safety norms being followed? Are the workers being given some safety drill? What are the rights being given to workers? They have no union, but, apart from compensation, is there any other shelter that is being provided to them? Who is finalising the design of all these structures? What is the level of safety monitoring being done, in what manner? Are your instruments over-used/fatigued because of time constraints? What is the safety audit being done by the Department? If there is any document, please produce it on the floor of the House. Lastly and it is very important: Is the mad rush for the Commonwealth Games creating problems? Be honest in this House, because if 65 kilometres takes eight years, how come 121 kilometres will take four years? Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shri Rajniti Prasad. Please ask pointed questions.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, हमारा तो इसमें जीरो ऑवर भी था, लेकिन यह जीरो ऑवर में नहीं हुआ, तो इसी में मैं क्लैरिफिकेशंस पूछ लेता हूँ। रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी ने सही कहा कि जिस चीज़ को 8 सालों में कम्प्लीट होना चाहिए-- सर, यह एक प्रोसेस है, यह जो ढलाई का मामला होता है, रखने का मामला होता है, उसको आप जल्दी-जल्दी करेंगे-- हमारे अहलुवालिया जी कह रहे थे कि पानी को सक करते हैं, वह एक कम्प्लीट चैनल होता है, उस चैनल में वह पत्थर जमता है। अगर उसको आप पहले ही स्टार्ट कर देंगे, तब तो वह गिरेगा ही। इसमें मेरा एक क्वेश्चन यह है कि हम लोग अभी जो मेट्रो की सवारी कर रहे हैं, वह तो ठीक-ठाक है या क्या उसमें भी कोई झंझट है? क्या उसमें भी लोगों का चढ़ना बंद करेंगे? उसमें हजारों लोग रोज चढ़ते हैं। अगर इस तरह से मेट्रो का परिचालन होगा तब तो फिर हम लोगों को डर लगेगा। हमारे पास तो मेट्रो से चलने का कार्ड भी है। आप हमें बताइए कि जो घटनाएँ घट रही हैं-- जैसे एक तो हमने सुना और देखा भी, कि एक आदमी जो काम कर रहा था उसके शरीर के अन्दर पूरा लोहा ही घुस गया। अब पता नहीं कि वह बचा या मर गया। आपके मेट्रो स्टेशन पर या कारखाना में, जहाँ पर काम हो रहा है, क्या इतना जगलरी हो गया है कि आप सेफ्टी का कोई इंतजाम नहीं कर सकते हैं? इसलिए मेरा कहना यह है कि जहाँ भी जो वर्क चल रहा है, वह स्थायी वर्क होना चाहिए। कहने का मतलब कि वह स्थिर वाला काम होना चाहिए, हड़बड़ी वाला काम नहीं होना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: सर, मैंने प्रश्न में यही कहा कि क्या आप स्थिर वाला काम करवाएँगे या आप कॉमनवैलथ गेम्स के लिए लोगों की जान ले लेंगे? इसमें जिन लोगों की जान जाएगी, उनका तो खेल ही समाप्त हो जाएगा। कॉमनवैलथ के खेल तो बाद में होंगे, लेकिन इसमें जितने लोगों की जान गई, उसमें तो सिर्फ 2-4 लोग ही मरे, वरना अगर वहाँ पर ट्रैफिक जाम रहता या ट्रैफिक रहता, तब तो उसमें और भी कई लोग मरते। इसलिए क्या आप उसके बारे में सेफ्टी का कोई अच्छा इंतजाम कराएँगे?

इसमें मेरा एक सवाल और है। गैमन इंडिया, जिसको इसका कंट्रेक्ट दिया जाता है, क्या वह किसी दूसरे को कंट्रेक्ट दे सकता है? यानी उसको अनुभव नहीं है कि कैसे क्रेन से उठाया जाए, कैसे रखा जाए, कितना भार लगे। इस सम्बन्ध में ये मेरे क्लैरिफिकेशंस हैं। आप इनके जवाब दीजिए। यही बातें मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I have a point of order. राज्य मंत्री जी के प्रति मेरा बड़ा आदर है, किन्तु इतने महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर साहब कहाँ हैं, सर? हम आपसे यह आग्रह जरूर करेंगे। ज़रा इसको देखा जाए। We respect the Minister of State, Sir, but a critical issue requires presence of the Cabinet Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. You know that there is no point of order.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But we want some .. *(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is no point of order in that because there is no violation of rules. What can I do? Ravi Shankar Prasadji, you are a senior Member. There is no violation of rule. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But something for propriety, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, now I have got this message. In fact, hon. Mr. Jaipal Reddy had written a letter in advance informing that he is not available today. He is not in town. So, he will not be able to attend. So, he has deputed his MoS. But even otherwise, your point of order does not stand because there is no rule violation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But, Sir, there is the question of propriety as well. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes; I accept that. I accept the question of propriety. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is a violation. There is a violation because. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Under what rule?...*(Interruptions)*... There is no time.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I am just showing you, Sir, the supplementary agenda. When was it circulated? What was the supplementary agenda circulated?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Oh, that is over now. You could have raised it at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You have circulated that at 2.15 p.m. At 2.16 p.m., the Minister comes with a *suo motu* statement and you expect that Members will come and speak. That is not fair, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; Sir, there is a violation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't say it is not a violation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, you have a valid point. But you did not raise it at that time. You have a valid point. I concede that you have a valid point.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I mentioned it because you said there is no violation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay; now; Shri R.C. Singh.

श्री आर०सी० सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में Principal Employer कौन है? अगर गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया Principal Employer है तो इन के under काम करने वाले कितने workers हैं? उस बारे में गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया के पास उनका कोई identification है? इस की जानकारी मंत्री जी हम लोगों को दें कि ठेका में काम करने वाले कितने वर्कर्स हैं? दूसरा सवाल, आजकल compensation की रकम बढ़कर 10 लाख हो गयी है तो इन्होंने 5 लाख किस basis पर calculate किया है? तीसरा सवाल वहाँ safety rules का पालन हो रहा है या नहीं? वहाँ पर safety devices applied हैं या नहीं? इन तीन सवालों के बारे में जानकारी दें।

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, regarding the incident of 13th July, I want to know — the incident happened in the morning at 11.40 — whether any Metro Engineer was present at the site at that time. Why I am asking this is because it has been stated that one of the cranes failed. How can the crane fail? I want to know whether it was lifting more weight than its designed capacity. It is very surprising because two serious types of incidents have happened subsequently on two days. So, my first question is, whether any Metro Engineer was present there and how the crane failed. What was the weight that the crane was lifting? There is some design capacity. Now, regarding the incident of 12th July, we understand that the pillar had developed a crack earlier, but it got its clearance. It was repaired, attended, got its clearance and then the work started again. But, thereafter, that incident happened. What is the actual reason of the 12th July incident and if the pillar-crack was developed, then why they cleared it to start the work again? Actually, I want the Minister to let us know what is the actual reason and whether the Metro Engineers cleared the project to start the work again. This is relating to the 12th July incident. So, I have these two specific questions.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I have very high regard for Mr. Sreedharan because he is the person who really accomplished the impossible task of Konkan Railway. It is really one of the miracles. I am told and I have read that he had raised doubt about this particular pillar some time back and had even asked the Engineers to demolish it. But some Engineers advised him not to do it and said that repairs would be possible. Then Sreedharan had resigned. But now since he has withdrawn his resignation, where does the buck stop? Who is really guilty of this? The nation should know this. Therefore, an inquiry should be conducted and we should know who is guilty, whether it is a person, a group of persons or the technology. We should know this. Secondly, now that this accident has happened, we must ensure that all pillars and other structures that are built should be re-examined before the work resumes because, as Mr. Prasad

said, undue haste has been shown due to the Commonwealth Games. Commonwealth Games would come and go, Sir, but the metro railways would run for the next hundred years. We are playing with the lives of millions of innocent people and we have no business to do that. We may not be able to keep up to the schedules, but that is fine. You must stop, take stock and then resume work.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I have a small question. Was there any complaint about the design of this bridge? There were not one but several complaints. And when there were these complaints about the design of this bridge, did anyone address that complaint? Secondly, although the names of very reputed organisations were mentioned on the cranes, the way cranes buckled down, it looked like it was a child's play. Was there anything wrong in calculating the weight of the girder? Did they want to remove it? Did they falter somewhere while calculating the load of the girder, the angle of the girder or the height of the girder? If it is not assessed yet, kindly refer these points to the inquiry commission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please ask only pointed questions.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I have a two-point question. How the accident took place will be found out by the four-member investigating committee. Surely all the points would be taken care of. My question is that the whole incident has shown that it is basically a safety lapse and the safety operation has got another aspect, which is preventive safety; and, to ensure preventive safety, not only safety in a particular operation that is taking place but also the operation worthiness of the instruments that are being in a work place. For that, a regular system of inspection is in place as per our laws of the land. I would like to know whether the DMRC is being regularly subjected to that statutory safety and preventive safety inspections because, as you know, in the DMRC there was no forum of workers; one was formed and its president was thrown out of the job. The question is, if somebody has the right to take somebody's head, he should also have the power and the authority to save others' heads.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Shrimati Prabha Thakur. एक ही pointed question.

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): मैं एक ही प्रश्न करूंगी। महोदय, यह मामला स्पष्ट रूप से लापरवाही और भ्रष्टाचार का अधिक दिखाई देता है। दो दिन में दो हादसे होते हैं। जब पिलर में दरार है--श्री श्रीधरन जी के नाम से पूरा हिन्दुस्तान परिचित है। वह एक मेट्रो मैन के नाम से जाने जाते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहती हूँ कि उनका इस्तीफा तो वाजिब नहीं था और जिसे उन्होंने वापिस ले भी लिया। इस मामले में चोर की मां को नहीं बल्कि चोर को सजा होनी चाहिए। कौन लोग वाकई में जिम्मेदार हैं? जो वहाँ थे, जिनकी देखरेख में वह पिलर बना और जिन्होंने यह वकालत की कि इस पिलर को दोबारा बनाने की नहीं, इसे रिपेयर करने की जरूरत है, यह उनकी जिम्मेदारी है। क्या सरकार उन जिम्मेदार लोगों के लिए कठोर कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay. Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Enough, enough. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): I will take just a minute, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): All right.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, the technology for the construction of Metros was developed in the West and even after decades of experience, in the West, they do not make more than 17 or 18 kilometres per annum. There must be a reason for that. And we are rushing to 30 kilometres and 32 kilometres! So, obviously, safety norms are being thrown to the winds. Will the Minister kindly examine what the other countries are doing and if they are making only 17 or 18 kms. per annum, why is it that we are making 30 or 32 kms.?

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड): महोदय, हम Shri E. Sreedharan पर कुछ सवाल नहीं करना चाहते, लेकिन Gammon India पर बात करना चाहते हैं जो, Gammon India, इस पुल का निर्माण कर रही है। बहुत बड़ी कम्पनी है, लेकिन वह कम्पनी काम लेकर दूसरी कम्पनी को sublet कर देती है और यह उसका तीसरा एक्सिडेंट है। आप देखिए गंगा पुल बिहार में बना है, अभी उसे बने 30 साल नहीं हुए, लेकिन वह पुल धराशायी होने वाला है। वहां की सरकार और वहां की जनता को इसकी चिंता लगी हुई है। बुद्ध की मूर्ति स्थापित करनी थी, वह समुद्र में गिर गई, डूब गई। इसलिए इस कम्पनी को यहां से हटाना चाहिए और नहीं तो इस कम्पनी को प्रैस करना चाहिए कि काम लेते हो तो तुम करो, इसको sublet नहीं कर सकते।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, would you kindly enlighten as to what is the proportion in western countries of metro underground and metro over-ground? Here in Delhi, most of the accidents have taken place in regard to construction over-ground. Should we infer that the proportion is a little mismatch?

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for the interest that they have shown in the matter. Delhi Metro is the pride of the nation and anything happening here concerns all of us.

Hon. Member, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, spoke about the deaths. His death figure is little wrong. Actual number of people died in the first phase are 55 and 45 have died in the second phase.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: It is higher.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: I just want to correct you that your figure is not right. Now, this includes traffic accidents. क्योंकि कुछ लोग traffic से भी, बस से भी मर गए। I cannot really comment on the matter of trade union rights because the actual employer is DMRC. DMRC is a corporation owned by the Delhi Government and the Union Government together. But it is an independent corporation and DMRC gives its jobs on contract basis. It is also known that big contractors always give sub-contract to other people and they, in turn, sub-contract to other people. This is

the rule of all construction activity in the country, not in DMRC only. If the hon. Member, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, wants to open a union there, he is free to do so, and if he wants to apply for the abolition of Contract Labour Act, he can do so. There are laws in the country for contract workers. There are laws in the country for workmen compensation in case of people getting injured. This is one. Secondly, he said that there is a mad rush. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is saying that sub-letting is allowed. It is not allowed. Sub-letting is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: He is using the wrong word. I said, 'subcontracting'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sub-contracting is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Even sub-contracting is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Of course, it is allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is misguiding the House. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: I am not misleading. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): If the Minister is misguiding, there is a different rule. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He must understand the sanctity of the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... He must understand the sanctity of the issue....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): If the Minister is misleading the House, there are rules for taking it up. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You can take note of it...*(Interruptions)*. First, know the rules. I am on my legs...*(Interruptions)*. Please, take your seat...*(Interruptions)*. Please, don't do this. This is wrong.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What are the norms of the bid?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर के खिलाफ कभी प्रिविलेज का मूव सफल नहीं होगा ... **(व्यवधान)** आप सभी जानते हैं कि technical matter में कॉन्ट्रैक्ट sub-let नहीं किया जा सकता। मंत्री जी इस हाउस को mislead कर रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): First, obey the rules. When I am on my legs, you have to sit down...*(Interruptions)*. At least, obey the rules...*(Interruptions)*. Ahluwaliaji, you are the Deputy Leader...*(Interruptions)*. Please, obey the rules. I am on my legs. You have to take your seat...*(Interruptions)*. Please, take your seat.

If the Minister is giving any wrong information, or deliberately misleading the House, or even otherwise misleading the House, there are rules under which you can take up the matter.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : जयपाल रेड्डी जवाब दें ...**(व्यवधान)**... Let the hon. Minister reply to this. It is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा एक प्वाइंट है ... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, hon. Minister can continue ...*(Interruptions)*. Ravi Shankarji, please, allow the Minister to reply. Let us hear him...*(Interruptions)*. He is a new Minister...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I have only one pointed question. The Government of Delhi gave order to DMRC to give contract to somebody. They selected few reputed organisations. Now, one is Gamon India. Now, Gamon India got this order. Gamon India, without the knowledge of DMRC, without the knowledge of the Government, and without the knowledge of the Technical Committee who approved the first contractor, gave the sub-contract to some Kallu Ram. Now, Kallu Ram is building the DMRC. So, should I believe that? And, that is the answer.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, you have made your point ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: What is this? Metro is built by Kallu Ram...*(Interruptions)*. वह तो बाहर यह बात चलती है कि सब चलता है। कानून के तहत चलता है या नहीं, यह बताइए। मंत्री जी, कानून के तहत जवाब दीजिए... (व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, please, allow him to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, hon. Minister is not misleading the House. He only refers to what he is...*(Interruptions)*. He is also ready to correct if there is any mistake...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Let him complete the reply...*(Interruptions)*. Ahluwaliaji, you allow him to reply...*(Interruptions)*. First, allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Sir, I am raising a very serious question. Sir, the Minister's words, 'contract, sub-contract, sub-contract', should be removed from the record and then let him speak. He cannot legalise it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, I will look into it. Now, please, allow the Minister to speak.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: If this whole work is done by sub-contractor and petty contractor, how can we accept it?...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Ahluwaliaji, you made your point. It is there on record....*(Interruptions)*. अहलुवालिया जी, बैठिए ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, I don't want to go into hair-splitting and semantics and interpretation of words at this stage. I know how to use the words...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, Mr. Rudy, this is not correct ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, may I say with all the force at my command that the Government is in no mad rush and safety norms are not being compromised and will not be compromised in our efforts to complete the Metro before the Commonwealth Games. Safety is primary and that will be given the maximum importance. Only thing I want to point out is that the record of Delhi Metro with regard to safety is very good. Last time, in DMRC Phase-II, the injury frequency rate, which is a way of calculating the accident rate, was 0.4, as compared to Singapore's 1.1. Only London underground is little better with 0.32.

Sir, as far as safety is concerned, the record of DMRC is very good. We are not only concerned about the safety at the construction stage but we are also concerned about its safety when it will run. So far as running of Metros is concerned, the record of DMRC has been very good. It is a proud project of the country, and, I would request the hon. Members to see that the morale of those who are working for DMRC is not anyway damaged. We will take all possible precautions with regard to safety, and, all I want to say is that whatever questions the hon. Members have raised, will be answered when the Inquiry Report comes out on the 22nd July, 2009. Only after that, the report will be placed before the Parliament, and, further action regarding this matter will be taken. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, further discussion on the Budget (General), 2009-10. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, what we want to know ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is not... *(Interruptions)*

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, हमने पूछा था कि फर्स्ट फेज़ में 65 किलोमीटर आठ साल में पूरा हुआ, दूसरे फेज़ में 121 किलोमीटर चार वर्ष में क्यों हो रहा है? इसका जवाब नहीं दिया उन्होंने ! ...*(व्यवधान)*... These are important things. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the questions are whether any engineer was present there; what was the capacity; whether that was supervised or not; how the crane failed etc. These are the easy things. We did not want a certificate for the Metro. We know the Metro. These are only few questions. It does not depend on the inquiry report to come.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything more? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SAUGATA RAY: Sir, all I want to point out is our experience of Calcutta Metro. Mr. Prasad knows that as technology advances and as we gain experience, the speed of work increases. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am from Calcutta. Calcutta Metro took 24 years to be built. There is no doubt that with the experience gained in the first phase, we are doing the work faster in the second phase. It is only natural progress of technology.

DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2009-10

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, further discussion on General Budget, 2009-10. Due to paucity of time, I would like to request every hon. Member, who takes part in this discussion, to be precise. Please do not take more time. I will stick to the time allotted to the respective party. Now, Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari is to continue his speech. Mr. Tiwari, your Party has a balance of twenty-one minutes, and, you have fielded four speakers. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want to give time to your colleagues, then, you will have to conclude early, otherwise, we will be helpless.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे चिंता की बात इस बजट में राजकोषीय घाटा है, जो जी.डी.पी. का 6.2 प्रतिशत है। अगर राज्यों का भी मिला दिया जाए, तो यह 10 प्रतिशत से भी ऊपर चला जाता है। इसके साथ ही साथ यह राजस्व घाटा भी चार गुना बढ़ गया है। यह बहुत ही चिंता की बात है और मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी कैसे इन घाटों की भरपाई करेंगे, क्योंकि उसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि योजना व्यय में कमी आ रही है और गैर-योजना व्यय भी बहुत तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। मैं इस संबंध में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इतने सबके बावजूद भी जो बड़े मध्यम वर्ग के लोग हैं या जो कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर के लोग हैं, उनको जो रियायतें दी गई हैं, वह 418 लाख करोड़ रुपए की हैं और अगर कुल रियायतों को माना जाए तो वह करीब 7000 करोड़ रुपया पड़ता है। मैं इस संबंध में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि रियायतों के साथ ही साथ जो कर वसूली है, वह भी बहुत ही चिंताजनक है। अभी महालेखापरीक्षक की एक रिपोर्ट सदन के पटल पर रखी गई है, उसमें यह कहा गया है कि during 2007-08, against Rs. 3,6057 crore certified by the recovery officers, only Rs. 8,612 crore were recovered; मतलब 24 परसेंट पैसा ही रिकवर हो पाया है।

There was an improvement in recovery from 14 per cent in 2005-06 to 24 per cent in 2006-07. यह हमारा जो deficit है, उस deficit का करीब 17 परसेंट बैठता है। इस प्रकार एक तरफ तो हम घाटे में हैं और दूसरी तरफ जो करों की वसूली है, वह ठीक तरीके से नहीं हो पा रही। मैं इस संबंध में यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि कारपोरेट सेक्टर को जो 7000 करोड़ रुपए की छूट मिली है, वह पूरे fiscal deficit का 17 परसेंट है। इतना ही नहीं, इसके बाद भी आप देखिए कि तमाम प्रकार के आयकर अधिनियमों में छूट हुई। आयकर अधिनियमों में संशोधन करके एक औद्योगिक परिवार के औद्योगिक समूह को करीब पचास हजार करोड़ रुपए का मुनाफा कमाने का मौका दे दिया गया। इसके बावजूद भी जो corporate sector है, कानूनन ढाई लाख करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा कर रियायतों का फायदा उठाने के बावजूद भी इन्होंने इस बजट के प्रति सेंसेक्स को गिराकर अपनी नाराज़गी जाहिर की। इस प्रकार यह मामला है। हम इनके खिलाफ नहीं हैं। यह सही है कि राष्ट्र की प्रगति में, राष्ट्र के योगदान में इनका भी महत्व है, परन्तु मैं सदन में इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इनको भी नियंत्रण और मर्यादा में रखने की आवश्यकता है। अगर ये अनियंत्रित हो जाएंगे तो जैसे सांड अगर अनियंत्रित हो जाए तो वह बहुत ही havoc पैदा कर देता है। उसी प्रकार से आर्थिक क्षेत्र में या देश के निर्माण के क्षेत्र में इनका अनियंत्रित होना देश की प्रगति के लिए ठीक नहीं है। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इनमें ट्रांसपेरेंसी नहीं है। इसके साथ ही साथ लाभ कमाने की इनकी जो भावना है, इस भावन के जरिए, मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि ये समावेशी विकास का केन्द्र बन सकते हैं या समावेशी विकास का नेतृत्व कर सकते हैं। पूरे बजट को देखते हुए मेरी समझ में केवल एक ही बात आती है कि सरकार की जो मानसिकता है, वह यही है कि समग्र विकास संभव नहीं है, सबका विकास नहीं हो सकता है इसलिए कुछ लोगों का विकास हो और वह भी, जो जितना ज्यादा सम्पन्न है, जो जितनी ज्यादा आय कमाता है, अगर उसका विकास किया जाए तो उसके विकास के जरिए पूरे देश का

3.00 P.M.

विकास हो जाएगा। जो trickle down theory पहले कही जाती थी, यह उस trickle down theory की मानसिकता और उसके दर्शन को दर्शाता है। इसी के साथ ही साथ जिस प्रकार से पूंजी का, दौलत का केन्द्रीयकरण हो रहा है, देश में गैर बराबरी बढ़ रही है, उसके संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो गैर बराबरी और भ्रष्टाचार है, यह समाज को अंदर से तोड़ता है। जैसे explosion बाहर से विस्फोट होता है और implosion आंतरिक विस्फोट है। अगर इस गैर बराबरी को रोकने का उपाय नहीं किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह व्यवस्था नियंत्रित नहीं हो सकती। इसके लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हमें अपने भोग पर अंकुश लगाना होगा। हमें अपनी फिज़ूलखर्ची पर रोक लगानी होगी, हमारे सरकारी ठाठ-बाट पर रोक लगानी होगी। मैं यहां पर चाणक्य का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में उनका जिक्र किया था। चाणक्य को एक बार एक चीनी यात्री पाटिलीपुत्र में मिलने गया। वे एक साम्राज्य के महामात्य थे जो गंगा किनारे एक झोंपड़ी रहते थे। चीनी यात्री को आश्चर्य हुआ कि इतने बड़े साम्राज्य का महामात्य, महामात्य यानी प्रधान मंत्री, एक झोंपड़ी में रहता है। जब वह यात्री वहां उनसे बात करने गया तो उस समय उनके पास दो टेबल लैम्प थे। जब वह यात्री वहां गया तो जिस टेबल लैम्प को जलाकर वे काम कर रहे थे, उसको उन्होंने बुझा दिया और दूसरा टेबल लैम्प जलाकर वे काम करने लगे। जब यात्री ने पूछा कि आखिर यह क्या है तो उन्होंने कहा कि चूंकि मैं सरकारी काम कर रहा था इसलिए सरकारी लैम्प का इस्तेमाल कर रहा हूँ और अब आपसे निजी वार्ता हो रही है इसलिए यह मेरा व्यक्तिगत लैम्प है। इस प्रकार ये सब बातें हैं। अगर हम आत्म संयम, आत्मनियंत्रण और मर्यादाओं का ध्यान नहीं रखेंगे तो देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था को सुधारा नहीं जा सकता है। इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, with a sense of sentiment and gratitude, I hasten to thank the Chair for having called me on behalf of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham as one of the speakers to speak on a very important subject. Sir, it is a matter of great pride and privilege to speak on a subject, which is the most important subject, of the Session, namely, the Union Budget.

Sir, as a student of economics, I had been taught as to what is a 'budget'. 'Budget' is a tool of financial administration. It contains the estimated revenue and expenditure for a particular period. Not only that, Sir, it also envisages the policy, social and economic, of either the national Government or the State Government. So, as it is, it is a very important piece of instrument which reflects the in and out of the activities of the whole Government.

Sir, the UPA Government has come to power after a big mandate and they can afford to be strong, stable and steady. Equally so, the Finance Minister also can afford to be assertive and aggressive. He can even afford to be a little bit tough on matters so warranted. Sir, I read the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister. I have seen the other documents also. I have been listening to the previous speakers and I could see that there are several highlights in the Budget. Just as a coin will have two sides, this Budget has got highlights or hits on the one side and low-lights or pits on the other side. I could see the hailing of the Budget on that side and waiting of the Budget on the other in the House. So, the Opposition has got their own reservations

and reasons for them. Sir, these are my impressions. As far as I am concerned, I would like to be very objective and go by merit. In this connection, I have been guided by....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Come to the Budget. Your time will be exhausted. Come to the Budget.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Our leader, Madam Jayalalitha who has been very careful in appreciating certain aspects of the Budget and criticising the other side of it also. Sir, she has very carefully said that and she thanked the UPA Government for having borrowed some ideas from our election Budget and election manifesto. In AIADMK's election manifesto, we had said that fringe benefit tax should be abolished which they have accepted. They have increased the allocation for police modernisation. They have increased the allocation for defence. They have increased the allocation for border fencing. So, these are the areas of the AIADMK's election manifesto which are found in this Budget. So, in that case, she is very appropriate in appreciating it. Sir, at the same time, she also wanted the exemption limit of the income-tax of the salaried class to be increased to Rs. 5 lakh. That has not been done. But, they have done a marginal or symbolic increase which does not have any effect at all. Sir, ultimately, our Madam has said that they lack the long-term vision. Instead of going on for populist measures, they should have taken long-term measures. These are the impressions given by my political leader which I hasten to endorse.

Sir, I have made 3-4 parts to make my observations. Sir, before preparing anything, one is subject to certain pressures and background. Before preparing the Budget, they should have been taken into account the macro level situations and the micro level situations, the policies of the Government,..... the expectations of the ruling party and the people, and other considerations will be borne in mind. So, taking all these things into account, a Budget is to be prepared. They should have taken these things into account.

Sir, coming to global economic crisis, or global meltdown, and global recession, the Chair and the entire House know that it has got a tremendous effect world over; not on some countries alone, but on India as well. The Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission have all conceded that there is some effect on account of the said factor. Unfortunately, they have not been pretty serious till the growth rate fell down a little and the inflation increased. And there was an unprecedented breakdown of the stockmarket. Till then, they have been thinking that the effect was only marginal. But after having seen all this, they are a little bit serious, pretty serious. But they have not done much, with the result that only some minor things have been taken into account. But it has no effect at all. Sir, the result is that the industry has gone down; jobs have been thrown out; several serious situations have taken place and the export also has been affected. It has got an impact on our economy. My simple question on this point is whether the hon. Finance Minister or the Minister of State for Finance, who is sitting here,

has taken into account the implication of the whole thing. I mean, whether they have taken it in the right spirit; whether or not they have done it. I have got my own doubts about whether the implications have really been taken into account in the proper perspective.

Coming to the next point of internal security, Sir, I need not say much about it because of the fact that with Naxalism, Maoism, terrorism or extremism, or whatever ism they are, prevailing throughout the length and breadth of the country, the people are becoming restless and ultimately, are finding it extremely difficult to live in peace. Absolute peace and public order are very essential than any other aspect. Top priority needs to be given to this aspect. But as far as this aspect is concerned, somehow or the other, the Government is trying to say, yes, yes, we are seized of the matter. What is it that you are seized of? The problem still persists. What I am trying to ask is, as far as your Budget is concerned, whether you have taken this serious aspect into account for doing something concrete. This is my second point, Sir.

Coming to the third point of corruption, from womb to tomb, and criminalisation of politics, politicisation of administration. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, as you know, in a democracy, there are three sides, namely, the people-elected representatives, the organisation of elected representatives elect the political executives. They operate through the bureaucracy and reach the people. This is the situation. What happens is, whatever be the scheme that you are trying to implement, its benefit does not reach the people at all. It is said, out of one rupee, only 15 paise reach the beneficiary. The result is there is only a 15 per cent benefit. What does it mean? With the erosion of ethics, and of vanishment of values, what happens is that corruption erupts to the core. On the other day, it was discussed in the House, during the Question Hour, to what extent corruption is prevailing in bureaucracy, and on the next day, what extent, corruption in judiciary! Everywhere it is spreading. What I am trying to ask here is, since it is a major problem, what you are going to provide in the Budget for correcting it. You have not done that. So, my third point is about the evil effect of black money. Sir, it has been assessed about 15 years back. ...*(Interruptions)*... Rs.30,000 crores of black money was in circulation; 21 per cent of that is mingling with GNP. But, according to the CVC, it is about 40 per cent. What I am trying to ask is: since black money is in circulation to a greater extent, what is going to be the effect of it on our economy; whether the Finance Minister has taken into account while formulating the Budget.

Coming to the next point of human development and poverty alleviation, I am sorry to say that even after six decades of achieving independence, the poverty has not been abolished. On the other hand, it is spreading everywhere. I mean, the farmers are committing suicide; people are suffering a lot, and a great number of people are badly suffering out of hunger. They are not able to

get even a single meal in a day. Whatever be the schemes that you are trying to implement, nothing reaches the public. That is how I look at it. In such a situation, what are you going to do? In this connection, I would like to mention one thing. If I say that, my friends may try to interfere. People need food. What do we do? When Madam Jayalalitha was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, she had introduced a nice programme “Annadanam”. A number of my colleagues understand what is meant by “Annadanam”. I mean feeding the poor in temples. Whoever wants to eat food, they can go to the temple and eat food. This is known as “Annadanam”. This was going on very successfully. Unfortunately, that Annadanam scheme was stopped by our colleagues Government, the DMK, when they came to power. I am not attacking the DMK. Their policy is different and our policy is different. What I am trying to say is that the Government is not able to handle the problem of hunger, poverty, etc. When there is a way to do, it has not been accepted and followed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): When we are giving one kilogram rice at Re.1, there is no need for Annadanam. We give one kilogram rice at Re.1. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, please. Don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't interrupt.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Again, our Madam Jayalalitha very much appreciated your scheme of 25 kilograms of rice or wheat per month at Rs.3 per kilogram. While welcoming the move what she has mentioned is that specific allocation has not been made for this purpose. What is the use of mentioning it when no specific, exclusive allocation is made for that purpose? That is the point what our Madam is raising. Let us see what you are going to do on that. The Government has announced it. Let us see whether it will come through in practice.

Since you are showing signals every minute, I am running through the points like with haste. It has been announced in the Budget “a slum-free India” in five years. It sounds well. What I am trying to say is that in the urban areas they are trying to use all the land. They are trying to construct *pucca* houses and avoid slums. It sounds well. But where do you find the place? I want to impress upon the entire House that every year about 15 lakhs of vehicles are coming out. They are on the road. In major metre cities there is no mobility; there is no parking place; there is no road; there is no fly-over; there is no bridge; and with the result, in another five or six years, you can't find a single inch to move in your vehicle. This is the situation. This is a very gigantic problem. Whatever land is available in the urban areas, you are going to use it. I am not against slum dwellers at all. What is your aim in future? These are the problems that are coming up like anything. You are not taking into account those things. On the other hand, you are just announcing this and that. I will run through the points. Just one or two points.

This is a Budget in which everyone has expected that something will happen with regard to MPLADS. As far as the MPs are concerned, they are arguing for others. They speak for the public. The MPLADS is a very popular scheme and we are trying to create durable assets. When the Central Government Schemes or the State Government Schemes could not fulfil, they are fulfilled through the MPLADS. What I am trying to say is that the MPs have been given Rs.2 crores every year to be spent. As far as the Rajya Sabha Members are concerned, it is for the entire State and as far as the Lok Sabha Members are concerned, it is for their constituencies. This amount of Rs.2 crores should be enhanced like anything. So, proposal gone to the Ministry and the Ministry has recommended enhancement upto Rs.5 crores. Where is it now held up? It is held up either in the Finance Ministry or in the Cabinet. I don't know. I thought and many of us thought that some announcement will be made in this Budget. But they have not done it. They feel that this kind of an announcement should not be made at all. This is a Scheme in which everyone is interested. But, unfortunately, nothing has been done.

Another important point is this. Now you are talking about agriculture, irrigation, etc. Only four per cent of the agricultural sector is attempted to be developed. I am in favour of irrigation. What do you want to do? A lot of things can be done by interlinking all rivers. Interlinking of rivers is a major problem. It could be done very easily and it should be done. But, unfortunately, that is not taken into account. As regards interlinking of rivers, I thought there will be something in the Budget. Each State is trying in its own way and a few States do that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Malaisamy, you have left only eight minutes for your colleague.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: They say that it is a growth-oriented budget. They have not said anything uninstrumental for growth orientation. They have not done anything for savings. The budget has preferred only the rich class. Transaction tax has been abolished, income tax surcharge has been abolished; whereas, nothing has been done for the *Aam Admi*. What I am saying is, they are talking big about the *Aam Admi*; whereas, they have preferred only the rich people. They have neglected agriculture and the rural people. Good economics is good politics. There are a number of other things, which I want to mention. Since you are feeling uneasy, Sir, I conclude my speech. If permitted, I will speak later. Thank you.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा नंबर था, मैं दो मिनट के लिए अखिलेश दास जी से बात करने के लिए चला गया था। मैं आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप कहाँ गए थे?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : अखिलेश दास जी ने बुला लिया था, उनसे बात करने गया था।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप उधर थे?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन) : ठीक है। ज्यादा टाइम मत लेना।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जितना समय है, उतना ही बोलूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे.कुरियन) : ठीक है, बोलिए।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बजट पर हो रही चर्चा में भाग लेने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करता हूं। आज देश को आजाद हुए लगभग साठ वर्ष से अधिक बीतने जा रहे हैं। इन साठ वर्षों के दौरान देश में अमीर आदमी अमीर हुआ है और गरीब आदमी गरीब होता चला गया है। इन साठ वर्षों में ज्यादातर समय कांग्रेस पार्टी और उनकी सहयोगी पार्टियों की सरकार रही है। कांग्रेस पार्टी ने ऐसा कोई मुकम्मल इंतजाम नहीं किया कि देश का गरीब आदमी भी अच्छे ढंग से जीवन-यापन कर पाता। महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी के बजट भाषण से ही प्रारंभ करूंगा। इन्होंने शुरुआत में ही कहा कि 1947 में जब हमारा देश आजाद हुआ, तो हमारा बजट खर्च 193 करोड़ रुपए दर्शाया गया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहूंगा कि आज अपने देश का बजटीय खर्च लगभग 10 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया है। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पिछले कई वर्षों से केंद्र की सरकारें अपने बजट का व्यय बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से राज्य सरकारों के साथ नाइंसाफी करती रही हैं। केंद्र सरकार का बजट व्यय बढ़ाने का एक मुख्य कारण है कि केंद्र सरकारें राज्य सरकारों को दिए जाने वाले धन, संवैधानिक संस्थाओं जैसे वित्त आयोग अथवा योजना आयोग के माध्यम से न देकर केंद्र द्वारा प्रायोजित योजनाओं के माध्यम से दे रही हैं। प्रत्येक बजट में इन केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं की संख्या व धनराशियां कम होने की बजाय बढ़ रही हैं। मान्यवर, यह संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के विरुद्ध नहीं है तो क्या है? केंद्र सरकार ऐसे विषय, जो कि राज्य अथवा संयुक्त सूची के बारे में राज्यों को सीधे धन न देकर वाहवाही लूटने के लिए अपनी योजनाओं से, अपने नेताओं के नाम पर रखकर राज्य सरकारों को दी जाने वाली धनराशियों को कम करके, उसे इन योजनाओं के माध्यम से दे रही है। इस बजट में ऐसी नई केंद्र सहायतीय योजनाएं राज्य सरकारों की स्वायत्तता तथा स्थानीय स्तर, इनके द्वारा बेहतर नियोजन की प्रक्रिया के अनुसार कुठाराघात है, जिसका मैं और मेरी पार्टी निन्दा करती है। केंद्र सरकार की इस नीति का पालन करते हुए वर्तमान बजट में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा केंद्रीय करों व टैक्स की आय से सरकार को मिलने वाले अंश में अंतरिम बजट में दर्शाई गई धनराशि से 1300 करोड़ रुपए कम कर दिए गए हैं। राज्य सरकारों पर छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के बोझ से जहां व्यय बढ़े हैं, वहीं भारत सरकार के बजट में इतनी बड़ी धनराशि से राज्य सरकार को मिलने वाली धनराशि कम करना उचित नहीं है तथा उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता के साथ धोखा है। यह बजट एक छलावा है। माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने गरीबों की संख्या कम करने का जो लक्ष्य रखा है, उसे वास्तविक रूप से वह उन्हें अमीर बनाकर नहीं, बल्कि उनकी संख्या कागजों पर कम करके कर रहे हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में भारत सरकार द्वारा गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या, पिचयानवें लाख परिवारों की संख्या कई वर्ष से स्थिर रखी गई है, जबकि पूर्व में ही, जब गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे की परिकल्पना की गई थी, तब भी संख्या से अधिक गरीब परिवार राज्य में थे। राज्य सरकार के बार-बार अनुरोध के बावजूद केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्रदेश में गरीबों की वास्तविक संख्या को दर्शाया नहीं जा रहा है। इससे अभी भी प्रदेश में कई लाख गरीब परिवार केंद्र सरकार व प्रदेश सरकार की गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों के लिए चलाई जा रही योजनाओं का लाभ नहीं उठा पा रहे हैं। इस बजट में गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या को वास्तविक न करके उसमें कमी करने की बात कही गई है, जोकि केंद्र सरकार के इस कथन से एक सहभागी विकास बजट है। यह बजट की धज्जियां उड़ा रही है। माननीय मंत्री जी, आपकी जानकारी के लिए ग्रामीण

विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाई गई एन.सी. सक्सेना कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया है कि देश में पचास प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हैं। ऐसे में माननीय मंत्री जी द्वारा बजट भाषण में गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे के परिवारों की संख्या के आँकड़ों में कमी करके उन्हें सरकारी योजनाओं से वंचित रखने के साथ-साथ 10 लाख रुपए की वार्षिक आय से अधिक की आय के करदाताओं को सरचार्ज से छूट देना इस सरकार की गरीबों के प्रति भेदभाव तथा अमीरों के प्रति हमदर्दी को दर्शाता है। हमारी मांग है कि जहाँ आय कर में सरचार्ज को समाप्त किया जाए, वहीं गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों की संख्या को आँकड़ेबाजी में सीमित न करके वास्तविक रूप से इनकी संख्या बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Brajesh Pathak, as per the rules, you cannot read out a written speech. ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए, रूल के अनुसार ऐसे prepared text को पढ़ने की अनुमति नहीं है।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : मैं वैसे बोल सकता था, लेकिन कुछ points छूट जाते।

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, बाकी सभी लोग कुछ points लेकर आते हैं। He is quoting. Only points are there. It is not a written speech. He is only referring to points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): He can refer to the written text for points. But he cannot read continuously.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : सर, ठीक है। कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।

सर, ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में भी बजट में कुछ विशेष प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। उत्तरी ग्रीड से उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को बिजली मिलती रही है। अब सरकार ने तय किया है कि उत्तरी ग्रीड से जो बिजली मिलेगी, उस बिजली को खुले बाजार में नीलाम किया जाएगा यानी अब कोई भी स्टेट उत्तरी ग्रीड से बिजली ले सकती है। आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से हमारा अनुरोध है कि उत्तरी ग्रीड से उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को जो बिजली मिलती थी, उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता को जो बिजली मिलती थी, उसका हक न मारा जाए। यह उत्तर प्रदेश के निवासियों के साथ अत्याचार और अन्याय होगा।

मान्यवर, बजट में उत्तर प्रदेश में नोएडा के पास जेवर में बन रहे हवाई अड्डे के बारे में भी कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। पूर्व में सरकार ने तय किया था और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने प्रस्ताव भी दिया था कि नोएडा में एक हवाई अड्डा बनाया जाए। अभी दिन में Calling Attention Motion पर चर्चा चल रही थी, माननीय उड्डयन मंत्री जी बड़ी बुरी हालत में फँसे हुए थे। देश भर के सांसद और पूरी जनता कह रही थी कि उड्डयन विभाग घाटे में चल रहा है, एयर इंडिया घाटे में चल रही है। हम देखते हैं कि हवाई अड्डे के ऊपर घंटों, 45 मिनट, एक घंटे तक हवाई जहाज ऊपर चक्कर काटते रहते हैं। इससे पेट्रोल भी जलता है और यात्रियों को भी परेशानी होती है। इन सब देश के नागरिकों को, दिल्ली के नागरिकों को, आसपास के लोगों को परेशानी से छुटकारा दिलाने के लिए नोएडा में हवाई अड्डा प्रस्तावित किया गया था। आपके माध्यम से हमारा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि नोएडा में जो हवाई अड्डा प्रस्तावित है, तत्काल उस पर कार्रवाई करते हुए हवाई अड्डा बनाने के लिए कार्य शुरू कराएँ, जिससे आसपास के आगरा, मथुरा, वृंदावन जैसे धार्मिक महत्व के क्षेत्र हैं, पर्यटन के महत्व के क्षेत्र हैं, जहाँ देश-विदेश से हजारों नागरिक पर्यटन के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश आते हैं, साथ ही जो देश की राजधानी आना चाहते हैं, उन लोगों को जाम से निजात मिल सकेगी। उन लोगों को दिल्ली के ऊपर घंटों चक्कर नहीं लगाना पड़ेगा। इससे पेट्रोल भी बचेगा और एयर इंडिया भी इससे कुछ राहत महसूस कर सकेगी।

सर, बजट में माननीय मंत्री जी ने तमिल नागरिकों के पुनर्वास के लिए 5 सौ करोड़ रुपए का बजटीय प्रावधान किया है। हम धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हैं कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने तमिलों के लिए इतनी बड़ी धनराशि आवंटित की है। लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा और उनसे अनुरोध भी करना चाहूँगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल, दो ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं, जहाँ पर सूखा...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. वी. मैत्रेयन (तमिलनाडु) : वह तमिलनाडु के तमिलों के लिए नहीं है, श्रीलंका के तमिलों के लिए है।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : जी हाँ, वह श्रीलंका के तमिलों के लिए दिया है। हमारा उनके प्रति समर्थन है। श्रीलंका के हमारे जो तमिल भाई हैं, उनके लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने जो पैसा दिया, उसके लिए हम आपत्ति नहीं करते हैं। हम इसका समर्थन करते हैं कि उनको मदद देना अच्छी बात है। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल, जो अक्सर सूखे की चपेट और दैवी आपदाओं से घिरे रहते हैं, उनके बारे में हमारी नेता बहन कुमारी मायावती जी ने कई बार केन्द्र सरकार को चिट्ठी लिखी, वे प्रधान मंत्री जी से खुद मिलीं कि 80 हजार करोड़ रुपए का विशेष पैकेज दिया जाए, जिससे बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल के लोगों को भी जीने लायक व्यवस्था उपलब्ध करा सकें। हमें तो ऐसा महसूस होता है कि उधर तो उनको वोटों की संख्या दिखाई पड़ रही है, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में भी आम जनता रहती है, वहाँ भी आपके लोग रहते हैं, चूँकि आप केन्द्र सरकार में हैं, तो वहाँ बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल के लिए अलग से आपको बजटीय प्रावधान करके विशेष पैकेज देना चाहिए था। आपने पिछले दिनों सामरा कमेटी बनाकर और उसे वहाँ भेजकर अध्ययन भी करवाया था कि वहाँ के नागरिकों की क्या समस्याएँ हैं। लेकिन उस कमेटी का क्या निर्णय आया, आज तक उससे न तो सदन को अवगत कराया गया और न ही लोगों को बताया गया है कि कमेटी ने क्या निर्णय लिया। बुंदेलखंड और पूर्वांचल में आज तक कोई राहत राशि नहीं भेजी गई है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं कुछ विशेष बिन्दुओं पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा। बजट में जिन प्रावधानों को शामिल किया गया है, कहा तो यह गया है कि यह आम आदमी का बजट है, गरीबों का बजट है, लेकिन आम आदमी और गरीबों की बात तो दूर रही, यह केवल खास आदमियों और अमीरों का बजट बन कर रह गया है। Fringe Benefit Tax का लाभ, जिसे कंपनियाँ अपने कर्मचारियों को देती थीं, उसे समाप्त करके यह दर्शाया गया है कि यह बजट केवल बड़े लोगों और बड़ी कंपनियों का हिमायती है, पूँजीपतियों और धन्या सेठों का हिमायती है। Commodity Trade Tax को समाप्त कर दिया गया है। गेहूँ और चावल, जो हमारी आम जनता के उपयोग की चीजें हैं, इसमें दलालों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, उन्हें फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए यह किया गया है।

10 लाख रुपये सालाना और उससे अधिक की आय वाले समाज के उच्च वर्ग के लोगों पर इन्कम टैक्स सर-चार्ज समाप्त कर दिया गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि जिसकी आय 10 लाख रुपये से अधिक होगी, उसको तो राहत देने का काम किया गया है, लेकिन जिसकी आय दो लाख रुपये होगी, उसे हमारे बजट से मात्र एक हजार रुपये का फायदा होगा। जिसकी आय 11 लाख रुपये होगी, उसे 20 हजार रुपये का फायदा होगा, जिसकी आय 20 लाख रुपये होगी, उसे 50 हजार रुपये के लगभग फायदा पहुंचेगा। यह बात स्वयं इस चीज को दर्शाती है कि यह गरीब, आम आदमी का बजट है अथवा अमीरों का बजट है।

राजनीतिक पार्टियों में चंदा लेने की परम्परा रही है, उसमें एक कदम और आगे बढ़ाते हुए, चन्दे को 100% कर मुक्त किया गया है। इससे यह साफ हो जाता है कि राजनीतिक पार्टियाँ ज्यादा से ज्यादा चंदा बटोर सकें और कौन सी राजनीतिक पार्टियाँ इससे चंदा बटोरेंगी, यह पूरा देश जानता है।

पेट्रोल-डीज़ल के दाम बढ़ा करके सरकार ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि आम आदमी से उसका कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। मैं आपके सामने पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के कुछ आंकड़े रखना चाहता हूँ। 7 जून 2008 को डीज़ल का दाम 37.25 रुपये प्रति लीटर था और पेट्रोल का दाम 50.82 रुपये प्रति लीटर था। जब चुनाव होने वाला था, तो सरकार ने 29 जनवरी, 2009 को बताया कि डीज़ल 32.41 रुपये और पेट्रोल 43.47 रुपये हो गया है। किन्तु सत्ता पाते ही इन्होंने बजट सत्र का इंतजार भी नहीं किया कि सदन में यह घोषणा करते, यह लगातार पेट्रोल और डीज़ल के दामों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि करते गए। इससे यह साबित होता है कि इस सरकार का गरीबों से, आम

आदमी से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। महंगाई के कारण गरीब आदमी की कमर टूट गई है, उनके पेट पर लात पड़ी है।

इस बजट से बड़े ट्रांसपोर्टरों को भी फायदा पहुंचाया गया है। पहले ट्रक पर 20% टैक्स हुआ करता था, अब उसे घटाकर 8% कर दिया गया है। रेलवे से ढोए जाने वाले जो खाद्यान्न पदार्थ हैं अथवा अन्य सामग्रियां हैं, उन पर सर्विस टैक्स बढ़ा कर गरीबों की कमर तोड़ने का दोबारा प्रयास किया गया है। इसमें हथकरघा बनुकरों की बात भी की गई है, क्लस्टर कई जगह बनाया जाएगा, लेकिन हजूर, जो हमारे हथकरघा बुनकर सूती धागा बनाएंगे, उस पर सरकार ने 8% की दर से टैक्स लगाने का काम किया है, जिससे गरीब आदमी की हालत और पतली हो गई है और उसकी कमर टूटने लगी है।

बजट से पूर्व तेल की खोज पर टैक्स लाभ दिए जाने की व्यवस्था थी कि केन्द्र सरकार ने इस बजट पर तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन पर टैक्स हॉलिडे सुविधा, चुनिन्दा उत्पादकों को लाभ देने की नीयत से दी है। ये चहेते कौन हैं, यह सारा देश जानता है। सरकार ने हमारी नेता बहन कुमारी मायावती जी की देखादेखी उत्तर प्रदेश की ही तर्ज पर पूरे देश में अम्बेडकर ग्राम योजना की तरह प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना की शुरुआत की है...(व्यवधान)।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या आपकी योजना...(व्यवधान)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: क्या आप चुप रहेंगे? आपको कोई कष्ट है क्या? ...(व्यवधान) अच्छा, आप अपनी लगा लो...(व्यवधान)

हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि बहन कुमारी मायावती जी ने जो व्यवस्था अम्बेडकर ग्राम योजना के माध्यम से की, उसमें प्रत्येक गांव के लिए लगभग 80 लाख रुपये खर्च करने की व्यवस्था थी, उन 80 लाख रुपयों में उन्होंने सड़क, पानी, बिजली, स्कूल, अस्पताल और ढेर सारी नागरिक सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध कराया, लेकिन केन्द्र सरकार ने एक गांव के लिए मात्र 10 लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था की है। उसमें भी स्पष्ट केवल 1000 गांवों के बारे में ऐसी योजना लागू किए जाने का बजटीय प्रावधान किया गया है। यह गरीबों के साथ धोखा है।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: आपने 50 करोड़ रुपये की मूर्ति ...(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. Please.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आपके तो नहीं लग रहे हैं, इसलिए आप चुप बैठिए ...(व्यवधान) आप चुप बैठेंगे कि नहीं ...(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, look here. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Pathak. ...(Interruptions).

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आप चुप बैठेंगे कि नहीं, आपको क्या दिक्कत हो रही है ...(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, please sit down. (Interruptions)

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): सच्चाई सुनने की हिम्मत नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: आप नोटिस दो और बोलो ..(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: पहले नोटिस दो, फिर बोलो ..(व्यवधान) गरीबों का खून चूस कर ...(व्यवधान) तुम क्या बात करोगे ..(व्यवधान) बैठो आप, फालतू मत बोला करो ..(व्यवधान)

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश): आप गलत बोलोगे तो सुनोगे ...(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, यह बीच में कैसे बोल सकते हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Sahu, sit down....*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sahu, take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sahu, take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pathak, look here.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर कोई पीछे से मुझे डिस्टर्ब कर रहा है...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Sahu, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pathak, yes, I know, there were some disturbances. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, you have no business to look back and talk. You remember it. You have to address the Chair only. You should know that.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर कोई पीछे से मुझे डिस्टर्ब कर रहा है तो हम क्या करेंगे...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Interruptions from others, I don't approve of. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर मुझ पर सीधा कोई व्यक्तिगत आक्षेप करेगा, तो ...*(व्यवधान)*... उसका विरोध करने का ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You have no business to interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... सुनिए, सुनिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठिए...*(व्यवधान)*... You have no business to stand up when I am standing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down, sit down...*(Interruptions)*... You have no business to stand up when I am standing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे कानून का अच्छी तरह से ज्ञान है...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: मुझे कानून का अच्छी तरह से ज्ञान है...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: लेकिन अगर पीछे से टोका-टोकी होगी ...*(व्यवधान)*...तो मैं भी बोलूँगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): आप पहले मेरी बात सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

पाठक जी, आप एक नये मैम्बर हैं, यह मुझे मालूम है। लेकिन, आपको इतना मालूम होना चाहिए कि आपको चेयर को एड्रेस करना है। अगर कोई आपको डिस्टर्ब करे तो यह आपका काम नहीं है कि पीछे मुड़ कर झगड़ा करें। यह follow करना मेरा काम है...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, मैं झगड़ा नहीं कर रहा हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): सुनिए, सुनिए। So, if you want to continue your speech, you can continue. But, remember, don't look back. You address only the Chair. Then, with regard to other Members, Sahu Saheb and other Members, please don't try to disturb. Why do you want to try to disturb? When your chance comes, you can speak. Why do you want to trouble ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't do that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राम नारायण साहू: सर, उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली नहीं है...(व्यवधान)... गोमती नगर में जाकर आप देखिए ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no; Sahuji. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए, बैठिए...(व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, अब बर्दाश्त करने वाले नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, don't look back. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pathak, you address the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: इसे हम कतई बर्दाश्त करने वाले नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप इनको समझा दीजिए कि यह अपना काम करें ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You don't look back. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: जब इनकी बारी आए, तब यह खूब बोलें। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Pathak, don't look back. ...*(Interruptions)*... You address the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: नहीं, इनसे कहिए कि यह मुँह में ...(व्यवधान)... टेप चिपका लें ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't look back. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pathak, if you look back and speak, I will expunge everything from the record. I will ask you to stop your speech. I am telling you.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: महोदय, आपसे हमारा सीधा-सा अनुरोध है कि अगर कोई व्यक्तिगत बात करेगा तो हम उस पर जरूर बोलेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no; you address the Chair.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: हम आपके सामने बोलेंगे। लेकिन, इनसे कहिए कि यह पीछे से डिस्टर्ब न करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन): ठीक है। आप बोलिए।

DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA: But, Sir, he is making a personal comment. That is the problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Don't worry. I will take care.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, अगर हमारी नेता के बारे में कोई व्यक्तिगत आक्षेप करेगा, तब हम आगे-पीछे थोड़े ही देखेंगे! ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no; you need not tolerate it. I am here tolerating it. I will tolerate it. You continue your speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not your job. Your job is only to address the Chair. You understand it. This is my job.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, इस बजट में शहरी गरीबों को आवास देने का बहुत अच्छा निर्णय लिया गया है, slum-free India की बात की गई है, लेकिन ग्रामीण भारत के बारे में, गरीबों के बारे में कोई भी चर्चा नहीं की गई है और न ही इंदिरा आवास योजना, जो केन्द्र सरकार के माध्यम से राज्य सरकारों को मिलती है, उसमें धनराशि बढ़ाने के बारे में ही विचार किया गया। केवल 25 हजार रुपए इंदिरा आवास योजना के माध्यम से BPL परिवारों

को मिलते रहे हैं। हम आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि 25 हजार रुपए में कौन-सा घर बन जाएगा, क्या हो जाएगा? ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले गरीबों के बारे में भी सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए।

सरकार ने अपने बजट में विद्युतीकरण को बढ़ाने के बारे में भी बात की है। उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्दर राजस्व गाँव, जो बड़े गाँव हैं, उनमें तो विद्युतीकरण लगभग पूर्ण होने को है, लेकिन जो मजरे छूट गए हैं या जो छोटे गाँव हैं, जहाँ हमारे शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स के भाई रहते हैं, जहाँ अनुसूचित जाति तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोग रहते हैं, उनके गाँवों के विद्युतीकरण के बारे में इस बजट में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। FRBM कानून के तहत केन्द्र सरकार का राजकोषीय घाटा 6.8 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं हो सकता है, लेकिन राज्य सरकारों से कहा गया है कि यह घाटा 4 प्रतिशत से अधिक न हो, जो कि राज्यों के साथ अन्याय प्रतीत होता है।

सर, महाराष्ट्र में चुनाव है। मुम्बई को उसकी दशा सुधारने के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपए दिए गए हैं, लेकिन माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र के उन किसानों के बारे में बजट में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया, जो बेचारे सूदखोरों के चक्कर में आत्महत्या करने को विवश हैं। उनके बारे में सरकार ने इसमें कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया है। ऐसा महसूस होता है कि सिर्फ चुनावी बजट दे कर मुम्बई को खुश करने का प्रयास किया गया है। लेकिन महाराष्ट्र के उन किसानों के बारे में कोई बात नहीं कही गयी है।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हालात बहुत खराब हैं। चुनाव जीत लेना, सरकार बना लेना कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है, लेकिन सरकार में बैठे लोगों की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि वे देश के सभी वर्गों का ख्याल रखें, सभी को साथ लेकर चलें और एक ऐसा प्रदृश्य देश में प्रस्तुत करें, जिससे देश की आम जनता को, सभी वर्गों को महसूस हो कि सरकार उनका ख्याल रखती है। यह सरकार सभी की है। महोदय, कहा गया कि यह आम आदमी का बजट है, लेकिन इसे पढ़ने के बाद यही महसूस होता है कि केवल यह खास आदमियों का, अमीरों का बजट है।

महोदय, इस सरकार के पहले परमाणु करार के मुद्दे पर बड़ी बहस चली और लोक सभा के अंदर यह बार-बार कहा गया कि हम परमाणु करार इसलिए करने जा रहे हैं ताकि देश में गरीब की कुटिया में, उसकी झोंपड़ी में बिजली जले, लेकिन बड़े दुख की बात है कि इस बजट में परमाणु करार और परमाणु बिजली के बारे में कहीं कोई चर्चा नहीं है। उस गांव की बुढ़िया के बारे में, जिस का नाम पालियामेंट में अक्सर लिया जाता रहा है, उसकी भी चर्चा नहीं है कि उस की कुटिया में बिजली कब जलेगी? इस बात की भी चर्चा नहीं है कि इस साल में गरीब के घर में एक बल्ब भी जल जाएगा या नहीं। महोदय, यह कहा गया कि सोलर इनर्जी से काम चलेगा, लेकिन मैं आप के माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सोलर इनर्जी बारहों मास चलेगी? महोदय, बरसात होती है, प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं, आंधी-तूफान आते हैं, उनमें सोलर इनर्जी कहां से आएगी? लेकिन इस सरकार के द्वारा गरीबों का मजाक उड़ाने का प्रयास लगातार जारी है क्योंकि सरकार बन गयी है, अब देश की जनता पूरे साल क्या कर सकती है? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यहां एक सच्ची घटना बयान करना चाहता हूँ। एक अमीर घराने की लड़की को स्कूल में “एक गरीब परिवार” पर निबंध लिखने को कहा गया। उस लड़की ने लिखा, एक गरीब परिवार था। उसमें पिता गरीब, मां गरीब, परिवार में चार नौकर, वे भी गरीब। उनकी टूटी प्राडो कार और उनका ड्राइवर भी गरीब। उस परिवार के बच्चे-बच्चियों को स्कूल छोड़ने बेचारा गरीब ड्राइवर टूटी प्राडो कार में जाया करता था। उनके बच्चे “ताजा” जैसे होटल में हफ्ते में तीन दिन खाना खा पाते थे। ऐसे गरीब परिवार के बारे में उस अमीर घर की बच्ची ने essay लिखा था। ऐसा महसूस होता है कि सरकार में बैठे लोग भी उसी essay की परिकल्पना को मजबूती से आगे बढ़ाने में लगे हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि कुदरत ने आपको देश के लोगों की सेवा करने का मौका दिया है। देश के लोगों ने आप को अपनी अंतःआत्मा की आवाज पर, हृदय की आवाज पर देश

सेवा करने का मौका दिया है। पिछले 60 सालों में से 50 साल आप को ही देश की सेवा करने का मौका मिला है, अब आप वही काम कीजिए जो देश को आगे बढ़ाने वाले हों। तभी हम देश के उन महान सपूतों का सपना पूरा कर पाएंगे जोकि हंसते-हंसते फ्रांसी के फंदे पर झूल गए थे, तभी हम उनके सपनों को मूर्त रूप दे पाएंगे।

महोदय, मैं एक और अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ। इस बजट में ढेर सारे प्रावधानों की व्यवस्था की गयी है, लेकिन देश के अंदर व्याप्त नक्सलपंथी की समस्या पर केवल बजटीय प्रावधान किया गया है। महोदय, हमारे पूर्व गृह मंत्री जी बैठे हैं। हम गोली से नक्सलपंथ की समस्या को नहीं निपटा सकते। हमें इसके लिए देखना पड़ेगा कि हमारे सामाजिक, आर्थिक व भौगोलिक आधार क्या हैं? आखिर वे भी हमारे देश के लोग हैं। हमें देखना पड़ेगा कि कैसे उन के रास्ते बदल गए? वे कैसे हमारे देश के ही निरीह लोगों की जान लेने लगे? अभी हमारे एक कप्तान व कई लोगों को बारूदी सुरंग से उड़ा दिया गया। आए दिन हमें नक्सली हमले की सूचनाएं मिलती रहती हैं। मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि उनके साथ बातचीत कर के मुख्य धारा में लाने का प्रयास करें। वे कोई विदेशी आतंकवादी नहीं हैं, हमारे देश के लोग हैं। उनसे बातचीत कर के उनको पटरी पर ला सकते हैं और इस तरह देश को नक्सली समस्या से छुटकारा दिला सकते हैं।

महोदय, मैं एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात की ओर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। सरकार बजट लायी है, जैसा भी लायी, ठीक है। अब सरकार चलाना इन का काम है और जनता के सामने सही बातें रखना हमारी duty है, लेकिन देश में जिस तरीके से जाली करेंसी पड़ोसी देशों से आ रही है, इस बारे में गृह मंत्री व वित्त मंत्री, दोनों को गंभीरता से विचार करना पड़ेगा। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी पिछले दिनों, लगभग एक सप्ताह पूर्व खर्च के लिए मैंने कुछ पैसे पार्लियामेंट के ATM से निकाले थे। उस पैसे को जब मैंने दुकान पर भेजा तो मुझे पता चला यह पांच सौ रुपये का जाली नोट पार्लियामेंट के ATM से निकला है। इस पर “Fake” लिख कर मुझे वापिस किया गया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, you are not supposed to exhibit like this. Don't do that.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: अगर आप अनुमति दें तो मैं इसको सदन में रखना चाहता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You are not permitted.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: It is a document. He is authenticating it.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: मैं इसको सदन में रखना चाहता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): For that you should have taken permission.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: यह मुझे पार्लियामेंट के ATM से मिला है और यह ऐसा नोट है ..(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Exhibiting is against the rule. Don't do that.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: He is authenticating it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You cannot exhibit any pamphlet or anything.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): He is taking your permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I have not permitted. Then, why do you say like that. I have not permitted to present it on the Table. For tabling, you should have taken the permission. I have not permitted.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: कोई बात नहीं। आप मेरी पूरी बात सुन लीजिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): If you want to bring that issue, you can bring it in a different way.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: हमारा आपसे कहना है कि हम चाहे कितना भी अच्छा बजट बना लें, लेकिन यदि हम जाली currency को भारत में आने से नहीं रोक पाएंगे तो हमारा बजट कुछ नहीं कर सकता। हमारी पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था चौपट हो जाएगी। ..(व्यवधान)

श्री के.बी. शणप्पा (कर्णाटक): कहाँ से आया जाली नोट?

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: ATM से। Parliament Annexe के ATM से मैंने यह निकाला और जब इसे दुकान पर भेजा तो दुकानदार ने इसके पीछे “Fake” लिख कर मुझे वापिस किया। मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि ऐसे गंभीर विषयों पर सरकार को ध्यान देना पड़ेगा कि जाली currency को हिन्दुस्तान में आने से कैसे रोका जाए और भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को चौपट होने से कैसे रोका जाए। मैं ज्यादा वक्त न लेते हुए, आपको धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जय हिन्द। जय भीम।

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir. Let me get back into fashion. The fashionable thing these days is Kautilya and let me begin by, therefore, quoting one little stuff from Kautilya which the Finance Minister perhaps should have known. Kautilya said, ‘That a king with a depleted treasury will eat into the vitals of its citizens and the common people’. Obviously, Kautilya was not a mere economist, but perhaps, an astrologer to have known the configurations of Indian finances of 14th June, 2010. It is not as if that the Finance Minister who is no novice to the world of finance has’nt done a credible job in balancing several asymmetries in perhaps seeking relaxation from fiscal rectitude to fostering growth, forgetting inflation, reviving consumption, putting money into infrastructure, rural development with a view to try and get back the country to a higher growth trajectory. In this balancing act, which is quite credible, there are several important factors which I thought he has overlooked. First and foremost is the issue of sustainability. I don’t want to go more into this but the raw fact remains that a 6.8 per cent fiscal deficit of the Central Government when added to a four per cent deficit of a State and add it to under-recoveries of 30,000 crores on current prices of petroleum with a likelihood of prices going up and with a lot of under provisioning on account of other things which will happen, the fiscal deficit will turn out to be close to 12-13 per cent of the GDP. This alone entails at least a Rs. 4,00,000 crores of borrowing. The explanation that Rs. 2,00,000 crore may come out from open market borrowed operations of the Reserve Bank is, perhaps, a fiction because, we know that an open market operation of this nature is neither possible nor feasible, and that the only ultimate outcome would be a substantial monetisation of the fiscal deficit and, that, Sir, this embeds the system with deep inflationary pressures. So, there are inherent serious concerns on the macro fundamentals of the economy.

In fact, the hon. Finance Minister goes on, perhaps, to recognise this a little later, but not before he has gone to another fiction. That intermediate fiction is a document which he has placed along with the Budget entitled ‘Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.’ What does that Policy

Statement say, Sir? It says that next year and the year after, the fiscal deficit, including the revenue deficit, would undergo a correction of 3 percentage points. There are no expenditure plans. Or, what expenditure plans would be rolled back? There are no additional revenue realisations. The expectation of corporate revenues going up by 15 per cent, with income tax revenues going down by 6 per cent, is something which totally lacks credibility. In fact, the only truthful part of the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement is the concluding part of that statement. What does that conclusion says? With your permission, Sir, I read it. The last sentence of the Fiscal Policy Statement says and I quote, "Without putting at risk the revival process, the Government will look at exit strategies as soon as there is an improvement in the economic condition." This is a more realistic statement, because here the return to the path of fiscal rectitude is an open-ended one. Therefore, this is in sharp contrast to what he has said earlier, namely put definite numbers on what he intends to do next year and what he intends to thereafter.

My second important issue and quarrel with the Budget is this. Does the Budget address the fundamental issue that this is the right strategy to reverse in the decline in the growth rate? Independent international studies have shown that the Indian economy had peaked in 2006-07. If you look at really the third quarter statement of the year 2006-07, the GDP growth has climbed up to 9.6 per cent. The manufacturing sector has climbed up to 12.2 per cent. For every successive quarter, after the third quarter of 2006-07, there comes a decline till you come to the last quarter of 2008-09 when the GDP growths have collapsed and the manufacturing sector is down in the negative. The point I am trying to make is that the decline of the Indian economy, the GDP growth and the manufacturing sector began much before the global crisis had hit us. Therefore, to really put the Indian economic situation contingent on the exogenous variable of a looming global crisis is misleading us. We, therefore, need to ask ourselves a question that, perhaps, the economy had run out of steam. Perhaps, we need endemic solutions. Perhaps, there were institutional bottlenecks. Perhaps, there were infrastructural bottlenecks. And, till, therefore, these begin to get addressed, this kind of an artificial fiscal stimulus package will only bring a temporary reprieve, because it will not address the more fundamental endemic causes which led to the decline of the Indian economy one year before the beginning of the global economic crisis.

My third point is about the quality of stimulus. Sir, out of 120,000 crores extra which has been put into the system, Rs. 44,000 crores go to the Pay Commission, Rs. 33,000 crores goes to the interest payments, Rs. 10,000 crores goes to contribution to the International Monetary Fund. In fact, the real increase in areas on which Government claims a lot of credit for is a miniscule about. If you combine, for instance, the NAREGA increase with the Grameen Rozgar Yojna, the increase is 0.7 per cent. The SSA programme, the primary flagship programme on education, there is a decline. In rural development, the increase is only 0.38 per cent. On child welfare the increase is

awfully 0.8 per cent. In fact, the most of the increases have gone on into boosting consumption, not gone into capital creating assets and not gone into those investments which will have long-term multiplier effects to the Indian economy. Therefore, first and foremost, the increases are nominal and they have gone into directions which may not leave a permanent impact on the economy.

My forth point is that a lot of credit has been taken by the hon. Finance Minister for the introduction of GST from 1st April, 2010. I recognise this is an important step. But, perhaps, the Constitutional legal changes which are necessary and the kind of harmonisation of many differences between different States and the consensus building in the political process we are really running behind time and we only hope and wish that he is able to do so. Let me say this that nothing would be more terrible than to hastily introduce an ill-conceived GST, because that will only enhances the distortory tax structure. It is better to plan and introduce more carefully. My fifth point is this. Nothing has been done to improve the overall climate for private investment. In fact, the one, on Integrated Energy Policy, again, is flawed because we have tinkered with the policy. We have not tried to own our past contractual liability on oil and gas. We have suddenly changed regimes without giving a proper notice. We have detracted from credibility and from investors' confidence. So, Sir, the short point is, India is in a debt-trap. At today's debt numbers of roughly 87 per cent of the GDP, the Government owes every Indian Rs. 45,050/- . In 2011 and 2012, the Government would owe every Indian Rs. 67,375/- . Look at the kind of miniscule tax breaks. Look at the kind of woeful debtrap, which the Government has created. In fact, one can only end up by saying that all that the Finance Minister wishes to say, in his fiscal policy statement, is, "Oh Lord! Make me prudent. But wait for it, not now." And, in fact, hopefully he does not end up by saying, "Blessed thee be to the newer generation because thou shall inherit my debt".

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

So, what is really the path forward? I would like to say, for the submission of the Government, ten very quick suggestions. First and foremost, make greater fiscal room to allow States half-a-percentage point more and reduce the fiscal deficit of the Central Government by half percentage point to keep the equilibrium going. Second, stop cherry picking and have a more equal treatment. I have no problems with giving cherry-picking to West Bengal, to Maharashtra and to other parts of the country. But do so equally, in an even-handed way to the other parts of the country, following the cardinal principle of fiscal federalism in which we play a political neutrality in devolution of funds and in being able to start and initiate development projects. Third, come up with a more credible detailed White Paper on returning to the path of fiscal rectitude, with a better outlined path of fiscal consolidation, not by mere rhetoric, but with stiffening of political

spine, which comes up with a credible action plan. Fourth, the Finance Minister, on page 40 of his Fiscal Responsibility Programme, has come up with an excellent suggestion to set up an Independent Evaluation Office to go into public outlays. Set up this office as soon as possible since so much faith has been placed in public outlays.

Fifth, create an office of public debt to begin to obviate the conflict of interests, which the Reserve Bank has, since the Government has an enormous portfolio in the management of public debt. Sixth, restructure the Reserve Bank of India by creating a separate banking supervisory authority to again obviate the conflict of interests in the Reserve Bank, managing two kinds of areas where there is an inherent conflict. Seventh, based on the President's Joint Address, urge the Ministries to come up with individual papers on what their action programme is and how they intend to take forward the many ideas embedded in the Finance Minister's speech. Eighth, Mahalanobis, I am sure Brinda//will agree, was no reactionary. Writing fifty years ago, he talked about the need that in the constitutional scheme of things, fiscal federalism, in a new polity, needed to be revisited to give India a comparative advantage of a large labour force to be able to create employment outside agriculture and seek livelihood in labour-intensive manufacturing activity. Ninth, come up with a medium-term programme in the legislative domain, not merely in the area of what people describe as neo-liberal economics, but in other areas, like, in health, in education, in Judiciary to be able to have a kind of growth, which is sustainable, which is truly creative, and which is inclusive. Finally, Sir, let me say that this Government has come back to power with a huge mandate and has come back to power by making huge promises. People remember these promises. Therefore, begin to perform in a credible way because, surely, you will remember that the memory of creditors is far more than the memory of debtors.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me begin by quoting Thiruvalluvar, one of the greatest poet philosophers that the country has ever produced. "Hon. Member spoke in Tamil". "A State, a Government is one which is capable of evolving policies, which is capable of creating wealth, which is capable of safeguarding wealth, which is capable of distributing wealth equitably." I doubt the Congress-led UPA Government can live up to this definition of Thiruvalluvar. The Government claims it has got the renewed mandate and the mandate is for inclusive growth and equitable distribution. I question this; I substantiate it with certain observations. Coming to the fiscal stimulus, the Government talks about fiscal deficit which has increased from 2.7 per cent to 6.2 per cent of the GDP in 2008-09 amounting to Rs.1,86,000 crores and that the difference of 3.5 per cent is the total fiscal stimulus. I do not agree with my good friend, Shri N.K. Singh, because we all know that the impact of global economic crisis is not restricted to the larger organised segments of industry; it is serious among

4.00 P.M.

those engaged in informal economy. The Government's policies of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation have made the poor people in the informal economy gain little when the economy grew rapidly. According to the National Commission for Enterprises, in the unorganized sector, during the period of growth — 1993-94 to 2004-05 — the benefits of growth bypassed the 77 per cent of the population who remained poor or vulnerable with average per capita daily consumption levels of below Rs.20/- . It is clear that, now, during the current slow down, it is exactly these poor and vulnerables who will be affected the most adversely. Does the Government have any answer to show how much of Rs.1,86,000 crores went for the poor and how much went for the corporate sector? This is my first issue.

Secondly, Sir, the Budget ignores the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs and other minorities. When we talk of inclusive growth, unless the Budget addresses the concerns of these weaker sections, we cannot have an inclusive growth. The Special Central Assistance to the Scheduled Castes sub-plan is the single most important scheme for dalits and the lion's share of the Budget of the Ministry of Social Justice is, generally, set aside, which is used exclusively for the economic upliftment of dalits. What is inexplicable is that the SCA Budget fell from Rs.577.71 crores in 2008-09 (Revised Estimates) to Rs.469 crores in 2009-10 Budget. There is a demand for more allocations of Plan funds, according to the population of dalits in the country under the Special Component Plan. These funds would amount to roughly Rs.50,000 crores but the Finance Minister submitted a Budget which reduced the SCP allocations for dalits by 18 per cent. The imbalance between the concern for dalits by the Congress Party seems to be farcical, looking at the allocations in the 2009 Budget. Sir, I can go on quoting the figures. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship supports dalits to pursue M. Phil., Ph. D. The fellowship allocation fell by 10 per cent contrary to the increased demand for the Scheme from Rs. 87.94 crores in 2008-09 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 79 crores. The same scholarship has been increased by Rs. 13 crores on the tribal side. Sir, interestingly, the allocation for Ministry of Minority Affairs has increased by Rs. 1076 crores. I welcome it. It is a positive thing which has been done after so many years. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, the allocation for Ministry of Tribal Affairs has increased by Rs. 1235 crores. But the allocations of Dalit has been increased only by a mere Rs. 77 crores. Then, what is the meaning of 'inclusive growth'? This Government will have to think over it.

Then, Sir, coming to agriculture, the Government claims that efforts will be made to ensure that the Indian agriculture continues to grow at an annual rate of 4 per cent. But actually the agrarian sector has witnessed a sharp decline in growth rate and there is a fall in the production of foodgrains. Except for rice which has registered a marginal increase of 2.4 per cent, you will find a decline in all other varieties. There is decline in the production of wheat, decline in the production

of coarse cereals, decline in the production of pulses and there is an overall decline of 1.4 per cent in foodgrains over the target. Now, how can we protect our agriculture? Sir, agriculture is in deep crisis. The farmers' distress is unprecedented, but the Government has not accepted the recommendations made by Swaminathan Commission even to bring down the interest rate to 4 per cent, simple interest. That is what they are asking. Even the Budget talks about 7 per cent. If they repay, they can have a concession of 1 per cent, and this is also a mockery of our agricultural sector. This shows how the agrarian sector is treated by this Government.

Sir, due to constraint of time, I am rushing the question of disinvestment. Here, I do not agree with the Government the way it wants to sell off the public sector undertakings. We had enough discussions in this House. I do not agree with BJP also. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu has said, 'The Government has no business to be in business.' But he tried to over simplify the entire issue by saying, 'why Government should sell Chicken Biryani or Mutton Biryani.' It is not so. Sir, the reserves and surplus of Central Public Sector Enterprises was Rs. 2.59 lakh crores in 2003-04 when the UPA came to power. The same has gone up by another Rs. 2.26 lakh crores and stood at Rs. 4.85 lakh crores in 2007-08. This is the strength of the Indian economy. Why should this Government think of demolishing these public sector undertakings? It is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who called the public sector undertakings as 'modern temples of modern India.' Why should the Government demolish these modern temples which give strength to our economy? Mr. Arun Shourie is sitting here. He was the Disinvestment Minister when the NDA was in power. When there was a debate in the very same House on this subject, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the present Finance Minister, who was in Opposition then, told the BJP-led NDA Government, 'For God's sake, don't try to befool everybody that only disposal of capital assets is the core of economic reforms.' I think, Mr. Arun Shourie must remember this. 'For God's sake, do not try to befool everybody that only disposal of capital assets is the core of economic reforms.' It was Mr. Pranab Mukherjee when he was in Opposition. Now, when he is the Finance Minister of the Congress-led UPA Government, I would like to remind him his own words. Why do you want to destroy the capital assets that the country has built over the years? That is why, we do not agree with the Budget which speaks of disinvestment, Sir.

Coming to other issues, the Economic Survey which was presented in Parliament, quoting the United Nations Development Programme, ranks India 132 out of 179 countries. India is ranked 132! Many Asian countries including China and Sri Lanka are ranked above India. What is the problem? Currently, India spends close to three per cent of its GDP on education and less than one per cent of its GDP on health. There is an increase of about Rs. 2000 crores in the Budget's Plan expenditure for higher education. I welcome this. We need more investment in higher

education. But, primary education, which should be the real strength of our education system, is totally neglected. Allocation for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme remain the same. There is no mention about the Right to Education Bill. There is no increase in the allocation of funds for the National Child Labour Project. Then what is the inclusive growth that we are talking about when we do not have the needed approach to fight economic exclusion of the weaker sections in our society? It talks about the NREGA. We had enough discussions in this very House about it. The NREGA must be implemented with a view to building assets in the rural parts of our country. The poor people, the agricultural workers, can be the targeted groups. They can be given land and this scheme can be used for bringing uncultivable or uncultivated land under cultivation. Thus, they can help the economy and the country. There is no mention about the Urban Employment Guarantee Act, which is being demanded by several sections of the people. Even when the Employment Guarantee Bill was being discussed, we always wanted that it should be a universal, countrywide scheme. Why is there no mention about this?

Coming to the power sector, there is mention about power where the Budget really reduces the basic customs duty on permanent magnets, a critical component for wind operated electricity generators, from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent. My point is, Government should give more priority and pay more attention to the renewable energy. Even in the case of solar energy, Government can take up the issue of building solar energy plants in the country. We have been gifted with a lot of sunlight and heat throughout the year. We can think about this, because I don't think nuclear energy is going to be feasible in the coming years. After seeing the G-8 statement, I really doubt whether India will have access to nuclear fuel in the near future. So, this is one issue that Government will have to consider. Then, about the funding of political parties, I agree with my Left colleague who spoke on this subject. This Parliament will have to consider the observations of the Indrajit Committee on State funding. In fact, the committee was constituted when NDA was in power. And if corporate houses want to join the democratic process by monetary contributions, they can contribute and there can be a separate corpus which becomes part of State funding and there can be a level-playing field for all political parties. Then, Sir, the Budget gives Rs. 500 crores to Sri Lankan Tamils. We have been demanding it and it has been the demand in Tamil Nadu also. At the same time, my point is, what is the mechanism to see to it that that money will be spent on the resettlement and rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils? I agree with Mr. Venkaiah Naidu who spoke on that subject. The situation in Sri Lanka is horrible and the Tamil people are undergoing unimaginable sufferings and hardships. When our Government contributes to the tune of Rs.500 crores, I think there must be a mechanism to see that money is spent on Sri Lankan Tamils. Then, Sir, I would like to speak on agriculture. The Government talk about indebtedness of farmers and suicides of farmers. But a thing is missing, that is, remunerative price for farmers. Wheat-growing

farmers get Rs.1000 per quintal. But what about paddy-growing farmers? They are demanding Rs.1000 per quintal. What about sugarcane growers? They are demanding Rs.2000 per tonne. This Government has no respect for the recommendations given by Agricultural Price Commission. They have accepted a certain amount of Rs.1550 for one tonne sugarcane. How can you overcome the crisis in agriculture?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA: This is an important thing. Finally, I must conclude by saying that this Government is increasingly coming under pressure from various big business corporate houses. It is CII which claimed this mandate for fast track reforms. Again it is FICCI which said, "Pull out all stocks and unleash a slew of reforms in the areas of pension, insurance, banking, disinvestments, labour, private participation in Defence, retail, etc." Mr. Venkaiah Naidu also said, "Go ahead with all reforms. Why are you not showing your guts?" This is the point which the country has to understand. If the poor people will have to be protected and the development will have to be inclusive one, I think the Government will have to amend its policy which is a neo-liberal, which is a neo-liberal economy and which is a neo-liberal approach in every aspect of our economic management. With these words, I conclude my observations on the Budget.

DR. C. RANGARAJAN (Nominated): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to speak. All of us know that the Finance Minister had a difficult balancing act to perform. On the one hand, he had to step up the Government expenditure in order to stimulate aggregate demand, on the other hand, he had to keep the fiscal deficit at the reasonable level. On the whole, he has done well. But I am afraid that he has kept the fiscal deficit at an uncomfortably high level. This issue needs to be addressed. This is not fiscal fundamentalism or anything like that. There are adverse consequences of high fiscal deficits and we should not underestimate the consequences. The fiscal deficit for the last year for the Central Government was 6.2 per cent and it is 6.8 per cent for this year. Add to it, the State deficit of 4 per cent. This alone adds to 10.8 per cent, not including the other off-budget liabilities. Therefore, we are caught in a very difficult situation. The level of fiscal deficit is far beyond what is sustainable over a period of time. Maybe in times of emergency and in times of difficulty, we might be able to tolerate the higher level of fiscal deficit. That may be so. But I think we need to have a clear understanding of where we are going. The consequences of the high level of fiscal deficit is this that the outstanding liabilities as a proportion of GDP goes up.

As far as the Central Government is concerned, according to the Budget papers, the outstanding liabilities of the Centre to the GDP will go up from 59.6 per cent to 61.4 per cent in one year. So, this is the extent of the impact of the high fiscal deficit. Let me explain a little bit more. There are three consequences of fiscal deficit which we must note. First, interest payments, as a

proportion of the revenue receipts, go up. And, as interest payments pre-empt a larger proportion of the revenue receipts, less is available for productive investment expenditures. Now, this is one consequence of what is really happening. The interest payments, as a proportion of the Central Government's revenue receipts, were 47 per cent in 2003-04. Because of the decline in the fiscal deficit and other measures taken, it came down to 31.6 per cent in 2007-08. In 2008-09, it has gone up to 35.0 per cent, and in 2009-10, it is budgeted to increase to 36.7 per cent. Now, this large pre-emption of the revenue receipts for interest payments means that in order to provide for productive investment expenditures at the same level, more deficits will have to be incurred and, therefore, a vicious cycle is set in motion. The second aspect of the high fiscal deficit is a crowding out effect. At any particular point in time, there is a finite amount of resources available. As the public sector makes more demands on it, less will be available for the private sector. Now, in some situations, the pre-emption of the public sector, out of these resources, may not do any harm. If the private sector demand is weak, or if the private investment is weak, it may not cause a serious problem.

But, once the private investment picks up, as the stated objective of the fiscal stimulus package is, then you get into a situation which will pose a serious allocation problem between the public and the private sectors. And, the third consequence of this is the high level of borrowing and the pressure that it puts on the interest rates. The extent of borrowing by the Central Government in 2009-10 will be four times of what it was budgeted to borrow according to the Budget of 2008-09. Therefore, in a short period of time, there is going to be a very substantial increase in the amount of borrowing that the Government of India will make and to this, we will also have to add the borrowing that the State Governments will make. All of this would put pressure on the interest rates. And, therefore, if you want to avoid the pressure on interest rates and seek to provide some kind of support from the Reserve Bank of India, this will only result in an explosion in money supply stocking inflation. The Reserve Bank of India could provide some support; it is not as if the Reserve Bank of India should not provide any support, but any excessive support from the Reserve Bank of India will add to the high power money and will result in the stocking of inflation. Therefore, in a sense, there are consequences of high level of fiscal deficit of which the Government must be aware. What we really need is a roadmap, so to say, for moving towards a more reasonable level of fiscal deficit.

Probably, it will not be possible in this year. But, the Government must set its sight clear as to what it should be doing in the coming years. The main cause of the increase in the fiscal deficit is the increase in the Government expenditures. According to the Budget itself, the Government expenditures of the Central Government during the year 2009-10 will be 37 per cent higher than the expenditures in 2008-09. This is a substantial increase. In fact, the Revised Estimates for 2008-09

was 20 per cent higher than the Budget Estimates. And, now, we have another 17 per cent increase over the Revised Estimates of last year, and, therefore, there is a considerable expansion in the expenditures of the order of 37 per cent. Now, some of these expenditures may be very difficult to bring down also. And, therefore, the Government must draw up a roadmap as to how quickly and how efficiently they can reach towards the FRBM target. There is a logic behind the FRBM targets.

The FRBM target is three per cent of the GDP as the fiscal deficit for the Central Government, and, subsequently, other developments have happened to give another three per cent of the GDP to the State Governments. Thus, six per cent of the GDP by the Centre and the States together, is consistent with eleven per cent investment in financial assets by the household sector.

The only modification that we need to make with respect to the FRBM targets is that these targets should not be fixed as some targets to be reached every year. It must be treated as cyclical average so that they may rise during periods of recession or depression, and, fall down during the times of boom. Therefore, the FRBM targets have to be treated as a cyclical average over the cycle rather than as a target to be achieved every year.

Sir, the Budget can be analyzed from three angles, the macroeconomic implications of the Budget, the tax reforms and the reforms' direction. As far as the macro-economic implications are concerned, I have already talked. I have mentioned about the implications for the Government expenditure. I have also talked about the implications for the fiscal deficit. There is one area of fiscal expenditure over which the Government must really move strongly and that is the area of subsidies.

Subsidies are inevitable in a developing economy like ours. Nobody denies the role of subsidies in the system but the subsidies must be directed towards the vulnerable groups, must be designed in a manner in which only those who deserve the subsidy receive the subsidy. Take, for example, the fertilizer subsidy. The fertilizer subsidy goes to every farmer, and, it is not very clear whether this subsidy should go to every farmer, or only to the small and marginal farmers. It is very difficult to design a policy only aimed at it but some suggestions have been made by the Expenditure Commission and also by the Economic Advisory Council. The suggestion is to provide 120 kilograms of fertilizers of a particular mix to all farmers, and, any requirement beyond 120 kilograms must be paid at the market price. Now, this level of 120 kilograms has been estimated and it would meet the full requirements of all the small and marginal farmers. Therefore, every farmer should be provided this quantity at the subsidised and anything beyond that should go at the market price. I think, this is one way of dealing with the problem. Similarly, we have to address the subsidies which are being given with respect to kerosene and LPG and see that only vulnerable sections receive it.

The second dimension of the Budget is on tax reforms. I think, this Budget does not talk a great deal about tax reforms. Apart from the tax code for the indirect and direct taxes, the only other reference is to the GST. As has been pointed out by the earlier speaker, Mr. N.K. Singh, I think, the introduction of GST is important but the introduction of GST without adequate preparation would have serious consequences, therefore, if it is not possible, to introduce it by April, 2010, that does not matter. You may introduce it by April, 2011. There are constitutional pre-requisites which have to be modified, and, therefore, we may have to wait.

But, I think, in the case of GST, proposal is for a dual system. One of the most important and complicating the problem is the inter-State transactions and unless we have built up adequate information and database to decide on this, it would be premature to introduce the GST.

Sir, the third is the reforms' direction. I think, the Budget is somewhat weak on this. The Budget does not clearly indicate the directions in which the reforms will be carried out. Let me say this at this particular point that there is no need to be apologetic about the introduction of reforms. The reforms introduced since 1992-93 have had an important impact on the economy. The primary objective of the new economic policy is to improve the productivity and efficiency of the system by injecting a greater element of competition. Some of the sectors reserved for public sector have also to be thrown open to the private sector. In some of these sectors, the public sector has still the dominant role but it has to compete with the private sector. But there is nothing in the new economic policy which takes away the role of the State or the public sector. As has been somewhat cryptically remarked or paradoxically remarked, 'more market does not mean less Government but only different Government.' Therefore, I think as far as reforms are concerned, we have to read between the lines in the Budget in order to glean which reforms will be introduced.

Once again, even with respect to disinvestment, the Budget is not very explicit. But I would like to say, in contradiction to what my predecessor said, that there is a case for disinvestment. There is nothing wrong with disinvestment as a means of raising resources.

The timing of disinvestment must be chosen correctly. The Government should not lose on that score. But I must say that even at the time when the stock market was booming and when the Government could have reaped a large amount of money by disinvestment, those who were opposed to disinvestment, opposed it at that time also.

Therefore, depending upon the nature of product, depending upon the nature of commodity, which is being produced, the extent of disinvestment can be decided. But I do not think that disinvestment by itself is bad or is incorrect. I, therefore, feel that the Budget has been somewhat silent on reforms.

While concluding, let me say that this Budget is primarily an expenditure Budget. It has focussed on increasing the expenditure of the Government in a substantial manner. This is valid in the situation in which the economy is placed. But we need to look not only at the level of Government expenditure, but also at the composition of the Government expenditure. Unless the composition of the Government expenditure is such as to stimulate the economy, the level by itself is not adequate.

Keynes did not make any distinction as far as consumption expenditure or capital expenditure within the Government expenditure is concerned, he talked of the total impact of the Government expenditure. I think there is a need to make a distinction even within Government expenditure, between investment and consumption. A larger amount of expenditure devoted to investment will increase the productive capacity of the economy and support the growth process at a later time.

But, as I said before, one of my great concerns is the high level of fiscal deficit. Probably the growth process itself will help, but, I think, the Government needs a road map for bringing down the fiscal deficit.

Let us also understand that Budget-making is an interesting and difficult exercise only because there is a constraint of fiscal deficit. Excessive fiscal deficit can blunt the impact of the stimulus package itself. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Budget.

Sir, if you recall the Presidential Address made just a few weeks ago had a number of very promising, forward-looking statements including the one that I like the most which is, 'the dreary desert sand of dead habit must be left behind.' Therefore, the expectations from this Government were high as they should be, especially since in terms of reforms, the last five years have been eminently forgettable and so there was a hope that the next five years would be in some ways memorable.

Sir, it was obvious to most of us that fiscally there was very little room for the Finance Minister to do more than what was already done in the Interim Budget. This Budget is clearly a wait-and-watch Budget with some additional fiscal support thrown in to try and reinforce the ambiguous signs of a recovery. So, I call it a sensible Budget, because it has avoided the temptation to create a flourish at a higher fiscal cost and risk.

But let us be clear, we are in a sticky situation as far as the economy is concerned. The signs of growth at best can be described as tentative. There are some attempts in some quarters to spin the precarious fiscal situation as not serious since "even the US is operating a trillion dollar fiscal deficit." But with great respect to the spin masters, the US and Western economies have very different capacities to rebound and are architected very, very differently from us. This argument is as credible as saying that just because a few companies can borrow large amounts of money, all

companies can borrow the same. Sir, it is important to understand that our growth over the last few years has been on the back of sustained investment flows, both equity and credit. And, a surging services/export sector resulted in a downstream consumption economy that created a further spiking in growth. Over the last several months and looking forward from the last several months, it is safe to make some specific assumptions. Given the global credit crisis, foreign investment flows have moderated. We know that FII flows have come down from 33 billion net positive to minus 11 billion and will show little signs of reversing, excepting for some short-term phenomenon of funds, playing the arbitrage game between markets, leaving the domestic sources of capital as the prime driver of investments. Even assuming that liquidity in Indian credit and equity markets remain high, the problem is that, with the increasing fiscal deficit and increased borrowing needs of the Government and the Government-linked entities, the odds of the private sector being crowded out of Rs.5 lakh crore market by the Government's own borrowing of Rs.4,60,000 crores, is very high. Simply put, the capacity of the domestic markets to finance the ambitious investment requirements of our economy are limited and if foreign investment flows don't materialize in significant numbers, the investment side of the equation of our economy is bound to falter.

Sir, pressing this point further, if investment flows falter, as they have in the last 8 months, then, the economy will be truly vulnerable — given that the second leg of our economy, that is, the exports and services like IT, BPO, etc. are already weak because of their linkages to the global economy slowdown.

It follows from this, that the derived consumption economy is also showing signs of sputtering, as is obvious from the results of the retail companies and retail sector in general. This sputtering so far has been gradual and not been sharp which could either mean that things are not as bad or things are going to get worse.

Sir, given this background, I can understand the challenges for economic strategy and policy-making for the Finance Minister and the partly self-made predicament that the Government finds itself in.

It has a significant social spending programme which it has to finance and the economy has a significant investment programme that it needs to kick-start and pump-prime. Both these objectives are competing for capital, increasingly limited to domestic banking and capital markets.

Sir, knowing as we all do that the social programmes cannot be cut, the policy measures in the Government actions post-Budget that the Government will have to lay out are bold, decisive and clear administrative measures for these two objectives. Firstly, accelerate external capital flow and other sources of capital into the investment programmes of the private and public sector in addition to what already exists, including deepening the domestic debt markets. Sir, the second one is, reform the Government's own finances primarily by focusing on efficiency of spending to

ensure that the Government spending requirements don't increase from where we are already and cause more financing pressure.

Sir, this Budget should have been more explicit about this. This time around, the larger financial and economic strategies are more important than ever before.

So, to come back to the Budget, this is a high risk year for all of us. We are poised on a razor edge fiscally. There are question marks on the monsoon. The so-called green shoots are proving to be patchy and imaginary and need to be more even and credible. This is the year that will take the green shoots either into a path of full economic revival or not. It is precisely for this that a directional signal for the next five years was critical in the Budget. The Budget doesn't do that, but to be fair, the Finance Minister has promised that the Government and the various Ministries will roll this out over time. I hope this is done as pieces of a coherent picture because the current efforts of 100-day agenda of different Ministries is anything but coherent.

Sir, there has been much talk for the past three years about the so-called inclusive growth architecture to drive our growth. The thing about using phrases like this is that they need description and articulation. Every time I hear someone in the Government say that phrase, I look for some idea of what that means. Apart from profligate spending in a notoriously leaky pipeline, there is not one thing that I can see which can be called architectural.

Sir, in my mind, inclusive architecture is not a phrase to be used for speeches. It should provide answers to specific questions as to how does the subsidy get delivered without leakages; what will be the targeted outcome of these subsidies every year over the next 5 years; what is the definition of poverty; who qualifies to be poor, and therefore, the recipient of poverty alleviation programmes; how can we ensure that the Government is more responsive and accountable; how can we ensure that public and Government policy is for the good of all people and not for one lobby or the other. How can we ensure that PPPs don't give disproportionate returns to only the private sector and public assets like spectrum, oil/gas blocks, iron ore mines, are not given to private parties on less than market terms? What is the realistic roadmap to fiscal consolidation? What is the broad roadmap of growth? (*Time Bell rings*) I will just end, Sir. Can we use better economic forecasting and monitoring techniques and indices so that we are not caught napping again like last year?

Sir, I can suggest various kinds of reforms and public policy measures, but there is no need because the Economic Survey is a good document for the Government to implement. And I will be very satisfied if the Government is implementing the Economic Survey, Sir.

Let me end, Sir, by raising one very important point in the Budget, which none of my colleagues in Rajya Sabha has mentioned, which is that I take serious exception to the way the

Government has handled the issue of 'One Rank, One Pension' demand of the veterans and retirees of the Armed Forces. By not giving the officers the benefits and giving them only to persons below the officer ranks, you are creating divisions in the structure of the Armed Forces and creating haves and have-nots. This is a classic bureaucratic short-sighted approach to handling of institutions, which we will all come to regret many years later if we do not fix it. Sir, I strongly urge, through you, the Government to reconsider this; let us not allow bureaucratic meddling with institutions such as the Armed Forces. These men and their families have served the nation at a time when things were much more difficult and challenging than today, in terms of environment and resources. These officers were responsible in allowing our Armed Forces to develop into an apolitical and professional institution that we can all be proud of — a fact that should not be underplayed— given the extent of politicisation of the Armed Forces in the nations and in our neighbourhood. Let those people who have served this nation, get their proud due! Please do not let a few bureaucrats and a few Rs.100 crores come in the way of this. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Rahul Bajaj. You have got seven minutes.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (MAHARASHTRA): Thank you very much, Sir. And I will keep to seven minutes!

Let me start by saying that the Finance Minister had, as we all know, a very difficult task. He had to balance the need for growth, to further the Government's commitment to 'inclusive growth', be physically prudent as well as to pursue reforms. Perhaps, he could have presented his Budget in a slightly better form so that we would not have had the reaction that we had on July 6, from the stock market and also from some people in the corporate sector on the first day. Sir, we have had some very learned speeches, especially from Dr. N.K. Singh and Dr. Rangarajan. So, mine will be only an aam admi speech, Sir!

We have to see, in the Budget, the positives than the negatives. I will not refer to the positives because my friend Abhishek Manu Singhvi and others have spoken enough about it. In any way, there is no point in praising the Government in power, Sir! It doesn't help at all. I would only mention one thing, and that is with regard to the fringe benefit tax, Sir. You have removed it. We welcomed it. You have transferred it to the employees. That is understandable to some extent. Those perks on which the employees were already paying tax, tax them. But don't tax them now; whether it is a car or something else, which was not taxable in their hand at all, don't tax it now, and specially a small point, but the employees are shouting away. I give you an example. I am not even talking of ESOPs at the moment, but of the superannuation funds; he gets them at the time of his retirement, Sir. He would be taxed at that time, Sir; that is perfectly understandable. But each year, the employer contributes to the superannuation fund. Employee does not get in his

hand, and he will now be taxed, I am told! To so, we create a major cash flow problem for him, and I am sure that the Government would like to look at that, Sir.

On the negative side, I will mention two small things and two major things because others have been said. The two minor things relatively are MAT, 10-15 per cent politically, fine, equity. How can you have a zero-tax company? There are reasons why it should be. You have made it a zero-tax company by giving it depreciation etcetera, etcetera. He is not cheating. If the guy would be cheating, he would be in jail. He is not cheating, but politically a zero-tax company, I know which company was in lime light hurried in the beginning, which caused all this to come. Fine. But, Sir, there is a small company, a non-listed company, which only holds shares, equity shares. Its only income is dividend income—it has no other income—which is not taxable in its hands. The dividend distribution tax has been paid by the paying company, for paying the dividend. This company which holds equity has no liability, but if it sells the shares, again the long-term held shares, there is no capital gain tax because he held it for over a year, Sir. Previously, this was exempt. Now, you are taxing it. That is why there is a book profit and that is why you take MAT. I think it is very unreasonable and it may be looked into. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't disrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: This lady Member from Jharkhand is disrupting me, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*... She always disrupts me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't disrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are short of time. ...*(Interruptions)*... When your turn comes, you speak. Please don't disrupt. We are already short of time. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is the problem of time.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: The second small point is VRS. I think either I misunderstand it or the Finance Minister has not understood it properly. The VRS is mostly paid to the people who take VRS. They are all not crorepatists; they are not industrialists or owners of companies. They are employees. Now VRS is given in lieu of future income. You can't tax it. You should not tax it in one year. So, section 89 which used to give him relief — he is taxed on the average of the last three years — which you have removed, should continue. I would like to inform Ms. Mabel Rebello, through you, Sir, that this is for the middle class and not for the rich.

Now, I come to the two major items. Ms. Mabel Rebello would like to refer to them. But I want to refer to them. Mr. Abhishek Singhvi is not sitting here. He tried to justify the Consumer Price Index and food price which are even 30 per cent higher. All that I would like to say is that for the consumers and citizens of the country a negative Whole Price Index is no consolation, when the Consumer Price Index is eight per cent or nine per cent. In the case of many edible items it is much higher. So, there is a problem. That has to be looked into. Nobody has explained to us why

this dichotomy is there. The Wholesale Price Index for a company like mine is all right. I will get inputs like steel, cement, at a cheaper rate. Fine. It is okay. But again, through you, Sir, I may refer to Ms. Mabel Rebello, that for the citizens...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't react. Just listen.

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: I support those citizens who are shouting at high retail prices, Mr. Minister of State for Finance.

Now coming to the two important major points, one is disinvestment. I wish Mr. Sitaram Yechury was here. ...*(Interruptions)*... You convey to him. I completely disagree with him. This is required at the rate of Rs.25,000 crores per year which has been mentioned in the Economic Survey, not because we need the money alone. It may help or may not help the fiscal deficit. That depend on how they use this money for public sector and social work. I have no time to go into that. Otherwise, you would ring the bell. It means more efficiency. You retain your 51 per cent. But you list it. It will bring some shareholders. Don't sell it to large corporate houses, that is, strategic sale. For the time being, I am saying, to help everybody, forget about it, but go through the capital market route. That will help the company. If it is making loss or if it is making a small profit, it would do better. So, the taxpayers' money would not keep being pumped into such a company. But two things are very important, transparency and right timing. Dr. Rangarajan has said that. Even Mr. Sitaram Yechury said that. I agree with Mr. Sitaram Yechury on that. You can't sell it today. Choose your timing — you can't delay it indefinitely — so that you get the best possible price and do it in a transparent manner. We can't have Government favouring anybody. That is why I am saying capital market route is better to start with than the strategic route.

My last point is on deficit financing. It is, in the current circumstances, a necessary evil. I repeat it. I agree with Mr. Sitaram Yechury here. He is not here. It is necessary. That is what John Maynard Keynes said. But it is an evil. By 2011-2012, if you want the deficit to come down to four per cent — I would like it to come to three per cent — where is the road map? As the former RBI Governor asked: Where is the road map? If you don't come to that level, then it can have various implications, including inflationary implications, effect on the interest rates, the rating agencies downgrading us, effect on foreign exchange inflow, etc. So, we have to get rid of this fiscal deficit. We have no plan. I believe that it is not proper to reduce expenditure on infrastructure and social sector. You have to make it more efficient. I have always said that. You have to make it more efficient and less corrupt. But you should not reduce it. The Finance Minister will not be allowed by the Houses, by Cabinet and by the Government to reduce that expenditure. It should go up. If tax rate increases, it will not increase your revenue and it is also not desirable. The only solution, ultimately, is growth, growth and growth. Growth cannot come without reform, reform and reform, whether it is disinvestment, whether it is fiscal deficit. There are many other things, but I

don't have time to go into that. But I would like to emphasise that you must, in the long run and in the medium term, contain fiscal deficit and it must be contained. It is an evil. Today, it is necessary. I support the expenditure, today. Otherwise, you would not have employment, you would not have purchasing power, and you would not have demand for industrial products and other products. But in the long run, it is an evil, it is a cancer. Once it gives vent to all inflationary conditions, then to control it, will become a big problem. So, Sir, reform is a must. That is the message I would like to convey through you, Sir, to the hon. Finance Minister who is a very learned person. We are going through a very difficult period. Sir, 2009-10 will continue to be a difficult period for us. Many things can go wrong. If the GDP growth does not increase from the current year's expectation of around six per cent to 9 per cent....(*Interruptions*)... If it does not increase to 9 per cent, Sir, we are going to have a major issue. So, we need reforms. We need to go back to as near a double-digit growth for GDP as possible, within a year or two. Thank you.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have had very authoritative interventions by Dr. Rangarajan, by my dear and long-standing friend Shri N.K. Singh. We have had important and constructive suggestions from the representatives of industry and other interests. I would come back to these points to add to some of them and differ from some of them. But I first want to start with paying, really, a compliment and congratulations from the bottom of my heart to the Finance Minister and I hope that the Minister of State will convey that to him for a matter which is not mentioned in the budget but which falls in his purview. Sir, as you know, when the President's Address was being discussed, I had drawn the attention of the House to many things, to dangers from many quarters. As a symptom of that I had drawn the attention of the House to the fact that China had blocked a loan to India from the Asian Development Bank. Though the loan was almost four billion dollars, but a very small component of three-four million dollars related to Arunachal Pradesh. They said, "This is our territory. No loan to India can go on that". This is a very serious development. It was in continuation of their policy. But the Finance Minister, the team in the External Affairs Ministry and in the Prime Minister's Office, they took a clear and firm stand in this regard. China persisted with this. For the first time, in the history of the Asian Development Bank, they insisted that there will be a vote in the Board of the Asian Development Bank. India stood firm. It mobilised support from different quarters, including the United States. And the result was, the Board, with one dissent that of China, voted that the loan would be given to India. This is a single achievement. It is the first time that China has suffered a set back. I can say from personal knowledge, having travelled to that region, that it has been noticed all over East Asia and South-East Asia. So, irrespective of any differences that anyone of us may have, I compliment the Finance Minister and his other colleagues in this regard. I hope the same clear and firm stand will be taken in regard to the pressures which are being put, which he

knows, in regard to Kashmir, in regard to assumption of dialogue with Pakistan without precondition, in regard to WTO that Arunji had mentioned in his intervention, the first time, in regard to the various treaties like NPT and others. And, much will depend upon the Finance Minister personally because I know the role that he played in regard to Siachen. That is one point.

The second point is, as Dr. Rangarajan was mentioning, and Shri N.K. Singh was mentioning, we all recognise that the Budget has had to be prepared in difficult circumstances and has had to be a balancing act. All of us recognise that. But, as Shri N.K. Singh also emphasised, much of this difficulty has been created. It is a self-created one that because of the stoppage of reforms, a complete paralysis of reforms for five years, the momentum slowed down. As people, like me, had pointed out, which Shri N.K. Singh has very well documented today, that when the index of industrial production was at its peak, it shows that a year before this crisis, jobs had already started getting lost in the textiles sector. By April, 2008, twenty five lakh jobs had already been lost, according to official statements of the Government. And that was the real reason for the difficulties that came. On top of that, there was the global slowdown; therefore, the exports were slowing down. And revenues suddenly plummeted. We used to have a growth of almost 40 per cent in direct tax collections. That started plummeting. That would have led to the deficit. But the real contribution to the deficit, I should say, as has been mentioned by Dr. Rangarajan just now, has been that current expenditure has really not grown; it has gone out of control. This is a fact, and all these in the name of inclusive growth! I shall come to this point whether there is substance in that, or, whether we are just throwing money and saying that we are doing this for inclusive growth. In spite of these circumstances, I am very happy that, at least, a few steps have been taken towards tax reforms. As Dr. Rangarajan just now mentioned, it is primarily an Expenditure Budget, and, even on tax reforms, there is no great architecture or vision that has become evident. But, at least, a few irritants, which were continued out of some sort of obstinate determination in regard to fringe benefit tax and others, have been removed. It is good that the Commodity Transactions Tax, which has actually never been made operational, has also been withdrawn. Both had smelt of the Inspector Raj being re-introduced. There is a new Direct Tax Code to come within 45 days, service tax being extended to lawyers, the ten per cent surcharge being reduced and the Goods and Services Tax on schedule. Sir, there is a point in which I would like to second the appeal that Dr. Abhishek Singhvi made, and that is an appeal from all of us to all political parties. Everybody is in office in some State or the other, and he is right that it would not be correct for any one of us to delay things. It is true that the GST should not be half-baked or ill prepared. But a year is a long time for a country to think, for even to come to a consensus on these matters! I am sure, two weeks of concentrated work on this by distinguished people will leave almost no questions unanswered. It may leave out questions where negotiated

solutions are not possible. But, at least, a clarity on the options should be there, and we should all co-operate in this regard so that everything that people want would come out, and we would continue to move on tax reforms. So, I second that particular appeal.

Sir, there are many other special measures that I found commendable, and I do not want to take your time on this. This threshold of non-promoter holding is a very good thing. The Assistance, that is being announced for the Infrastructure Finance Corporation, is also a very good thing. But the problem really is not in the specific measures because, after all, this Budget is a continuation of the Government which has been there for five years. So much work has gone on as regards the other steps that could be taken for an overall architecture for new tax regimes. But we do not find any trace of that at all. And, the Budget has been, as unfortunately, our Budgets and Addresses from the Red Fort and the Address of the President have become, another dhobhi list. So many shirts, so many shorts, so many kurta-pyjamas! That is all. And it is this architecture, this vision, that is required, specially at a time like this when the country was seeing that it was in difficulties and, therefore, it needed what Dr. Rangarajan just now called, a 'roadmap', not just on taxation, not just on deficit, but on the general economic policy and reforms in this regard. I cannot imagine now what the difficulty and the constraint was because the difficulty and the constraint have been, for the time being, sort of waived by the people. मगर इसमें एक गफलत है, आप तो आलिम हैं, आपको याद है कि difficulty अब इनके अंदर है। गफलत यह है कि — “जब तूफां में हो कश्ती, तब सब कोई सहाय” — everybody can help you and save you, when your boat is in the storm — “जब कश्ती में हो तूफां, तो कौन सहाय”... So, the paralysis within the ruling party in this regard to reforms is what the problem is now. That is why...

श्री जेसुदासु सीलम (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : तूफान उधर है।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सीलम साहब, आपकी बात ठीक है, जब economic policy इस साल में evolve होगी, तब पता लगेगा, it will all be clear क्योंकि constraint तो है नहीं। आप भी कहते हो कि mandate भी है, that will be very good. But on matters like labour, on matters like execution of infrastructure projects, on energy, on reforms in the coal sector, on open access to power, on distributed generation, all these things have been listed by Government reports themselves. But we find no indication that they are being brought forward in that respect.

Sir, there are only two reforms which are mentioned. Because this has not come up in other speeches, I will take you through the paralysis which characterizes this Budget and the functioning of the Government which I sincerely hope we will get out of. One is in paragraph 35. This is on POL pricing and subsidy. I will just read it out now. Sir, you know what happened last year; because administrative price mechanism had been sort of brought back and Ministries had started fixing prices again, the Chairman of the largest oil company in India, a Government officer, had to say in

5.00 P.M.

public that if within thirty days, the Government did not change the prices, he would not have one rupee to import more oil. That was what the situation had come to. And a loss of about Rs.40,000 crores had been inflicted on those governmental companies. What is the solution? "It is important to recognize that almost three-quarters of our oil consumption is made through imports. Domestic prices of petrol and diesel have to be broadly in sync with global prices of these items". So, what is the remedy? "Government will set up an expert group to advise on a viable and sustainable system". Now, this expert group will be the fifth group, the fifth committee, commission and expert group, in the last five years, for the same thing; there was the Lahiri Committee in 2004; then, the entire working group on integrated energy policy, set up by the Planning Commission in 2005; the Rangarajan Committee in 2006; and the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee in June, 2008. Just see the Budget of 2005-06 of Chidambaram. He says, "As far as petroleum products are concerned, the Government has received the recommendations of the Lahiri Committee and appropriate decisions have been taken" — 'have been taken' — "to which I shall refer to in Part B". You will not find them in Part B. Then, in the next year, in 2006-07, he says, "My Ministry has held extensive discussions with stakeholders on three major subsidies, mainly, food, fertilizer and petroleum. "We have also sought the views of the general public." When you can't do something, seek views. "...Working Groups, Committees have gone into the question of fertilizer and petroleum subsidies, the latest being Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee. I would urge Members to help the Government to evolve a consensus on the issue of subsidy." Then, in the Eleventh Plan the same thing was said. Now, why does this not happen? I don't want to cast any aspersion, and I am all, as you know, an advocate of vigorous private sector, vigorous and efficient Government, vigorous Government sector so that you can all have competition and prices come down and efficiency comes up. Why does this not happen on POL? Sir, there is a very good passage by the Commission headed by the Prime Minister, i.e., the Planning Commission. This is the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan put out by the Planning Commission in 2005. They say, 'Why does this not happen?' You find the same paralysis continuing now because you have to have another expert group. He says further, "The current pricing mechanism uses the import parity pricing..." You don't have to go into that. "...even for products in which India is the net exporter." I don't want to say who is exporting. "This provides higher margins to the refiners. Economic rationality suggests that the trade parity should be the norm for pricing instead of import parity. Moreover, Customs Duty on crude oil is five per cent, while the average duty on petroleum products is ten per cent. This further increases the refinery margin." Then, the normative transportation is fixed, and he says, "For this reason, so as to help the public sector companies, but private sector refineries are following the same methodology for building up prices for their

products.” Then, he gives another feature of this pricing and then says, “This ensures even larger benefits for more efficient private refineries.” So, you really have not just a paralysis within political parties or outsiders, but you have other interests coming into rational policies being introduced. And, therefore, what do we do? We set up expert groups, as we have done again, and we remain exactly where we have remained for the last ten years on this matter.

Sir, the second reform, the only other reform that is mentioned here is fertiliser subsidy. Sir, you just see again in paragraph 34 as to what it says. There are two lessons in this which you will see, I hope the Minister of State will notice, as to how one part of the Finance Ministry does not seem to know what the other part of the Ministry has done or is doing. It says, in paragraph 34, “In the context of the nation’s food security, the declining response of agricultural fertiliser usage in the country is a matter of concern.” Why? It is because we subsidise only nitrogenous fertiliser and this leads to imbalanced use of fertilisers in phosphates and potashic fertilisers, and that is leading to deteriorating in our soil. “To ensure balanced application of fertilisers, the Government intends to move forward to a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current product pricing regime. In due course, it is also intended to move to a system of direct transfer of subsidy to farmer.” Now, Sir, if you see this is what we are being told today and this has been hailed as a great advanced scheme that, at last, we are going to a nutrient based subsidy regime. Now, if you see the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan put out four years ago, they say the same sentences that “productivity is going down, and we are unable to do this because we are giving fertilisers in an imbalanced way. Continuation of the subsidy on urea while de-controlling PNK fertilisers further adds to the inadvertent promotion of imbalance in fertiliser use. One of the proven and well-documented reasons for stagnation in the productivity and production growth rates since the early 1990s is the unbalanced use of fertilisers.” Then he says, “In the Eleventh Plan approved under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister....” again, they say, “...soil degradation through the use of agrochemicals is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Imbalanced use of chemicals and fertilizers is doing this.” The reason they give is that the present system of fertilizer subsidy is irrational and has become counterproductive. All these members, including the present Finance Minister, all of them, are endorsing this. There are long passages and I don’t want to take your time to say that this is the problem and it needs to be addressed in an urgent manner. Mr. Chidambaram first in his Budget of 2007-08 says, “It is a serious problem. While fertilizers should indeed be subsidised, we must find an alternative method of delivering the subsidy to the farmers....” This is exactly what the present Finance Minister has said, “...We are going to do in due course. The fertilizer industry has agreed to work with the Department of Fertilizers to conduct a study and find a solution. Based on the report, the Government intends to implement a pilot programme in at least one district in each State in 2007-08. In regard to the implementation of the Budget announcement...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Are you discussing the 2008-09 Budget or 2009-10?...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अरुण शौरी : इनको क्या रोके?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: With highest respect to your knowledge and information, you are comparing three-four years Budgets. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The problem is that you are continuing to make the same promises, which you have not been implementing at all. Again, they are saying that this is the reform...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: You come to 2009-10 Budget. Sir, one question only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु (कर्नाटक): इनको प्रॉब्लम क्या है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री अरुण शौरी : यह हमेशा करते हैं। इनकी ज्यूटी लगायी हुई है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: I want to ask only one question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot allow you unless he yields. ...*(Interruptions)*... That will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This irritation of such Members itself shows...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The fact that the same promises are continuing to be made and are not implemented is a reflection of the fact that we are not proceeding as we should be doing. And that is one of the problems as identified by the Government report itself that the economic progress has been brought down to a slowdown, as Mr. N.K. Singh was just saying. This is the reason. So, you see the same thing happening in the 2008-09 implementation of Budget announcements and he said that the modalities are being worked. Now, once again we are told that this will be done in due course. Dr. Swaminathan has recommended these things, everybody has recommended. And for 15 to 20 years and certainly in the last five years there has just been a repetition of all this. That is one point. But there is a second point by which I will come to your Budget of 2009-10 and on which you are very keen. ...*(Interruptions)*... अब ज़रा सुनिए। फिर से गौर से सुनिए। वे कहते हैं “to ensure the balance application of fertilizers..”, — Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very interesting thing, the second aspect of this matter from the Budget of this year — “...the Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime.” What does your Economic Survey laid in the same House by the same Finance Minister say this year? It says that it

*Not recorded.

has already been done. It says, in addition, due to the implementation of the nutrient based subsidy pricing, prices of various complex fertilisers were reduced by 18 per cent on an average. कुछ पता भी है, एक तरफ आप कह रहे हो इंटेंड्स, अब बोलिए साहब, आप ही का बजट है इसी साल का। इसी साल की इकॉनोमिक सर्वे है, तीन दिन पहले दी गई।

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: I will reply to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When you speak you can definitely reply. Note down all the points and reply. Tomorrow you reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, but hope never dies. Hope is eternal. सर, नेक्स्ट पैराग्राफ देखिए, The Government has taken various policy initiatives for the fertilizer sector. These cover pricing policy for indigenous urea, new investments in the urea sector, nutrient based pricing and production and availability of fortified and quoted fertilizers. Sir, the point that I was making was, that, on the only two reforms that are mentioned on POL, there is no progress. This is another fifth committee in five years. On fertilizer subsidy intentions for the future and we get nowhere at all. One part of the Ministry is not knowing what the other part is doing. Now, Sir, this characterises other aspects also and I will take up two examples from the current Budget. One is power. Everybody has said on the shortage of energy and on various matters. Now, Sir, in case there is some impatience you should please look at paragraph 24, I am referring to that. Sir, in power the problem is that, we have set up a target of 78,000 megawatts for the Eleventh Plan. We are now going to be near the middle of the Eleventh Plan. How much have we achieved of 78,000? It is 13,000. Now, the reason for that is, you require almost 10-12 lakh crores in this sector against this because of profligate expenditure on so-called inclusive growth. We will not have half of this amount with the power sector and the result of that is, we will not get even 40,000 additional megawatts this year and the typical point and the point that illustrates it is in paragraph 24. It is called the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme. Sir, the Eleventh Plan said that this is one of the main challenges facing us. This programme is not about generation. This programme is about sub-transmission and distribution, i.e. transmission within States and further distribution. Here, just see what the paragraph says. This is crucial because you have to reduce T&D losses from 35 per cent to 15 per cent as the Expenditure Budget presented now this year says in volume 2, page 182 of this Budget. 'To do this you require massive investments and this is an important programme.' Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said the Accelerated Power, Development and Reform Programme is important for reducing the gap between power, demand and supply. I propose to increase the allocation for this scheme to Rs. 2080 crores, a steep increase of 160 per cent. It seems very impressive till you realise that what is actually required is 16,000 to 20,000 crores per year and that is why the things will continue exactly the same way. ...(*Interruptions*)... Even at the cost of irritating some Members I would remind you that in the previous Budget three years ago, we were told that the details of this scheme had been worked out. A national fund for

Transmission and Distribution Reform is now to be contemplated. The details of the scheme will be worked out and announced very soon. Then, you see what was said about this promise in the Implementation of the Budget Announcements of the Interim Budget that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee just presented in February, 2009. It says that sanction has been given. A Steering Committee has been set up. A nodal agency has been set up. The nodal agency has set up a process consultant. A process consultant is working on the empanelment of IT consultants. A quadripartite implementation agreement has been drafted. What about that fund which was to come very soon?

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : मानसून ।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सर, यह अकबर इलाहाबादी का couplet है। प्लेटों की आवाज़ आती रहती है। प्लेटों के आने की आवाज़ आती रहती है, कांटे-छुरियों की आवाज़ आती रहती है, मगर खाना नहीं आता। सर, यही हालत है। अच्छा अब आप देखिए, इन्होंने कहा कि फंड होगा, जल्दी बनेगा, अनाउंस जल्दी किया जाएगा। If you see the February document, what did it say about the National Electricity Fund? It says that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Power) i.e., from the Planning Commission, has been constituted by the Planning Commission to consider various aspects of establishing a National Electricity Fund. A Committee has been set up. So, what did the Committee do? The Committee has decided to form a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Power, to make recommendations on issues relating to operationalisation of the National Electricity Fund. The matter is currently under examination and it continues — I had checked it — till last evening. This is the real problem. This is the reason for keeping tabs on what is promised from time to time. The House should not lose sight of that. I tell you that where the matter concerns about doing something, it does not get done. But, where the matter relates only to sending money to somebody else, that is done. That is shown as achievement. The hon. Prime Minister has said it many times. Shri Chidambaram has said it — not outlays but outcomes — innumerable times. Actually, that culture is continuing exactly as it is in regard to employment schemes and in regard to everything else. A single example has mentioned here as an achievement. It is with regard to the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyudikaran Yojna. The target was to provide electricity to 2,35,000 villages. Of which, actually speaking, only 54,000 villages have been electrified, as reported by Shri Pranab Mukherjee's document of February, 2009. And, out of 7.8 crore households, which were to be provided electricity, only 43 lakh households have been given electricity! This is the problem. Once we had told in this House that Ministries have been instructed to prepare Outcome Budgets. I don't know what has happened to that. That was there in the Budget Speech. Sherlock Homes used to say, 'there is a dog that did not bark.' We should look at that. For that reason, all of us who have got this Budget papers, the first paper is this. This is the List of Documents of Budget for 2009-10. It had 13 items. But, one item was missing. It is the Implementation of Budget Announcements. In every Budget, Mr. Chidambaram had a foreword

to that document saying, 'this document has been introduced to ensure transparency and accountability and whatever promises we made we will report next year what we have done on that.' That is the only thing that is missing.

How? Is it that accountability and transparency have been completely ensured; or that, that document was not doing that job; or, that document was proving an embarrassment because some of us were reading it? Sir, it is the same thing in regard to this great promise of the Food Security Act also. Everybody wants it. Everybody wants the hunger to be abolished. But the way to do that has been given by some of the great experts, like, Dr. Swaminathan, who are honoured and listened to all over the world. How to increase production? How to focus on farmers with less than two acres of land? How to give balanced nutrients, not just these three fertilizers? We don't do that. But we just go on passing resolutions, go on having higher and higher targets. Goliath had referred to the Indian planning, saying that it indulges in therapeutic targetry. For therapy purposes, we raise the target. So, therapeutic legislations are also there. But the fact to be remembered is that the real problem is not being addressed to. It has been addressed to in every Budget. Today, already, 316 million people are covered by the Food Distribution System. 316 million! And, as you all know, they are given 35 kg of foodgrains to the BPL families, antayodoya families, and so on. And, yet, despite covering 316 million people under the Public Distribution System, we are number 66 in the global hunger index. And, Sir, it will astonish you to learn who is above us. Albania is above us, Turkmenistan is above us, El Salvador, Gabon, Guyana, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Magnolia, Nicaragua, Lesotho, Namibia, Guatemala, Senegal, Uganda, all failed States, Swaziland, Sudan, Nepal, Djibouti, Guinea, Pakistan, Malawi, Rwanda, Cambodia. The best performing State, in India, on hunger is Punjab. And, that would be 34th in this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take because your party has left with 30 more minutes, and there are five more speakers?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will take some more time and, then, finish it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Minus those six minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which six minutes? ...*(Interruptions)*... Those were not six minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a record here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I have just two more points, and I will finish after those two points.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): It is a very good speech, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But there is time constraint also. You withdraw your other speakers, I won't mind giving him all the time.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the point that I was making was that instead of going on passing more and more laws we should really be attending to the things like the Public Distribution System because, again, the law may be passed, but we will have to do the same thing. That's why I would be enthused, about these allocations and these Acts, only when some concrete steps are visible in the field on improvement of delivery system, of which this Budget also talks.

Sir, because great authoritative people, like, Dr. Rangarajan, Shri N.K. Singh and others have spoken on the issue of deficit, I won't take much of your time on that. But I would like to make two points on that. One, the claim is a surprising claim in the Budget. That is, if you see, it says, "To counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown in the economy, we have brought about this deficit". The difference between the actuals of 2007-08 and 2008-09 constituted the total fiscal stimulus. Shri Pranab Mukherjee says, "This fiscal stimulus, at 3.5 per cent of the GDP, at current market prices for 2008-09, amounts to Rs. 1,86,000 crores". The fact of the matter, as Mr. Venkaiah Naidu was also reading all those figures, which my good friend, Gurumurthy, has worked out, is that of this figure, two-thirds, that is, Rs. 1,30,000 crores have nothing to do with the stimulus at all.

It is fallen tax collections because of the slow down; it is the Sixth Pay Commission dues; it is the fertilizer subsidy; it is the food subsidy and it is the extra interest on borrowers. The same thing is about the stimulus that is being said for tomorrow. We are now being told that this extra expenditure of Rs.1,20,000 crores is what is for the future. The fact is that of this Rs.1,20,000 crores, Rs.97,000 crores, as Shri Venkaiah Naidu also quoted, is because of the dues on account of the Sixth Pay Commission, extra interest of Rs.33,000 crores, Non-Plans, as you said now, about IMF contributions and so on. It is only Rs.42,000 crores which is an extra expenditure on the Plan. Now, Sir, I mentioned this because this is becoming a habit. In the February Interim Budget, we were told on behalf of the Government that one of the FRBM targets is being pushed ahead because of the global economic slow down. At that time, I had to read Shri P. Chidambaram's previous Budget in which he had said "Much before the global slow down we are pushing back this target because of social expenditure." So, this business of claiming credit for the things that are not getting done, which are not being reflected in the economy, is not a good thing. We may expect it of a lawyer like Shri Chidambaram but not from a seasoned man like Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Sir, when we have Shri Rangarajan saying that we are getting into a vicious cycle in regard to the debt, I don't have to elaborate on that point, Sir. But the main point to remember in this regard, Sir, is that just 140 days ago, just that much time ago, Shri Pranab Mukherjee told us in the House that this deficit is going to be only 5.5 per cent of the GDP and, today, suddenly, it has become 6.8 per cent. No astronomical expenditure took place but it was just that you are

giving bad news in those days. The net borrowing has risen four times higher this time than the Budget that was approved for 2008-09. That is the profligate way in which the finances of the country have been managed. As Shri Rangarajan said, you will not only pre-empt private borrowing, interest rates will just have to rise. We have been told by the Finance Minister that no, no, this will be done in a way in which rates will not rise. But there is no magic. He has held meetings with the Chairmen of the Banks, but if you read the Business Standard of today, you will find that all the Chairmen have said, “Yes, interest rates will have to rise.” As Shri Rangarajan just now said, when capital investment from the private sector comes up in a country in which household savings are 12 per cent of the GDP, when 11 per cent is taken up by the deficits of the Governments, then, how can there be a situation in which anything is left for the rest of the economy to grow? Sir, one point which should not be missed in regard to this deficit is how it is squeezing out any manoeuvrability for the future. I think we don’t quite recognize that. Sir, if you take only debt servicing, it is already 94 per cent of the gross revenue receipts of the Government. About 94 per cent of the gross revenue receipts are eaten up only in paying interest on past debt and on repaying that debt. If you take net revenue receipts of the Centre, then, just that debt servicing is 120 per cent of that net revenue receipts of the Government. If we take unavoidable expenditure only, interest payment, subsidies, pension, salaries, revenue expenditure on Defence, revenue expenditure on Police, repayment of debt, that is 55 per cent more than the gross revenue receipts of the Government. It is twice the net revenue receipts of the Centre. That is the squeeze in which we have got in. And, our only answer to that is, to increase borrowing this time by Rs.3,97,000 crores.

How is this going to be sustained? So, the point that NK was making on sustainability is really to be seen in the context that how we are just completely squeezing out not just the private sector and all, but the manoeuvrability and options of the Government of India itself. And, Sir, these figures are only the Revised Estimates. When the final figures come for the year, you will see it will be much greater.

Sir, on specific programmes, on disinvestment and all, I don’t really want to take your time. I had a good occasion to speak on this in the President’s Address, but, Sir, I would like to touch only one point, i.e., in regard to paragraphs 53 and 54. And, I will request Members to please bear with me because it is a sensitive matter. As I mentioned earlier, like everybody in this House I am for all positive help to every section of society, namely, Schedule Castes, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, anybody irrespective. I had spelt out five secular principles on which such assistance should be given. It should be based on the individual, not a group. Second, in identifying that individual, use secular criteria, as you do in APL/BPL. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए।

श्री अरुण शौरी : सर, क्या करें! काँटों का भी कुछ हक है, कौन छुड़ाए अपना दामन। ...(*व्यवधान*) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बोलिए। (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there my plea was that when the State organizes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठिए। (व्यवधान)...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, when the assistance is given, the criteria on which it is given, discourse congeals around it, politics congeals around it, power congeals around it and it has great consequences. On the question of caste itself, it is a curse and it was being eroded by modernisation and electoral politics; and such schemes of Government and reservations based on caste, etc., have fortified it to a dangerous extent. So, the point is, when you give assistance, please don't give it on a criterion which widens the earth fault lines in our society. Sir, I want to read to you just one passage from a book written in 1940s and you will see that this warning will come true again, unfortunately, within our short life times that remain for us because of this politics which is being pursued, a vote bank politics, either on caste or religion or so on, and that is what is reflected in these paragraphs 53, 54 that I mentioned. Sir, it is one of the great scholars on comparative religions, a man called W. Cantwell Smith who wrote in the 1940s about India and what was happening. Unfortunately, his prophecy regarding the partition of India came true. But in this particular chapter, he is recounting evolution of British Policy and he said that the essence of British policy was to offer a boon which a group could claim only if and only to the extent to which it remained different from the rest of the society; and he says, "The Government's method of encouraging communalism has been to approach all political subjects, and as many other subjects as possible, on a communalist basis; and to encourage, even to insist upon, everyone else's doing likewise. The principal technique is separate electorates: making the enfranchised — Muslims in that case — and the enfranchised sections of many other groups, into an increasing number of separate constituencies, so that they vote communally, think communally, listen only to communal election speeches, judge the delegates communally, look for constitutional and other reforms only in terms of more relative communal power and express their grievances communally. Even the British Government has admitted on occasions that the system serves to keep India from gaining independence by political means." And, just see, Sir, he quotes the Secretary of State, Edwin Montague who says, "Division by creeds and classes means the creation of political camps organised against each other, and teaches men to think as partisans and not as citizens."

We regard any system of communal electorate, therefore, as a very serious hindrance to the development of a self-governing principle. Therefore, we are encouraging it. And, as the same statement says, "The principle works so well that once it has been firmly established, it so entrenches communalism that one could then hardly abandon the principle even if one wished to do so". This is what I had in mind when I pleaded with the Prime Minister to think again on these

allocations and instructions which had gone from his own office to the banks to keep ledgers on how many loans had been given by religion.

Sir, I do not wish to end on a combative note. I would, Sir, in seven sentences, give seven suggestions to the Finance Minister in view of what I have said and what very learned people like Shri Rangarajan, Shri N.K. Singh and many other friends have said. First, please, implement your resolve to get back to the discipline of the FRBM; do not listen to the economics of lawyers like Mr. Abhishek Singhvi. As Mr. Rangarajan said, to restore confidence in this, it is not necessary only to give specific steps, it is also necessary to lay out a roadmap. And as every Member who has spoken on this matter in regard to the medium term document that is given here has rightly remarked, it is just not a sufficiently detailed thing to invite any confidence in this regard. Second, in particular, please, reign in current expenditure. In this it requires the cooperation of the whole House because if all of us keep pressing sectional demands, then no Finance Minister will be able to discipline the expenditure. Third, for this purpose, please examine closely what is being done in the name of inclusiveness. This is just becoming a mantra; you paste this label and do anything that you like! Fourth, for this purpose, please, take people into confidence. You are not disclosing either the true economic situation or the measures that are required. Then, please expedite implementation of projects. Ensure effective implementation. This will require more than committees. Two days ago, there was a big headline saying that the Prime Minister is now going to chair a thirteen-member committee to expedite infrastructure projects. But the Prime Minister already chairs a committee to expedite infrastructure projects! There is a committee already! It is the same committee; now two new members have been named. We are now being told, and it is a big headline. So, it will require more than this purpose. The second last is: resume reforms; finally, a new architecture in all this. For all these purposes and all the important issues that I have mentioned in the beginning in regard to standing up to pressure, I wish the MoS will convey to the Minister of Finance my great hope in him and we wish him strength within Government and luck outside the Government. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, for your information, there are 15 minutes left and six Members to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is my duty to bring it to your notice.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Punjab): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to express myself on the Budget proposals as have been presented by the Finance Minister. Sir, it has been the greatest glory of parliamentary democracy that in a debate such as the one we have heard since morning, the freest and fullest expression of opinion is relevant in a discourse that enriches democracy, in a dialogue that, if I may use the words of John Stuart Mill, is a 'conversation of democracy'. I have benefited immensely, Sir, from the

very lucid expression of views by Mr. Arun Shourie. I heard Mr. Rangarajan; I heard Mr. N.K. Singh and other distinguished speakers who preceded me. In the time that is available to me, I would seek to express my own point of view and that of my party. Sir, this is a debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members will be sitting up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, this is a debate that will test the assumptions of the Budget; this is a debate that will test the validity and the efficacy of that document that seeks to define India's future, that seeks to lay the foundation of our economy and of the well being of our people. I have identified, Sir, four yardsticks and touchstones on which this Budget must be tested. Is it a Budget that adequately responds to an extraordinary global situation which we face today like of which has never arisen in this country? The second test is: Is this a Budget that unites the two Indias that co-exist? Is this a Budget that unites India that lives in the optimism of our hearts and the other India that lurks in the scepticism of our minds? Is this a Budget that ensures for all our people larger and greater happiness in greater and larger freedom? Finally, is this a Budget that discloses a political philosophy or an internal reasoning which is integral to the underlying premise of this communist philosophy? These, Sir, are essentially the four parameters or the touchstones on which one must test the validity of the assumptions of this Budget. Sir, on the first, is this Budget an adequate response to an extraordinary global situation, I would venture to say that it is an extraordinary response to an extraordinary situation. I say so sanguine in the belief that the facts which owe no apology to either my party or to the opposition will speak for themselves. Sir, we have had in the last fifty years three global economic crises, but not one of the magnitude of the crisis that we face today. The largest economy of the world, the US economy, has registered a decrease of 38 per cent on an annual basis in the investment. It has registered a decline of 13 per cent in its economic growth. Sir, the global output per head has fallen by 2.5 per cent and global trade has shrunk by 12 per cent. It does not require a lot of argument to say that an economy that is integral to a global economy which is driven to a very large extent by economy such as the US will need to respond to this challenge. We are not insulated from the global environment. Therefore, the test of how well or how badly we have done must be, whether as a country we have minimised the negative impact of the global situation. Sir, I have it on high authority to share with this august House that while job losses in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Malaysia were much higher, we, in India, did much better in comparison to these countries in South-East Asia.

Sixty per cent of our companies still continue to hire, while 13 per cent of our companies have showed a declining rate of employment. Sir, the gross domestic savings, as a percentage of GDP at current prices, stand at 37.9 per cent compared to 2007-2008. And, despite the negative global

economic growth, only two countries in the world have registered positive economic growth - China and India. And, in India, Sir, I am delighted to say and proud to say that despite the global economic scenario, we have registered a growth of 6.7 per cent, and that is the reason we are sanguine in the belief that in the next year, we might, with some luck, be able to register a growth of about 7 per cent - no mean achievement by any count. How could we do that? Sir, the three stimulus packages - in December and then, February and then, in the Interim Budget - which accounted for an infusion of Rs. 1,86,000 crore into the Indian economy, which went to fuel consumption, demand and, therefore, re-energised our productive processes, definitely helped in that process. To that extent, Sir, the first test of the Budget must stand to scrutiny, namely, that this has given to us an extraordinary opportunity to come out with an ingenious and an extraordinary response. Of course, we have strained the full resources of the Indian nation State. And, that is where I would come to the points that they have made and I have no reason to deny them that view and they have all the reason to expound their economic theory. But, the view, that I would like to share with this House, is that in extraordinary times, you look for extraordinary remedies. It is true that we have strained every single sinew of the Indian nation state. It is true that we are pegging on the margins. There can be no doubt about it. Even the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, said it in so many words. But, Sir, at the end of the day, all arguments, all submissions of fiscal deficit must have only a limited appeal when it comes to securing the future and the present and immediate well-being of the people of India. Sir, we have not expounded or accepted or advanced ever a philosophy that the people are secondary to the State. The State, as a social compact of its constituents, is a product of the will of the people, and it is eventually the State that must bring succour to the people in extraordinary circumstances. I am aware that the kind of expenditure that we have allocated in the Budget will put a strain on our sources. But, this has been consciously done. This has been advisedly done. This has been done in pursuance of a philosophy of governance that tilts in favour of those who are on the margins. The UPA Government believes that the State must today come up and deliver on the challenges that the nation faces, and that is the reason, Sir, that we always recount what the architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said. He said, "The service of the nation is service of the millions who suffer." Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, reminded us of this talisman and he said, "The State and the Government must endeavour to wipe every tear from every eye." Now, it is in situations like the one that we face today that our own philosophy as a nation is put to test. Can we fair that test at the altar of Keynesian Economic theory that you cannot spend beyond your means. Yes, we all know that. We don't need to cite Keynes or Adam Smith to say that we cannot spend beyond our means. Our Prime Minister said in his various speeches as the Finance Minister that no country and no Government can live beyond its means. We know that. It is a way in the

Indian philosophy. But, what do we do in an extraordinary situation? Do we let millions of people suffer? Do we let millions of young men going to depression for want of any indication of their future? We can't do that. That is where the State, as an instrumentality in the service of the people, must exert itself. The endeavours of the State have to be tested, Sir, on the touchstone of whether while securing economic growth, while ensuring fiscal prudence, we do not compromise the lives, the aspirations, the hopes of those living on the margin. Sir, this is the ultimate validation of the exercise of democratic power. There is no justification for anyone to be in Government, there is no justification for even the State to exist if you cannot, in the extraordinary situation, bring succour to the people of this country.

The second test, therefore, Sir, I think, stands validated in view of my submission. I come to the third test. Is there an internal, integral philosophy of the Budget? Yes, it is there. What is the philosophy? It is the one, which I just elaborated, that when it comes to test the Government as the voice of the people, voice of a billion people of this country, shall not fail; that a duly elected Government is bound irrevocably to the pledges it makes when it goes to seek the mandate of the people. You cannot fault any Government for living up to the pledges that it makes to the people of India. That, Sir, is the third test, and, on this test also, this Budget, irrevocably, advisably asserts the philosophy of governance that tilts in favour of those who need help.

Sir, 'inclusive governance', 'inclusive growth', and, 'growth with equity' are not an empty political rhetoric for the UPA leadership. When our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi announced schemes like NREGA, Bharat Nirman and RTI, she was espousing a view of governance, a view of the State that will always stand for the have-nots, if it came to the crunch, and, Sir, today, we have figures to demonstrate it.

As somebody said, the proof of the pudding is in its eating and the empiricists who have expounded the empiricist theory of history say, "my view is as good as yours, and, therefore, there is no superiority of your views". Only the facts are sacred and nothing else is sacred. In that view of the matter, Sir, I have some facts to share with this House. Sir, I will only take half a minute. Have you really been able to achieve inclusive agenda of governance? My answer is, 'yes'. Sir, Rs. 71,000 crores of debt-waiver to farmers is a record, unprecedented, in the annals of history of this country. On top of that, for the first time in the history of this country since Independence, the availability of agricultural credit has been increased from Rs. 28,700 crores to Rs. 3,25,000 crores. I think, Mr. Raja said, it is a marginal increase over the past. Sir, it is a huge increase in actual terms. Look at the sum total of the figure of Rs. 3,25,000 crores availability of credit to the farmers. It speaks of Rs. 39,100 crores for NREGA enabling over four crore people of this country to take jobs.

Sir, we all know that human dignity is inextricably linked to your economic subsistence levels and it is only jobs that give you that basic security net, the basic net that ensures you not only

livelihood, it ensures you a life of dignity that the Constitution mandates upon all of us to secure for all our people. We have discharged the Constitutional mandate, we have lived up to our political pledges, and, therefore, we have delivered on every single pledge that we made to the people of India.

Sir, the National Food Security Act is a path-breaking legislative exercise. I heard some distinguished Member saying that the work on the Act has not started. We have been in the Government for only two months. The work has already started. A legislation of this kind that must stand scrutiny in courts, and, that must stand the test of time, will take a little bit more time but the fact remains that this is a path-breaking initiative of the UPA Government, unprecedented, once again, not only in India but in any part of the world. Sir, allocations for the *Bharat Nirman* have been raised by 45 per cent, if you want to calculate in percentage terms, in 2009-10. There is an increase of 63 per cent in the outlay for the *Indira Awaas Yojana*. Corpus for the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*, which facilitates credit support to poor women, has been increased from Rs.100 crore to Rs.500 crore. Rs.15,027 crore have been made available for the National Rural Health Mission.

Without the health of a country, no country can exist. The foremost duty of any Government is spending in the social infrastructure sector, that is, education and health. In fact, the Eleventh Plan has been described as the Education Plan. Rs.15,027 crore have been provided for health.

An amount of Rs.4,000 crore has been made available to micro, small, and medium enterprises. Sir, I entirely agree that one of the great deficits of our economy so far has been our poor infrastructure. But, for that reason, the funds are made available to the IIFCL. It will enable it to spend over the years Rs. One lakh crore in the PPP mode.

One of our distinguished colleagues said why are we subsidising private sector investments and initiatives in infrastructure. No. It is in the PPP mode. These are the assets of the nation. These eventually become assets of the nation. And if there is private sector participation, that enables us to leverage more public funding. We can get more money and therefore invest more in infrastructure.

Every single section of our society — senior citizens, salaried people, pensioners in the Army, and women — has been given some kind of relief or the other.

Sir, I would like to submit this for your consideration. It is no one's case and the Finance Minister himself said it by way of a caveat that a single Budget Speech cannot be a panacea or answer to all our wants. Nor is the Budget the only instrument to solve all our problems. But it is indicative of a philosophy of governance; it is indicative of a resolve; and it is indicative of a will to marshal the resources of the nation in aid of a philosophy of politics that we have shared with the people of India.

6.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time that you asked is over.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, I need five more minutes. Sir, I know for certain that the collective wisdom of the people of India is much larger than the wisdom of their representatives or of any Government. The ultimate test of any Government's promises or programmes is after five years when people cast their votes. We must have done something right, and we are continuing in that direction, for the people of India have returned us to power consecutively the second time.

Sir, Arnold Toynbee once said, "The History of civilisation is nothing more and nothing less than a series of responses to a series of challenges that people face in common." Have we come up to those challenges? Have we answered those challenges? That, Sir, is the touchstone on which this Budget will have to be judged.

Sir, I have one quote to make from the speech of Shri P. Chidambaram, the then Finance Minister, when he was speaking during the debate on the Budget for 2006-07. He said, The young people of India are building castles, it may appear that those castles are in the air, but as Henry David Thoreau said: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." That is what, Sir, this Budget seeks to do.

In summation, allow me to say, Sir, the final validation of the Budget; the Budget echoes the silent cry of those who suffer from want, hunger, disease, powerlessness and lack of freedom. It lends itself to the advancement of dignity of the marginalised. It allows everyone to participate in the prosperity of the nation. It protects the vulnerable and helps those in need to escape the trap of need. It envisions an economic system that strengthens the bonds of human solidarity. It recognises that the State must exist for its creators and not *vice versa* and that the economic system is a means and not an end. Finally, Sir, and this is the most important line I would like to draw your attention to, the Budget knows its own limitations. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Message from Lok Sabha.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 2009.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2009-10 *Contd.*

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, at the outset, I seek indulgence that if I cannot finish in time, give some marginal concession. I am just very quick.

Sir, the Budget speech is quite encouraging to listen. But, when we go through the figures, disappointments start creeping in. This Budget was expected to unleash a stimulus to bring the economy out of recession which has already crept in because of the global meltdown. Massive job cuts had taken place and the Economic Survey estimation of six lakh jobless is a gross under-estimation. The Commerce Ministry has estimated it to be 15 lakhs till March 2009. In reality, it is more than 50 lakhs across the sectors, including the export sector. In such a situation, a stimulus was expected to be unleashed. But, whatever actually has been unleashed is just a pittance. In totality, the increase in the total expenditure in the Budget 2009-10 compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09 is merely 0.5 per cent of the GDP. Out of which, the Plan expenditure is slated to increase by only 0.2 per cent of the GDP as compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09. We have heard so many figures and statistics on different heads and counts. There are other ways of looking into the figures. But, please also consider this aspect.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister as well to the stimulus package which was released before the Budget, assessed to be 3.5 per cent of the GDP. That stimulus package has been scanned by Arun Shourieji just now. But, let me tell you as to what is the impact of that stimulus package. That has failed to arrest the loss of livelihood of five million people. Then, what for the stimulus package is? And in the new stimulus package, whatever is being released is released from the national exchequer and the *aam admi*, in the name of whom the UPA Government all along has been swearing in, also has a claim or stake on that amount of national exchequer released for stimulus. Unless that stimulus package is made conditional to employment protection, this stimulus package will only be used by entrepreneurs to arrest the decline of their margin and bottom line. That is an unjust arrangement. That is not at all an *aam admi* arrangement. It is only focussed on *khaas admi* and that requires a change. I insist on the Finance Minister to put in place some such conditionalities of employment protection, banning retrenchment, lay-off and closure along with the packages being offered to the export-oriented sector and other sectors.

Reviving agriculture must be central because agriculture and allied activities provide livelihood to 60 per cent of our population and *aam admi* resides there. What is the allocation for

agriculture? Again, the Budget speech was lavishly eloquent about the need for such a thing, giving stress on rural economy and agriculture. But, in terms of the figures, again, that is not matching with the words. The deeds are not matching with the words. The Plan outlay on agriculture in this Budget has increased by less than Rs.600 crores as compared to last year's Budget allocation.

The share of combined expenditure on rural economy in the total expenditure has, actually, declined to 16.09 per cent in the current Budget as compared to Revised Estimate of the previous Budget. The share of total expenditure for Agriculture and Allied Activities in the total expenditure has declined to 10.37 per cent, in the current Budget, from 15.6 per cent, in the previous Budget, Revised Estimate. In terms of GDP, it is a decline from 2.59 per cent of the GDP to 1.64 per cent of the GDP. If you go through item-wise, again, your commitment and allocation does not match with each other. Coming to your food subsidy bill, what has been allocated? It does not match with your ambitious programme for the Food Security Act. It cannot feed the entire BPL families even, based on the present ridiculous definition which excludes 'the poor', majority of 'the poor'. Your subsidy on the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, again, it cannot give relief even a miniscule fragment of the six crore BPL families in the country. Only some of them have got the benefit from whatever has been allocated from the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. And go on to your education. You have an ambitious programme of Right to Education, but the allocation to 'primary education', please note, does not match with the ambitious target espoused by your proposed Right to Education Act. So, words are not matching with deeds. I am not going about the fiscal deficit theory. There are *pandits* and experts there, who have done. I am telling you, Sir, what they are telling and what the reality is. In totality, if you see, my friend Ashwani Kumarji just talked about the philosophy of the Budget, intrinsic *aam admi* philosophy! Actually, it is meant for the *khas admi*. When you look into the figure, this Budget estimate, in the Budget speech, *khud* Finance Minister has admitted the growth of 'tax forgone'. Rs.4,18,000 crores! It is 68.45 per cent of the aggregate tax collection. It is growing every year at a rate more than the tax generations. This defines your philosophy! And what does that 'tax-forgone' mean? It is 68.45 per cent of the aggregate tax collection. All tax forgone, it is 323.5 per cent of the total subsidy bill of the Central Government; the subsidy bill which is meant for *aam admi*; if you give one rupee there, you are foregoing, you are giving Rs.323/- to the *khas admi* in a way of tax concession, tax holiday etc. It is 204.8 per cent of the total Central Plan Outlay. What are you planning to take the economy out of the recession? Of, the real development expenditure, a quantum a major 200 per cent of it you are foregoing, you are giving away in the form of tax concessions, 'tax forgone', and with a talk, there is an argument that will generate jobs. A study was made in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Around five lakh jobs were created in the context of these huge tax concessions, and it works out, per job, 40 lakh rupees 'tax forgone'. Is that a practical solution? Is this, really, an *aam admi* orientation?

Sir, despite that, this Budget for tax proposals proposes a tax structure on direct tax revenue-neutral, and on indirect tax, a Rs.2,000 crores extra gain, the burden goes on the *aam admi*. The burden goes up, and tax concession, the kinds of exemptions that have been given has nothing to do with the stimulus. I do not understand for exploring the national property under our soil, the gas, natural gas, you are giving a tax holiday on NELP-8 and you are still claiming of transparency. Let me point out what the Prime Minister has commented on this particular issue.

Let me point out what the Prime Minister has commented on this very issue: "I think the whole attempt is to streamline our tax system to get away from an exemption-ridden system to ensure greater transparency". That is what Dr. Manmohan Singh said in the Rajya Sabha on Eleventh March 2003 while participating in the Budget debate. What are you giving to the KG basin exploration? A perpetuating tax holiday! The implication of it is Rs.40,000-50,000 crores in the coming six years. The production will start in 2010 only. What for? You have proposed a National Gas Grid. We welcome that. That will help particularly the eastern regions like Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and North Eastern Regions, which are totally gas starved. The idea of a National Gas Grid will help their development. But whom are you giving the tax exemption? When the GAIL lays the pipeline, there is no tax exemption. When the private companies come into the field, you are giving elaborate tax concessions. Is it the right kind of approach to deal with the national property, allowing somebody to fritter it away divided between the families? Is it the right approach? I urge upon the Finance Minister to review this. (*Time-bell rings*) I am just concluding.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Now I will speak on two points. As regards the price situation, there is a paradoxical situation. The WPI shows a recessionary trend. The CPI, food article price index, is going up. Still your Budget proposal is encouraging speculation in commodity market by abolishing Commodity Transaction Tax. Again, you are opening a floodgate on future trading in essential commodities at a time when the total volume of trade in the commodity market is, at least, ten times more than the actual commodity production. This is the state of speculation. When the country is in recession, when the country in need of dire resources, please don't allow anybody to make money out of money directly by this kind of gambling in order to avoid diversion of resources from employment-generating investment. If you allow somebody to make money directly out of money, where will the money go? That will not go towards employment-generating investment.

My last point is on disinvestment. I am speaking in front of my senior colleague, Mr. Arun Shourie. He may differ. I would like to quote the Finance Minister. In the Budget Speech he says:

“To bring the fiscal deficit under control, we have to institute institutional reform measures during the current year itself.”

“These measures include subsidies, taxes, expenditure and disinvestment”. So, disinvestment is considered by our hon. Finance Minister as an important instrument of bridging the fiscal gap. I am not debating on your philosophy of disinvestment. I am not debating. It is your statement. Our Finance Minister has said so in the Budget. He is considering disinvestment as an instrument of bridging the fiscal gap. Let me quote the same person. When he was a leading personality in the Opposition, while addressing the same august House combating Mr. Arun Shourie on the issue of BALCO disinvestment — I think it was on 27th February, 2001. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am just concluding. Please allow me. He said:

“Therefore, if the objective of the Government were to bridge the resource gap by disposing of the capital assets, in order to meet the consumption expenditure, it would simply not be permissible by any amount of fiscal prudence. ... Disinvestment for what objective? What are you going to do with the proceeds of the disinvestment? Is it only to bridge the budgetary gap? Is it prudent to dispose of the capital assets and use it for meeting the normal consumption expenditure?”

This is what our Finance Minister spoke when he was in the Opposition in the same House. My submission is: How could prudence make such a somersault just within a gap of eight years or so? Why should you dilute the equity of the PSUs which have in their command reserves and surplus about Rs.4.85 lakh crores, which is lying under utilised?

It is lying under-utilised, which can be used for social sector expenditure, which can be used for further employment generating investment in and around those blue chip public sector units. Why should you dilute it? Somebody may argue that reserve fund is required for modernisation and function of those PSUs. Why should you go to the IPO route, then? You have such a reserve. You use that for your own expansion. Why are you going for the IPO route? Why should you, at all, go for the IPO route? When these public sector units are having a very healthy debt-equity ratio of 1:4, that is, if Re. 1/- is debt, Rs. 4/- is your equity support, you should go to the debt market. That is what the economic prudence says, that is what the basic primary economic sense says. With such a high debt-equity ratio, you should go to the debt market. Don't dilute your equity; don't reset the pace of handing over gradual control of the company to outsiders. Why should you go? Then you talk of people's ownership. Whom are you ridiculing? Would 77 per cent of the people living below Rs. 20/- a day go to the stock market to ensure the theory of people's ownership? The people's ownership of PSUs is ensured by the ownership of the Government and

control by Parliament. That is the concept developed since Independence about the public sector. The Parliamentary control and command of the public sector within the control of the Government and a managerial autonomy, is the concept of people's ownership, not selling the shares to private individuals... (*Time bell rings*)when the market is nose diving.

Please desist from dangerous path. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Mahendra Mohan. You have 16 minutes and there are three speakers from your Party.

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे अनुमति दी। सर्वप्रथम मैं बधाई देना चाहूंगा माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को कि उन्होंने पहली बार इस देश के लिए दस लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा का बजट हमारे सामने रखा। निश्चित रूप से यह जो बजट है इसमें खर्च की ही बातें ज्यादा हैं, आमदनी की कम हैं। जब मैंने बजट को देखा तो लगभग चार लाख करोड़ का जो वे ऋण ले रहे हैं उसके द्वारा ही सारे खर्चों को पूरा करने जा रहे हैं। यह बात सही है कि जहां पर डेफिसिट की इकॉनोमी होती है, वहां पर निश्चित रूप से ऋण लेकर ही उस देश को और कार्यों को आगे चलाया जाता है, इण्डस्ट्री के अंदर भी और देश की अपनी जरूरतों के लिए। लेकिन 6.8 का डेफिसिट, जैसा कि अभी कुछ वक्ताओं ने विशेष रूप से अरुण शौरी जी ने कहा कि वह 6.8 परसेंट न रहकर 12 परसेंट से अधिक का ही डेफिसिट रह जाएगा। उसे कैसे पूरा किया जाएगा, यह देखना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। मैं बजट के फैक्ट्स एंड फिगर्स में ज्यादा न जाते हुए कुछ ऐसी चीजों की ओर इंगित करना चाहूंगा, जो अभी तक नहीं कही गई हैं। बैंकों के पास लगभग छः लाख चौतीस हजार करोड़ के डिपोजिट्स हैं और यदि उसमें से चार लाख करोड़ अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए भारत सरकार उनसे ले लेगी तो निश्चित रूप से ब्याज की दरों में वृद्धि होगी। यह कहा जाना कि ब्याज की दरें नहीं बढ़ेंगी, असम्भव सा लगता है। निश्चित रूप से कहां से स्रोत आएंगे, जहां से यह पैसा आएगा? डिसइंवेस्टमेंट के द्वारा भी पैसा आ सकता है, लेकिन बहुत कम पैसा आएगा जो इस समय की स्थितियां हैं। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जब तक औद्योगिक विकास नहीं होगा, तब तक हमारे देश के अंदर जिस रोजगार की बात वित्त मंत्री जी अपने भाषण में कर रहे हैं कि एक करोड़ बीस लाख लोगों को रोजगार दिए जाएंगे, तो उसके लिए यह आवश्यक है कि उद्योगों का भी विकास हो। उद्योगों की ओर कुछ भी विशेष ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है कि किस प्रकार से नए उद्योग लगाए जाएंगे, कैसे नए उद्योगों को पैसा प्राप्त होगा, और जो हमारे यहां पर फॉरेन इंवेस्टमेंट का पैसा आना रुक गया है तथा लोग इंवेस्टमेंट के लिए नहीं आना चाहते हैं, बल्कि यहां जो पैसा लगा हुआ था वह वापिस जा रहा है। उस ओर कोई भी ध्यान वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो बजट के प्रस्ताव हैं, उसमें नहीं दिया है। उन्हें देखना होगा कि यह कार्य कैसे हों, इस ओर उन्हें विचार करना होगा, ताकि कैसे और अधिक पैसा हमारे यहां इण्डस्ट्री में आए, कैसे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए आए। निश्चित रूप से हमारे यहां पावर की बहुत बड़ी शार्टेज है। इस पर बहुत चर्चाएं इस सदन में और उस सदन में हुई थी और एक स्थिति ऐसी आ गई थी, जब सरकार जा रही थी, तो फिर, किस प्रकार से सरकार बची। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी किस प्रकार यह पावर जेनरेशन, न्युक्लियर पावर जेनरेशन की बात थी, उसके लिए इस बजट प्रस्ताव में कोई भी जानकारी नहीं दी गई है कि किस प्रकार उससे आएगा।

किसानों की समस्याओं और सब चीजों के लिए पैसों के अनुदान और पैसों का प्राविजन तो बहुत किया गया है। मैं इस बारे में केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि केवल प्राविजन कर देने से काम नहीं हो जाता है। कथनी और करनी का अंतर होता है, इसलिए जब तक इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन सही रूप से नहीं होगा, तब तक यह कार्य नहीं हो सकता है। इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन पार्ट देखना चाहिए, क्योंकि हमारे साथियों ने पहले कहा है कि हर साल हम बजट के भाषणों में बहुत से आश्वासन देते हैं, हम ये करेंगे, हम वो करेंगे, लेकिन जब साल के आखिर में एक

अकाउंटेबिलिटी की बात आती है, तो उसके बारे में कोई भी जानकारी इस सदन को और हमारे साथियों को नहीं मिलती है कि क्या कार्य किया गया, क्या उपलब्धियां हुईं ? बजट का जो मुख्य बिंदु होता है, वह यही होता है कि जो बजट में आपने अलोकेशन किया कि हम कहां खर्चा करेंगे, किन-किन मदों पर खर्चा करेंगे, उन मदों पर कहां पर आपने खर्च किया और उससे क्या उपलब्धियां हुईं, इसके ऊपर पूरी जानकारी हर बजट सत्र में, मैं समझता हूं कि नये बजट भाषण के साथ आना अत्यावश्यक है। इसके लिए माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी और उनके सहयोगी मंत्री, जो यहां पर बैठे हैं, उनसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि इसकी जानकारी हम सब लोगों को दी जाये, जिससे कि यह देश और अच्छे रूप में चले। हम चाहते हैं कि किसानों की समस्याओं का हल हो। केवल आश्वासन दे देने से किसानों की समस्याओं का हल नहीं होगा।

सर, देश में बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। लोगों को कार्य प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है। जिनकी नौकरियां लगी हुई हैं, उनकी नौकरियां छूट रही हैं। यह केवल इसीलिए है, क्योंकि नई इंडस्ट्रीज नहीं आ रही हैं, नये काम नहीं हो रहे हैं। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि भविष्य में ऐसा न हो कि बजट के एक दिन पहले पेट्रोल, डीजल के दाम बढ़ा दिए जाएं। जब तेल की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कीमतें कम हो रही हैं, तो फिर उन दामों में कमी क्यों नहीं की जा रही है ? अगर उस वक्त इतनी आवश्यकता थी जिसकी वजह से दाम बढ़ा दिए गए थे, तो अब जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तेल की कीमतों में कमी हो रही है, तो उसमें कमी की जाए, जिससे कि आम आदमी को उससे कुछ फायदा मिले।

थोक मूल्य सूचकांक के बारे में भी बहुत कुछ कहा गया। कहा जा रहा है कि हमारा निगेटिव इन्फ्लेशन हो गया है, लेकिन वास्तविकता में निगेटिव इन्फ्लेशन नहीं है। हर चीज का दाम बढ़ रहा है। आम आदमी को दाल, रोटी, सब्जी खाने में दिक्कतें आ रही हैं। यह जरूरी है कि एक उचित और तार्किक मूल्य सूचकांक बनाया जाए।

हमें टैक्स के प्रोजेक्ट्स में भी माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से बहुत सी उम्मीदें थीं। माननीय महामहिम जी का जो भाषण हुआ था, उसमें जो चर्चाएं हुई थीं, उस की वजह से इस सरकार से बहुत उम्मीद थी कि जो हमारा आम आदमी है, जो हमारा नौकरी-पेशा आदमी है, जिसकी आजीविका केवल वेतन से चलती है, उसे कुछ सुविधाएं मिलेंगी, लेकिन इससे तो मैं यही कहूंगा कि उस आम आदमी का मजाक बनाया गया है कि उसको जो टैक्स में रिबेट दी गई है, वह 86 रुपया प्रति माह की दी गई है। उस 86 रुपये से उसको क्या प्राप्त होगा ? कम से कम जो डेढ़ लाख रुपये की सीमा थी, उसको तीन लाख रुपये होने की बात हो रही थी, उसमें जो दस हजार रुपये की वृद्धि दी गई है, वह बहुत कम है। उस पर माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी विचार करें और उसको देखें कि टैक्स में आम आदमी को और राहत कैसे मिले ?

इसके साथ ही साथ यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हमारा भविष्य कैसा बने ? इसके लिए बच्चों की पढ़ाई-लिखाई में जो व्यय आता है, उस खर्चे के लिए वित्त मंत्री जी को यह सुविधा देनी चाहिए कि कम से कम दो बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर जो भी खर्चा ट्यूशन फीस के अतिरिक्त स्कूलों को दिया जाता है, वह पूरा का पूरा खर्चा टैक्स रिबेट के रूप में अलाउ किया जाए, जिससे कि आदमी अपने बच्चों को ठीक से पढ़ा सके। यह भी बहुत जरूरी है। हाउसिंग लोन के ऊपर भी छूट बहुत कम है। आम आदमी को रहने के लिए व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... हाउसिंग लोन पर भी थोड़ी-सी छूटें बढ़ाई जाएं, जिससे कम से कम आदमी बाजार से अथवा बैंकों से कर्जा लेकर अपने परिवार के लिए रहने की व्यवस्था कर सके।

इसके साथ ही साथ एक अच्छी चीज वित्त मंत्री जी ने कही है जिसको वह लाना चाहते हैं। अगर यह हो जाएगा, तो बहुत ही अच्छी बात होगी। वह जीएसटी को लाने की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन 2010 का जो उनका टारगेट है उसके लिए, वह कैसे सम्भव होगा ? वैट को इम्प्लीमेंट करने में कितनी कठिनाई हुई है, इसको सभी जानते हैं। जीएसटी के लिए अभी से सक्रिय रूप से कार्य नहीं किया जाएगा, तो मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि वह

1 अप्रैल, 2010 के टारगेट को नहीं पा सकेंगे। अगर वह इसको नहीं प्राप्त कर पाते हैं, तो उसके कारण हमें बहुत दिक्कतें होंगी।...(समय की घंटी)... शेयर बाजार के बारे में बहुत कहा जाता है। सर, मैं दो मिनट का समय लूंगा।

श्री उपसभापति: दो मिनट नहीं।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन: केवल 2.5 परसेंट लोग उसमें इन्वाल्व रहते हैं, लेकिन जो 2.5 परसेंट लोग होते हैं, उनके साथ परिवार भी जुड़े होते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि शेयर बाजार के द्वारा हम बाहर के इन्वेस्टर को और अपने यहां के इन्वेस्टर को, एक बहुत बड़ा सिग्नल देते हैं। उसके माध्यम से हम अपने उद्योगों को आगे चलाने के लिए एक बहुत अच्छा माध्यम दे रहे हैं। अगर शेयर बाजार अच्छा चलेगा, तो जिस डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट की बात हो रही थी, भारत सरकार जिन उद्योगों में डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट करना चाहती है, उनसे अधिक धन पा सकेगी, इसलिए इस ओर भी ध्यान देना जरूरी है। हमारे लिए यह जानना बहुत जरूरी है कि हम किस प्रकार से अपने औद्योगिक उत्पादन को बढ़ाएं। औद्योगिक उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए सभी चीजों की अनुशांसा होना बहुत जरूरी है। महोदय, आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा यही अनुरोध है, उनके सारे सहयोगी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, कृपया यह कहें कि देश की औद्योगिक प्रगति को किस प्रकार से बढ़ाया जाए, कैसे आम आदमी तक लाभ पहुंचे। इन थोड़े से विचारों पर विचार करें और आम आदमी के लिए कुछ सुख सुविधाएं दें, जिनका वे वायदा कर रहे हैं। आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, जो आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on behalf of my Party on the current year's General Budget. The world economy today is facing great challenges because of the global economic crisis. At this juncture, it is really very difficult for any Finance Minister to present a Budget. If you take the country as a whole, there are certain good points that have been introduced by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech. A provision of Rs.71,000 crores for the social sector and for rural development is a welcome move. Sir, India's economy depends on agriculture but I feel the agricultural sector has totally been neglected. It is very unfortunate. Then, Sir, this Budget has totally disappointed not the people of Assam alone but all the people of the North-East. Sir, there is no new proposal in this Budget either for the people of Assam or for the people of the North-East. The budgetary allocations for almost all the projects of the North-East have been kept at the level of allocations of the last financial year. There is no difference between last year's allocations and this year's allocations. Sir, the DoNER was formed lay special emphasis and focus on the development of the whole North-Eastern Region. But I am very sorry to say that the budgetary allocation for DoNER is constant at Rs.1455 crores. The same amount of money was allocated in last year's Budget. Similarly, the budgetary allocation for the North-Eastern Council is Rs.544.54 crores. It is also the same as it was in the last financial year. Sir, the value of money has decreased as compared to the last year. The purchasing power of the rupee is decreasing but the budgetary allocations for the North-East have remained the same. Sir, right now, Assam is suffering from floods. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Lakhs of hectares of cultivated land have been completely destroyed. The problem of floods in Assam is known to everybody, Sir. But, I am very sorry to say that this year the allocation meant for the Ministry of Water Resources towards flood control in the

North-East has been decreased. In the last Budget, the allocation for flood relief in the North-East was Rs. 106.68 crores. This year it has been decreased to Rs. 91 crores. Then, Sir, I am sorry to say that the budgetary allocation for the Pagladiya project, the multi-purpose project meant for irrigation, flood control and power generation in several districts of lower Assam, has been reduced this year. If we compare this year's allocations with the last year's allocations, then, we will find that the budgetary allocations for the Pagladiya Dam Project have also been reduced. This is very unfortunate, Sir.

Sir, in the last part of the 14th Lok Sabha, in reply to my question, the then Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, replied very categorically that he was not at all satisfied with the fencing work on the Indo-Bangladesh border. Sir, in this year's Budget, the allocations for the Indo-Bangladesh border have also decreased. This is an important project from the national point of view; this is important from the point of view of national security. In the last year's Budget, for the border fencing work, there was a provision of Rs.484.23 crores, but in this year's Budget it has been reduced to Rs.475.82 crores.

Sir, in his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has announced Rs.1,000 crores for Aila of West Bengal, he has announced Rs.500 crores of Mumbai and he has announced Rs.500 crores for Tamils in Sri Lanka. It is a very welcome move. We are not opposing it. But, he has totally neglected Assam. He has not given a single pie for the flood and erosion victims of Assam. This is another discrimination towards the people of Assam and the people of North-East. So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister, through his colleague, to kindly announce a rehabilitation package for the flood and erosion victims of Assam, and kindly declare the flood problem of Assam as a national problem.

Sir, in her Speech, the hon. Railway Minister, Mamata Banerjee announced creation of the North-East Railway Development Fund. It is a very welcome move. But, Sir, there is no reflection at all of it in the hon. Finance Minister's Speech. So, where would the money come from for the North-East Railway Development Fund? There is no mention of it in the Railway Budget and there is no mention of it in the General Budget, Sir.

Sir, the Software Technology Park, STP Policy is having a Sunset Clause and is scheduled to expire by March, 2011. The benefits of the STP Policy are enjoyed by the IT units which are located in the Special Economic Zones only. Although the big players may not face any problem with the changing scenario, the small and medium enterprises all over the country are crying for extension of the STP Policy. You are aware that a minimum of 10 hectares of contiguous land is required for setting up of IT units in the Special Economic Zones, which is very difficult to find in the hilly States of the North East. In the North-East, plain areas are also very limited because it is fully utilised for

agriculture or it is forest land. So, it is very difficult to find such land there. So, this Policy will not be beneficial for the North-East. There is no Special Economic Zone in the North-East. So, I would like to request...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that in order to put the North-East in equal advantage with the rest of the country, the only option therefore lies in removing the Sunset Clause of the STP Policy for the North-Eastern Region, Sir.

Sir, Assam Tea industry is a great player to contribute foreign exchange earnings for our country. Sir, the Tea industry of Assam not only plays a vital role in earning foreign exchange but also gives employment to more than five lakh people in Assam. Sir, more than five lakh people are getting employment in the Tea industry of Assam. But, Sir, the Tea industry of Assam today is facing serious problems in the international market. The Assam Tea is facing serious problems from Kenya, China, etc., in the international market. Sir, it is not all. Sir, the small tea-growers of Assam are playing a revolutionary role in providing employment to the unemployed youth of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, please conclude.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to declare a special package for the Tea industry of Assam because it is not only contributing to the foreign exchange earnings but also employing more than five lakh people in Assam.

So, I would like to request that the Government should try to realise the sentiments of our people. Please try to realise the sentiments of the people of the North Eastern Region. Sir, Assam and North East are insurgency-hit areas. So, your blessings are required. Without your blessings, this problem cannot be solved. Kindly try to understand the feelings of the people of Assam, kindly understand the problems of Assam and the entire North Eastern Region. Kindly take special interest in the North East and Assam. Thank you.

श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी (असम) : थैंक्यू डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, आपने मुझे मौका दिया है। इस बजट के ऊपर मेरा कहना सिर्फ यह है कि overall बजट ठीक ही है, लेकिन यह बजट सिर्फ जो लोग आगे बढ़ चुके हैं, उन लोगों के लिए अच्छा है, लेकिन जो लोग अभी भी पिछड़े हुए हैं, backward region में रहते हैं, rural area में रहते हैं, उनके लिए यह बजट किसी प्रकार की सहायता देने वाला नहीं होगा। इसको पढ़ कर हमने यही जाना है। यह हमारे फाइनांस मिनिस्टर के भाषण के जरिए पता चला है।

सर, मैं बोडोलैंड रिजन से हूँ। भारत सरकार ने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में Sixth Schedule के अन्दर जो एक नया बोडोलैंड क्षेत्र गठित किया है, उसे 50 साल के संग्राम के बाद किया गया। वहाँ पर 50 साल तक कोई डेवलपमेंट का काम नहीं हुआ था। इसलिए वहाँ पर संग्राम हुआ। संग्राम के बाद भारत सरकार ने वहाँ पर उन्नति लाने के लिए कुछ commitment रखा था। लेकिन इस बोडोलैंड के बनने के बाद आज देखा कि यहाँ शिक्षा के लिए जितना भी mention किया गया है, जैसे IIT, NIT, Central University बनाने के लिए, लेकिन बोडोलैंड के लिए

एक भी mention नहीं किया गया है। मुझे यह डर है कि भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए जितनी भी पॉलिसी ली जाए, वह शायद बोडोलैंड में कभी भी नहीं हो पाएगा। अगर यह बोडोलैंड में नहीं होगा, तो वहाँ के लोगों को उच्च शिक्षा मिलने का मौका कभी नहीं मिलेगा।

सर, इसके सिवाय भी वहाँ बहुत समस्या है। अभी-अभी हमारे मित्र बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य जी ने कहा है कि वहाँ की flood का situation बहुत गम्भीर है। Flood के जरिए, erosion के जरिए आज वहाँ के लोगों को बहुत कष्ट उठाना पड़ रहा है। लोगों को अपना मकान छोड़ कर दूसरी जगह रिलीफ कैंप्स में रहना पड़ रहा है। इसी तरह असम में एक बड़ा ऐतिहासिक स्थान है, जिसको हम माजुली के नाम से जानते हैं। माजुली साउथ एशिया का सबसे बड़ा नदी आईलैंड है। यह भारतवर्ष का एक ऐतिहासिक स्थान है, जहाँ पर महापुरुष श्रीमंत शंकरदेव का कला-संस्कृति से भरपूर एक तीर्थस्थान है, आज flood के कारण वहाँ की जमीन का erosion होने से खत्म होने जा रहा है। यह एक विश्व प्रसिद्ध स्थान है और भारत का एक गौरवपूर्ण स्थान है। यह इतिहास के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है, क्योंकि वहाँ 360 साल का सत्र मौजूद है। इस सत्र में सन् 1871 में पहला असमिया न्यूजपेपर, जिसका नाम असम बिलासिनी है, उसको कोलकाता से नाव से Machin ले जाकर वहाँ सम्पादित किया गया था। सन् 1883 में erosion होने के कारण इसे बन्द करना पड़ा। बाढ़ से वहाँ की जमीन को बहा कर ले जाने के कारण वहाँ के आवनिआती सत्र को shift करना पड़ा। अभी इसकी हालत इतनी खराब है कि पहले वह 1200 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर था, लेकिन अब वह erosion के कारण सिर्फ 800 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर रह गया है। जिस तरह से वहाँ erosion हो रहा है, शायद आने वाले 30-40 साल में वह खत्म हो जाएगा। उसका protection करना बहुत जरूरी है। वहाँ लगभग 2 लाख की आबादी है, लेकिन उसका protection करने के लिए आज तक भारत सरकार कोई परियोजना नहीं ला पाई है। आज मैंने इस बजट में देखा कि बंगाल में जो आइला हुआ है, इसके लिए बजट प्रोविजन रखा गया है। मुम्बई का protection करने के लिए भी बजट में प्रोविजन रखा गया है। इसको natural calamity कहा जा रहा है। क्या माजुली में जो घटना हो रही है, वह natural calamity नहीं है? वह किस situation से हो रही है? इसलिए मैं आपके जरिए फाइनांस मिनिस्टर को अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम इस साल माजुली को देखा जाए और उसकी रक्षा करने की कोशिश की जाए। हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी भी असम से ही आते हैं, इस कारण मैं आशा करता हूँ कि कम से कम स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी अथवा अभी यहां पर फाइनांस मिनिस्टर बैठे हैं, आप लोग एक बार वहां विज़िट कीजिए और देखिए कि वहां के लिए किस तरह की परियोजनाएं लाकर हम उसकी रक्षा कर सकते हैं। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आप लोग इसे देखिए।

वहां पर Insurgency की प्रॉब्लम है, यह बिल्कुल सही बात है। वहां पर Insurgency की प्रॉब्लम इसलिए हो रही है क्योंकि भारत वर्ष में जितनी भी परियोजनाएं लाई जाती हैं, उनमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का कहीं भी कोई उल्लेख नहीं होता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में आज तक कुछ नहीं हो पाया है। आज अगर महात्मा गांधी जी जिंदा होते या जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी जिंदा होते तो मैं जरूर उनसे पूछता कि अगर आप नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की देखभाल नहीं कर सकते थे क्या कारण था कि ब्रिटिशों के चले जाने के बाद आपने नॉर्थ-ईस्ट या असम को भारत वर्ष के साथ जोड़ा। यह बहुत दुःख की बात है।

मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि आज के जो नेता है, कम से कम वे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को अच्छी तरह से देखें और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की प्रॉब्लम्स को समझने की कोशिश करें, वहां के आदमी की चिंता को महसूस करने की कोशिश करें और फिर वहां के लिए कुछ थोड़ा-बहुत काम करने की चेष्टा करें। यही मेरा अनुरोध है। मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की प्रॉब्लम्स के बारे में मैं जो बोल रहा हूँ, उस पर आप ध्यान देंगे।

इसके साथ आज बोडोलैंड का भी गठन किया गया है। आज इस बजट में जितनी भी परियोजनाओं की व्यवस्था की गई है, उनमें से कम से कम एक-एक परियोजना अथवा स्कीम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए भी दी जाए, जैसे वहां पर एनआईटी की स्थापना हो, आईआईटी की स्थापना हो, एक नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना हो। मैंने

वहां पर नई रेलवे लाइन बनाने की बात भी की थी, उसे भी वहां प्रारम्भ किया जाए। वहां पर डबल लाइन की जरूरत है, यह बात मैंने पहले भी कई बार कही है। पूरे भारत में डबल लाइन हो चुकी है और इलेक्ट्रिक इंजन भी आ चुका है, लेकिन बंगाल पार होने के बाद हमारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में सिंगल लाइन है। वहां पर गाड़ियों को रुक-रुक कर आना पड़ता है। सभी गाड़ियां वहां पर जा रही हैं, लेकिन लाइन एक होने के कारण उनको रुक-रुक कर जाना पड़ता है, जिसके कारण उनको ज्यादा समय लगता है। कम्युनिकेशन में हमें और अधिक तेज गति से आगे बढ़ना चाहिए था, लेकिन आज हमारी गति लगातार कम ही होती जा रही है, क्योंकि वहां पर डबल लाइन नहीं हो पाई है। ये सब हमारी समस्याएं हैं। मैं आशा रखता हूं कि आप इन समस्याओं की तरफ ध्यान देंगे। कम से कम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोग भी फील करें कि सारे भारत की उन्नति के लिए, उन्नयन के लिए आज भारत के नेता, प्रधान मंत्री और फाइनांस मिनिस्टर कोई चिंता कर रहे हैं, वे लोग इसका अनुभव कर सकें। इतना कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं, धन्यवाद।

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि (राजस्थान): धन्यवाद, उपसभापति महोदय।

श्री उपसभापति: आपके पास पांच मिनट हैं, ज्यादा टाइम नहीं है।

श्री कृष्ण लाल बाल्मीकि: यह बजट कोई विशेष उपलब्धि वाला नहीं है। इस बजट को देख कर लगता है कि यह बजट अमीरों को और अधिक अमीर और गरीबों को और अधिक गरीब करने वाला है। मैं राजस्थान का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा हूं। संसद में पेश किए बजट से राजस्थान प्रदेश की उम्मीदों पर पानी फिर गया है। राजस्थान को केवल पावरलूम मैगाक्लस्टर देकर टरका दिया गया है। अन्य केन्द्रीय योजनाओं में हिस्सा बंटाने के अलावा केन्द्रीय बजट में राजस्थान को कुछ भी हासिल नहीं हुआ। इस प्रकार बजट में राजस्थान के साथ भेदभाव हुआ है। राजस्थान में पानी का भीषण संकट और वाटर इमरजेंसी जैसे हालात के कारण प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा केन्द्र से पानी पर विशेष दर्जे की मांग की गई थी, जिस पर विचार-विमर्श करना तो दूर, इसका जिक्र तक नहीं किया गया है और न ही कोई अतिरिक्त सहायता दी गई है।

प्रदेश को केन्द्रीय करों के कम संग्रहण के कारण बजट अनुमानों में राजस्थान को अंतरिम बजट की तुलना में 384.67 करोड़ रुपये का फटका लग गया है। फरवरी में पेश अंतरिम बजट के अनुमानों में केन्द्रीय करों के हिस्से में राजस्थान को 9617.67 करोड़ रुपये मिलने का अनुमान था, लेकिन आम बजट पेश होने के बाद यह राशि 9233.42 करोड़ रुपये ही रह गई। इससे राजस्थान की आर्थिक स्थिति पर विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ेगा। इस प्रकार राजस्थान को बजट में कोई खास तवज्जो नहीं दी गई है, जिसकी एक झलक आगे के कुछ बिन्दुओं से साफ देखी जा सकती है। पानी को लेकर राज्य को कोई विशेष दर्जा या कोई खास पैकेज नहीं दिया गया। रिफाइनरी स्थापना और शीघ्र तेल के उपाय भी नहीं किए गए। अंतरिम बजट में प्रणब मुखर्जी ने राजस्थान में आईआईएम की स्थापना इसी चालू वित्त वर्ष में किए जाने की घोषणा की थी, लेकिन उसे अब अगले सत्र में खिसका दिया गया है। जयपुर में मेट्रो रेल चलाने की परियोजना को लेकर भी कुछ नहीं कहा गया है। मंदी से जूझ रहे प्रदेश के हैंडीक्राफ्ट उद्योग के लिए राहतकारी उपाय नहीं किए गए। मरुस्थलीय समस्याओं और मरुस्थल के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए भी कोई योजना नहीं दी गई।

सर, बांसवाड़ा में बिजली घर की स्थापना के लिए भी कोई घोषणा नहीं की गई। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा पर सुरक्षा व विकास के लिए कोई खास पैकेज नहीं दिया गया। पर्यटन विकास व हेरिटेज संरक्षण की भी कोई योजना नहीं है। आसमान छूती महंगाई पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए भी कोई ठोस योजना नहीं बनाई गई है। तुष्टिकरण की राजनीति के तहत सरकार ने अल्पसंख्यक छात्रों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति की घोषणा तो की, लेकिन गरीब छात्रों के लिए कोई खास प्रावधान नहीं किया गया। इस बजट में अनुसूचित जाति व सबसे पिछड़ा वर्ग बाल्मीकि सफाई कर्मचारियों के पुनर्वास की एक भी योजना का उल्लेख नहीं है। इस प्रकार सरकार इस बजट को आम आदमी का बजट कह कर प्रचारित कर रही है, जबकि आम आदमी को इससे कोई खास फायदा होने

वाला नहीं है। देश की जनता ने जिन उम्मीदों के साथ कांग्रेस को पूर्ण सत्तासीन किया उसे देखते हुए इस सरकार का यह पहला बजट जनता की उम्मीदों पर किसी मायने में खरा नहीं उतरा। अतः मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि यह बजट गरीबों व अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए कम और अमीर लोगों के लिए ज्यादा फायदे वाला है। धन्यवाद।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, मैं इस बजट पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं बिहार से हूँ। मैं आपके सामने एक बात कहना चाह रहा हूँ कि जब बंगाल में ओलावृष्टि हुई, तो आपने उसे एक विशेष पैकेज दे दिया, लेकिन जब हमारे यहाँ कोसी में भीषण बाढ़ आई जिससे वहाँ कितने घर बरबाद हो गए, कितने लोगों की जमीन गई, कितने जानवर मारे गए, सारा जल-मग्न हो गया, लेकिन इस बजट में उसके लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं हुआ। यह पता नहीं कि क्यों नहीं हुआ?

सर, दूसरी बात यह है कि जब हमारे बिहार का बँटवारा हो रहा था तो उस वक्त आप लोगों ने कहा, सरकार ने कहा कि हम पैकेज देंगे, लेकिन वह पैकेज भी हमें नहीं मिला और हमारे लोगों को बिना पैकेज के बिना आर्थिक सहायता के रखा गया। हमारे बिहार में ऐसा कोई उद्योग नहीं है, जिससे कि लोगों को इम्प्लायमेंट मिल सके। हमारे बिहार के लोग जब कोई नौकरी खोजने के लिए बाहर जाते हैं तो उनको भगा दिया जाता है, उनकी कॉपियाँ फाड़ दी जाती हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह तो आपको मालूम ही है कि यह कहाँ पर हुआ। सर, हमारे यहाँ रोजगार का कोई साधन नहीं है। हमें पैकेज नहीं मिल रहा है। हमारे यहाँ जो बाढ़ आई, उसके लिए कोसी का कोई काम नहीं हुआ है।

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। इस बजट में इरिगेशन के बारे में कोई ऐसा कार्यक्रम नहीं किया गया है कि जो सुखाड़ आता है-- हमारे यहाँ जो सुखाड़ की स्थिति है यानी पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में अगर पानी नहीं बरसे, तो लोगों को अनाज पैदा करने में दिक्कत हो जाएगी। इसके पहले एक बजट में यह तय हुआ था कि हर गाँव में पानी जमा करने का एक गड्ढा बनाया जाएगा और उसमें बरसात का पानी इकट्ठा किया जाएगा। इसके पहले जो बजट पेश किया गया था, उसमें यह कहा गया था, लेकिन उस पर भी कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। आज वहाँ पूरा सुखाड़ है। पानी नहीं बरस रहा है। सावन के इस महीने में अभी भी वहाँ धूल उड़ रही है और बारिश नहीं हो रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें इरिगेशन के सम्बन्ध में कौन सा इतना बड़ा कार्यक्रम किया गया, जिससे कि हर खेत को पानी और हर हाथ को काम मिले?

सर, बेरोजगारी की समस्या आज बहुत चरम सीमा पर है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप लोगों ने 1 करोड़ 20 लाख लोगों के लिए काम की योजना बनाई है। लेकिन यह जो आपने कार्यक्रम दिया है, आपने जो बजट पेश किया है, तो कहां से उन लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा, किस तरह से रोजगार मिलेगा, यह एक गंभीर समस्या है। हमारे लोगों को केवल बजट में कहने से रोजगार नहीं मिलेगा बल्कि उसके लिए provision बनाना पड़ेगा। आपके यहां फैक्ट्री नहीं है, आपके यहां कोई संसाधन नहीं हैं, लेकिन आप फैक्ट्री लगाने का कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं बना रहे हैं, तो लोगों को रोजगार कैसे मिलेगा?

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि, “भूखी जनता चुप न रहेगी, धन और धरती बंटकर रहेगी।” अगर आप रोजगार मुहैया नहीं कराएंगे तो यह शासन ज्यादा दिन तक नहीं चलेगा। अभी आपको mandate मिला है, हो सकता है आप कहें कि हम जो कर रहे हैं, वह सही है, लेकिन यह काम चलने वाला नहीं है। अगर आपके यहां कारखाने ज्यादा नहीं खुलेंगे, लोगों को रोजगार नहीं मिलेंगे तो जनता कैसे खुश रह पाएगी?

महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा। आज महंगाई बहुत बढ़ गयी है। हर चीज के दाम बढ़ गए हैं। अगर हर चीज के दाम बढ़ेंगे और लोगों को रोजगार नहीं मिलेगा, तो गरीब लोग कहां से खाएंगे-पिएंगे? इसलिए मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जो महंगाई को रोक न पाए, वह सरकार चलने वाली नहीं है। अभी हमारे साथी श्री वैकैया नायडु साहब ने कहा था कि हर चीज का, सब्जी का दाम बढ़ गया है, दाल का दाम बढ़ गया है, चीनी का दाम

बढ़ गया है। तो आप दाम को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं? यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है और इस मामले को देखने के लिए आप जरूरी उपाय करिए।

सर, हम एक अंतिम बात कहना चाहेंगे कि आपने संशोधन करके जो पंचायतें हमारे यहां बनायी हैं, उन पंचायतों में जो सरकारी कर्मचारी होते हैं, वे पंचायत के लोगों को आगे नहीं बढ़ने देते। वे उसके मुखिया को, सरपंच को आगे बढ़ने नहीं देते और पंचायतों को उनके कार्यक्रम नहीं करने देते। इसलिए मेरी राय में पंचायतों को direct पैसा जाना चाहिए। वह पैसा किसी माध्यम से नहीं जाना चाहिए। अगर वहां direct पैसा जाएगा तो गरीबों का, गांव के लोगों का काम ज्यादा होगा। आज सरपंच, व मुखिया पर सरकारी दबाव इतना रहता है कि गांव का विकास नहीं हो पाता है।

सर, अंत में बिहार के बारे में एक बात कहना चाहूंगा। वहां मांझी और मुसहर लोगों की हालत आप देखिए। वे 40 वर्ष पहले जैसे रहते थे, आज भी वैसे ही रहते हैं। उनको न तो जॉब कार्ड मिलता है, न उनका मकान बनता है और न उनके शरीर पर कपड़ा है। इसलिए उनके बारे में जरूर विचार करना चाहिए। अगर आप सभी लोगों का विकास करना चाहते हैं तो आपको मांझी और मुसहर जैसे लोगों का भी विकास करना पड़ेगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत तौर पर भी आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि आप उनके बारे में जरूर विचार कीजिए। उनके लिए इंदिरा आवास बनने चाहिए, उनको बीपीएल का दर्जा मिलना चाहिए, रोजगार मिलना चाहिए। सर, हमने जॉब कार्ड के लिए कम-से-कम 100 गांवों का वर्णन किया है। मांझी लोगों के बारे में बताया है। उनको जॉब कार्ड नहीं मिला है, रोजगार नहीं मिला है इस कारण से उनको खाने-पीने का कोई जरिया नहीं है। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इन सारी बातों के लिए हमको पैकेज मिलना चाहिए, हमारे यहां जो कोसी नदी का बांध टूटता है, उसके बारे में बंदोबस्त किया जाना चाहिए और “नरेगा” में जो अनियमितता है, उसे दूर किया जाना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, आप ने बोलने के लिए समय दिया, आपको धन्यवाद देते हुए अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I rise to support the proposals of the hon. Finance Minister. I don't want to take much of your time and repeat what has already been said. But I would like to express certain concerns. These concerns, basically, relate to the aspirations of the weakest and the most disadvantaged, depressed sections of the country, namely, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Sir, for the last ten years, the demand from the Members of Parliament belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities is to strengthen the Special Component Plans and the Tribal Sub Plans. Sir, there is a background for setting up these two programmes. Late Shrimati Indiraji, in 70's, introduced the Special Component Plan and the Tribal sub-Plans because the results of the programmes were not reaching the real targetted poor. Sir, the demand is to set apart population equivalent percentage plan funds for the need-based programmes and also to set up an expert body to identify, supervise, execute and monitor the implementation of these programmes. Sir, we have been spending a lot of money but what is the net gain? So, inculcating skills among them and capacity building are the main concerns. That is why the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan had been envisaged. But, unfortunately, for the last five, six years, I have been watching that the allocations have been reduced gradually. I am happy that the allocations for the tribals and the minorities have been increased but, at the same time, it is unfortunate that in the allocations in respect of the Scheduled

7.00 P.M.

Castes development, there is only an increase of Rs.70 crores. It is very unfortunate. Out of the entire kitty, that is, Rs.10,00,000 crores, how much has been allocated for the empowerment of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities? It is .57 per cent of the entire proportion. I am not saying that you should give 25 per cent of that. But I would like to mention here that there are two parts. If you look at the Statement 21 of the Expenditure Budget, it is mentioned, “100 per cent allocations which are accruing totally to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.” And, there is another list in Statement 21 of the Expenditure Budget Volume-I which states, “there are certain items of expenditure, benefits of which will accrue to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.” Sir, I am not able to understand this; it is very, very confusing, because you cannot expect that 20 per cent of the allotment made for the IIT buildings should go to the SCP account. Even if we accept that, if you add up the entire Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes allocation, it comes to eight per cent. Our demand is that it should be according to the population equivalent plan percentage, that is, 25 per cent. If you are spending Rs.100 for a Plan Expenditure, 25 per cent of that should be spent on the need-based programmes. What are the need-based programmes? Sir, they are health, education, and irrigation of the lands held by the *dalit* community to improve the productivity, etc. For instance, I mentioned in the morning about the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan*. Let us look at the statistics. Suppose, under SSA, you have built 100 rooms in a block. If I ask the officers that out of 100 rooms, how many rooms you have built in the SC/ST locations, their answer will be “only two or three”. Sir, it is my experience; that is why, I say that there should be a bottom-up approach. Where there is a need, you go first, but, unfortunately, there is a top-down approach and not the bottom-up approach. Even, in housing, there is a problem. Sir, massive rural housing is taken up under *Bharat Nirman*.

Sir, when you go to the unit cost, it is Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000, or, in some States, it is Rs. 50,000. So, another Rs. 15,000-20,000 have to be added for the house to be complete. So, this is a half-hearted attempt. Sir, I submit that if you allocate more money, there will be more money available for completing the unit. We are requesting for increasing the unit cost. The hon. Minister for Rural Development is here. The sum of the demand is that the items of work under NREGA should also include those works which create an asset for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes like, for instance, levelling of land. On very few occasions, I find that the money was spent on levelling of land belonging to the Dalit community. Though it is intended, but, in practice, it is not happening. In your social audit, Sir, this may kindly be taken. Secondly, the material component in the house construction should also be added in the list of items under the NREGA. So, these two small steps will go a long way in helping these people. Sir, this is about the SEP and TSP.

Another point of vital importance is this. You said, in the entire banking, the credit would be around Rs. 3 lakh crores. Banking and other financial institutions put together have a notional percentage; one per cent of the total lending in this country should have gone for the development of the poorest SC/ST. Sir, if you take the percentage, it is actually less than 0.5 per cent. Sir, it is unfortunate. We are saying, unless you lend, unless you provide money, how can you expect a meaningful development? This is one area on which I would like the hon. Finance Minister to give a clear-cut guideline that banks should lend, at least, five per cent of their total lending to the needy SC/ST beneficiaries for taking up agricultural development, for improving their entrepreneur skills, for starting some business, etc. Gone are the days, Sir, when the requirements of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes were sewing machines, typewriters, etc.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: These were not the programmes. You are still continuing those schemes. We want new entrepreneurial skills to be developed. Sir, we want capacity building so that they can compete in the private sector. We want capacity building, using 15 per cent of the funds available under Defence for making them competitive. We don't want reservation in the Defence sector. But at least spend some money for improving their skill. Spend some money in making them compete with others while getting into the recruitment posts. When we ask for reservation in the atomic energy sector, it is said that it is not applicable there because high skill and so-called merit is required there. But you can spend some money for improving the so-called merit, for improving their operational efficiency, for improving their skills so that they can compete. So, these are certain requirements and genuine aspirations which should have been reflected rightly in the Budget.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to point out one more thing. Nothing has been mentioned on how to implement the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee on Dalit Affairs. For the last four years, the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Dalit Affairs are pending. Sir, no mention is made in the Budget as to what are the recommendations, how much money you are spending for operationalising those recommendations. Sir, these concerns are genuine. I am aware of the compulsions of the hon. Finance Minister. But within the constraints, we would once again like to request the hon. Finance Minister to provide some qualitative benefits so that they can compete along with others. In private sector, we are not saying, provide us reservation. You may have some problem. We are taking it separately. But make them enabled to compete. Make them empowered. Build some capacity by training, by imparting proper skills at a higher level like, for instance, out of 15 per cent SEP/TSP, allocate some money for training of the already trained IT students or IT employees to improve their skills. The money should have gone wherever that is possible. But, unfortunately, there is no allocation. Where will the money come from? I suggest that it should be looked into again. The allocation should be in consonance with the Manifesto of

the Congress Party which promised allocation of population-equivalent percentage of Plan funds for their meaningful development.

Last but not the least, the lands have been given. But there is no money provided for providing irrigation facilities. They are becoming shallower and shallower. The productivity is going down. Whatever lands that were assigned and given possession to the weaker sections should be given agricultural inputs, including provision of irrigation facilities. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at

11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 15th July, 2009.